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## **The Blind Village and the Elephant**

**By Robert Elias Najemy**

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Robert Elias Najemy

Many of you will know this story and of course it is not mine, but it is worth remembering during these days of fear and fanaticism.

"Once there was a village of blind people (that is us). In this village lived a blind king, five blind wise men and the rest of the villagers who also could not see.

"One day an elephant came stumping heavily into the village, and stood in the village square. All the villagers were quite alarmed and anxious to find out what was this thunderous entity which had entered their village. The king ordered the five wise men to investigate the phenomenon and to report their findings.

Each of the five wise men approached the elephant from a different angle. The first came up the elephant's side, and, after feeling it, reported that it was a huge walking, pulsating wall which had come into the village.

The second wise man got hold of one of its legs and said it was not a wall but a walking tree trunk, which had come to visit them.

The third came upon the tail and rejected the first two opinions, announcing that the truth was that it was a snake.

The fourth having grabbed the ear, stated that previous observations were wrong and that the truth was that it was a large walking leaf.

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The fifth who happened to catch hold of the trunk claimed that the others were wrong and that the reality was that it was a large moving hose.

The wise men and their respective followers came into intense conflict concerning the reality of what had walked into their village.

The blind village represents the present state of spiritual blindness affecting all of humanity. The five wise men represent the various major religions, who, approaching the unseen God from various angles, have experienced God in different ways. In our blind state, we argue about what the reality of God is, when there is ONLY ONE GOD, which is in reality the essence of all beings and things which exist.

Why then do we need to fight and argue between ourselves? Each religion is a valid path to the same One God. All are correct. All need to be respected. Each individual may choose the religious path which suits him and move efficiently forward, with love for God and all beings in his heart.

Let us not be blind to the truth of God's omnipresence even in those who have differing beliefs.  
Let us open our eyes and see the oneness of all beings.

(Adapted from the forthcoming "The Art of Meditation" by Robert Elias Najemy. His book "The Psychology of Happiness" (ISBN 0-9710116-0-5) is available at <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/holisticcharmo-20> and <http://www.HolisticHarmony.com/psychofhappiness.html>. His writings can be viewed at <http://www.HolisticHarmony.com> where you can also download FREE articles and e-books.

Robert Elias Najemy is the author of over 600 articles, 400 lecture cassettes on Human Harmony and 20 books, which have sold over 100,000 copies. He is the Founder and director of the Center for Harmonious Living in Greece with 3700 members. His book The Psychology of Happiness; ISBN 0-9710116-0-5 is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and <http://www.HolisticHarmony.com>. where you can view and download FREE articles and e-books.

### **The Fable of the Elephant and the Woman Who Wasn't Blind**

**By Susan Dunn**

**The Fable of the Elephant and the Woman Who Wasn't Blind by Susan Dunn, MA Clinical Psychology, The EQ Coach**

This isn't the story about the four blind men and the elephant, this is the story of me looking at that 6

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ton elephant in the zoo, tethered to that tiny stake, and wondering why on earth she doesn't break loose. Instead she rocks back and forth when it should take an electric fence, iron bars, or 25 armed men to confine her, if that.

It's all in her mind, God love her.

How can this happen? How has she forgotten what she's capable of?

Elephants are mammals, like us humans, and they share the limbic brain with us. This means, unlike reptiles, we are able to learn. Elephants need to learn many things to survive; for instance they aren't born knowing what their trunk is for. Some aren't weaned until their 10th year, and they're all completely dependant on their mothers (physically and emotionally) for 4–5 years.

Most of the growth of the elephant brain takes place after birth, and this happens with learning.

Unfortunately it, like us, learns both good and bad things. The elephant may learn when it tries to leave the herd, the others will come after it causing a fuss, which scares it, so it remembers not to wander off.

It may learn it can pick up tasty treats with its trunk, and so it remembers to do this.

Or someone may capture it when it's little, and put a chain around its leg attached to a stake that's too strong for it to pull away from. It will try with all its might, and only succeed in tearing its leg which causes more pain, so eventually, being smart, being able to learn, it gives up.

What it has learned is hopelessness and helplessness. This means for the rest of its life, even when it weigh 6 tons and should be nearly impossible to contain, it will allow that chain on its leg to rule its life.

So there stands that 6–ton animal, tethered by nothing really, except its fearful memories.

Has this happened to you? (Think about it.)

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