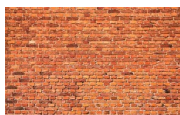


The Blind Men and the Elephant

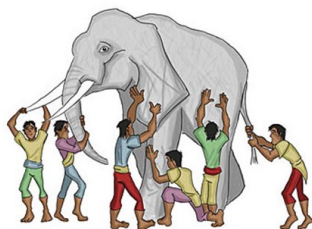
This story explains how the blind men see the elephant as different objects because they experience the elephant in different ways.



wall



snake



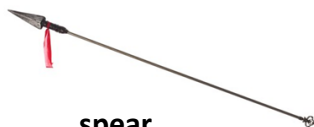
tree



fan



rope



spear

The story shows how Hindu people see Brahman in different ways and with different qualities. Each quality is described as a Deity.

The Trimurti

Three of the most important Deities. The creator, the protector and the destroyer of evil.



Brahma

Hindus believe that Brahma is the creator of the universe and all knowledge.

They believe that Brahma grew inside a lotus flower.

Brahma is shown to have four heads.



Vishnu

Vishnu is one of the three main Gods in Hinduism. Vishnu protects the earth from being destroyed and keeps it going.

Hindus believe that Vishnu has come to Earth in nine different ways. Vishnu's wife is Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of fortune.

Murtis

Hindu people use Murtis when they are praying. They are small pictures of statues that show one Deity. The objects and pictures on the Deity show what the Deity represents.

For example a Murti of Lakshmi would have gold coins because she is the goddess of wealth.



Shiva

Shiva is one of the three views of God in Hinduism. Shiva is known as the destroyer because he removes all evil from the world.

One belief is that he swallowed poison in order to save the universe.