**Parables of the blind men and elephant**

*It was six men of Indostan,*  
*To learning much inclined,*  
*Who went to see the elephant,*  
*(Though all of them were blind),*  
*That each by observation*  
*Might satisfy his mind…*  

*And so these men of Indostan*  
*Disputed loud and long,*  
*Each in his own opinion*  
*Exceedingly stiff and strong.*  
*Though each was partly right,*  
*All were in the wrong.*

*So oft in Theologic wars*  
*The disputants, I ween,*  
*Rail on in utter ignorance*  
*Of what each other mean,*  
*And prate on about an elephant*  
*Not each of them has seen!*  

*John Godfrey Saxe*  
*Based on ancient Hindu parable, derived from Jainism and Buddhism, UDANA 68-9.*