

D is for Dialogue

The blind men and the elephant

1

Analyse the importance of the story

2

Explain how this can link to religious beliefs

3

To listen to a religious story and state what it means

POWER OF 3



- LY: Write down one fact about Christianity.
- LL: What is an Agnostic?
- LL: Give 3 facts about the Big Bang.

STARTER.

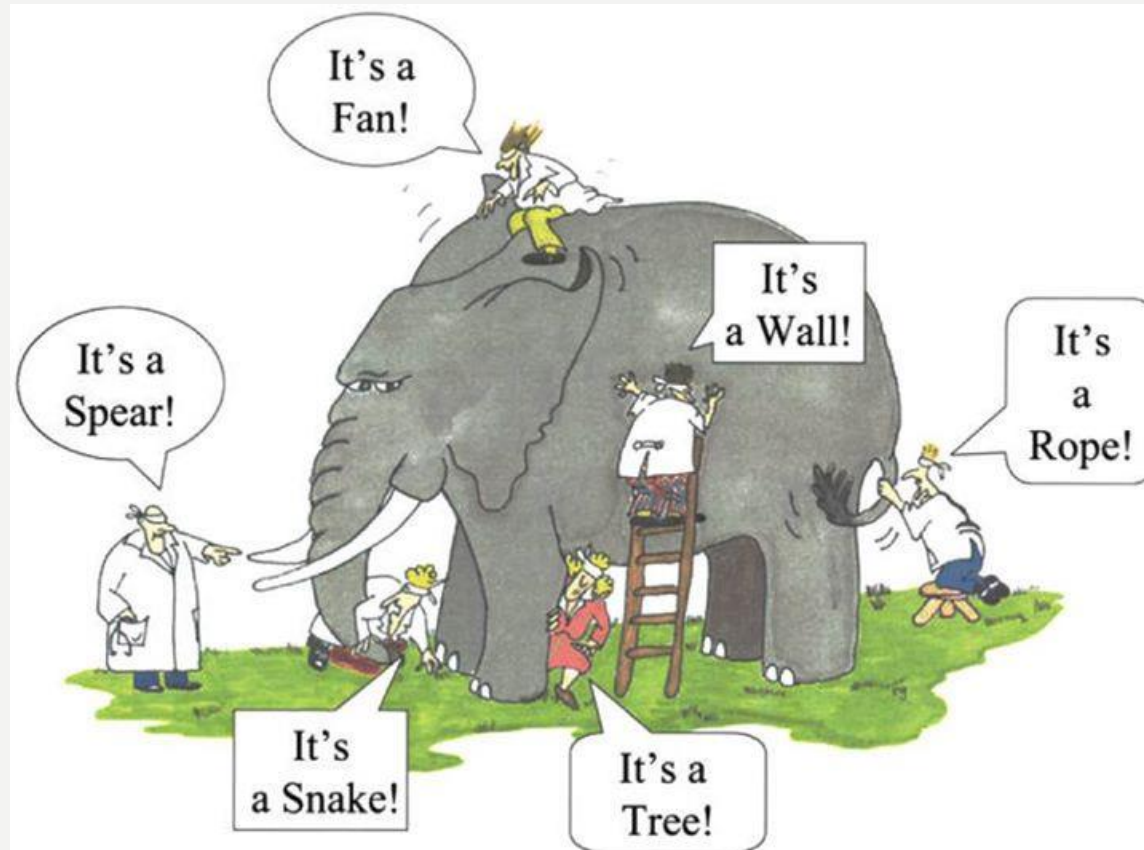
- How would you describe a rainbow to a blind person?



- A group of blind men heard that a strange animal, called an elephant, had been brought to the town, but none of them were aware of its shape and form.
- Out of curiosity, they said: "We must inspect and know it by touch, of which we are capable". So, they sought it out, and when they found it they fumbled about it.
- The first person, whose hand landed on the trunk, said, "This being is like a thick snake". For another one whose hand reached its ear, it seemed like a kind of fan.
- As for another person, whose hand was upon its leg, said, the elephant is a pillar like a tree-trunk.
- The blind man who placed his hand upon its side said the elephant, "is a wall". Another who felt its tail, described it as a rope.
- The last felt its tusk, stating the elephant is that which is hard, smooth and like a spear.

