

The Elephant and the Blind

Fill the gaps with the following words

legs wall tail blind together trunk
palms elephants tusk fan truth gardener one

Long ago six (1)_____ old men lived in a village in India. Since they could not see the world for themselves, they had to imagine it. They were most curious about (2)_____.

Finally, the people in the village grew tired of all the arguments, and they arranged for the curious blind men to visit the palace of the Rajah to learn the truth. When the blind men reached the palace, they were greeted by an old friend from their village who worked as a (3)_____ on the palace grounds who led them to the courtyard. There stood an elephant. So, each of the six men placed their (4)_____ upon the elephant to help them experience what was in front of them.

The first blind man reached out and touched the side of the huge animal. "An elephant is smooth and solid like a (5)_____!" he declared. "It must be very powerful."

The second blind man put his hand on the elephant's (6)_____. "An elephant is like a giant snake," he announced.

The third blind man felt the elephant's pointed (7)_____. "I was right," he decided. "This creature is as sharp and deadly as a spear."

The fourth blind man touched one of the elephant's four (8)_____. "What we have here," he said, "is a tree."

The fifth blind man felt the elephant's giant ear. "I believe an elephant is like a huge (9)_____", he said.

The sixth blind man touched the (10)_____. "this is nothing more than a piece of old rope."

The Rajah awakened from his sleep by the noisy argument.

"How can each of you be so sure you are right?", he asked

"The elephant is a very large animal, each man touched only (11)_____ part. Perhaps if you put the parts together, you will see the (12)_____. Now, let me finish my sleep in peace."

When their friend returned to the garden with the cool water, the six men rested quietly in the shade, thinking about the Rajah's advice.

"He is right," said the first blind man. "To learn the truth, we must put all the parts (13)_____.