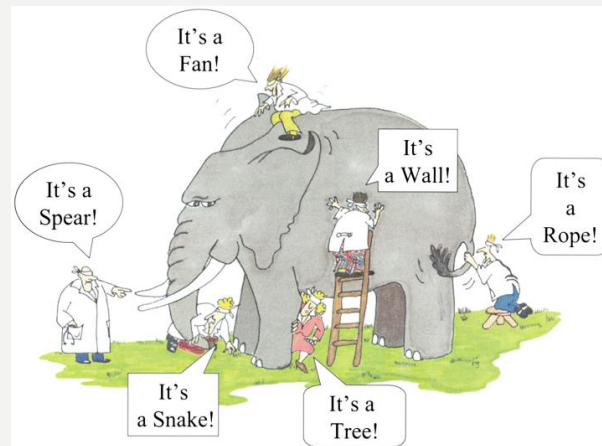
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPljWk8-b4E>

How and why does the elephant story link to people's religious beliefs?



BRONZE

- Draw a picture of the Elephant the blind men saw.
- Add very clear labels.
- **Explain the meaning of the story**

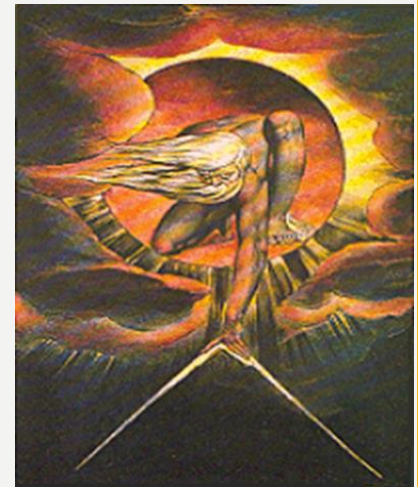


Open-mindedness

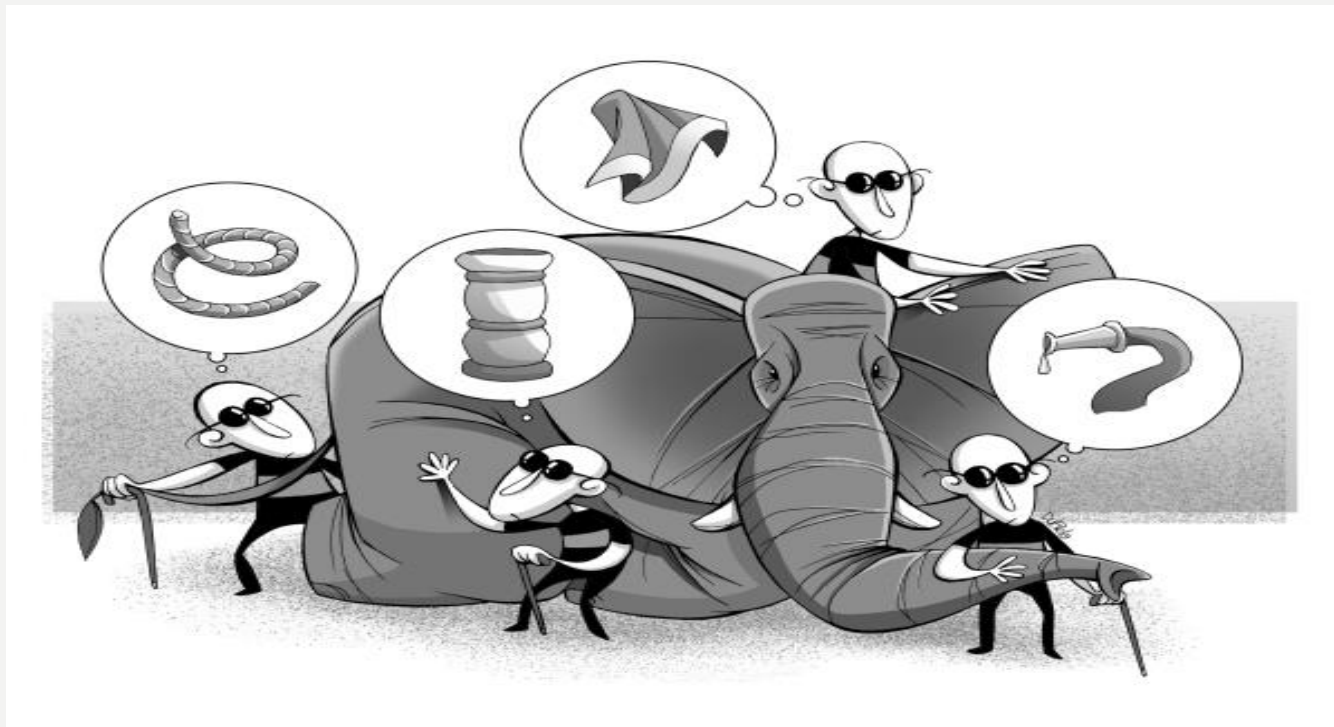
MEDAL TASKS



- Why would it be important to find out lots about a religion before making comments / decisions ?
- Why are there are so many interpretations of God?
- Why is it impossible to agree on one concept?



Four blind men were given the task of finding out what an elephant was. None of them had known an elephant before. Each one created a different story about the elephant.



Open-mindedness

The blind men started arguing. They each thought his story about the elephant was true and the only possible story to be told.

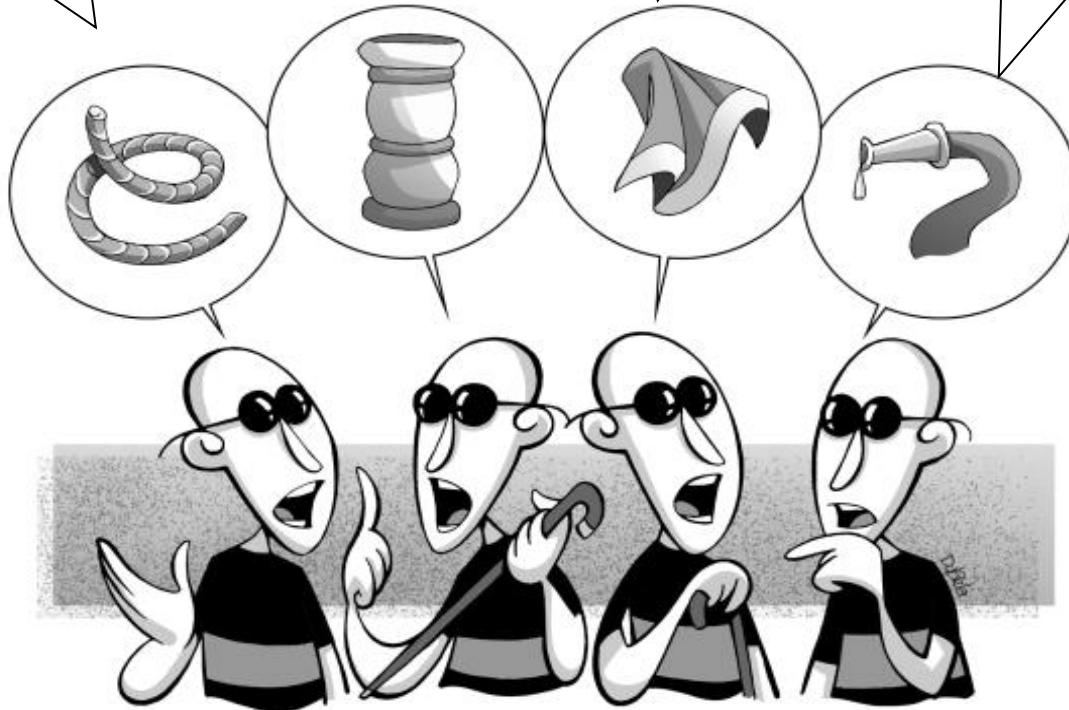
They all said:

I know I am right!

I know I am right!

I know I am right!

I know I am right!



Open-mindedness

After that interesting discussion they started listening to each other and their ideas about the elephant started to change.

Hose & rope

Rug, rope & pillar

Pillar & hose

Rug & hose

