


The *Blind Men* and the *Elephant*



Seeing the Whole Picture: Story
from Buddha Dharma

Have you ever had
a disagreement
where both people
believed they were
right?



Buddha (c. 500 BC)

He taught lessons using stories.

He encouraged us to ask big questions.

He wanted people to see the whole picture.

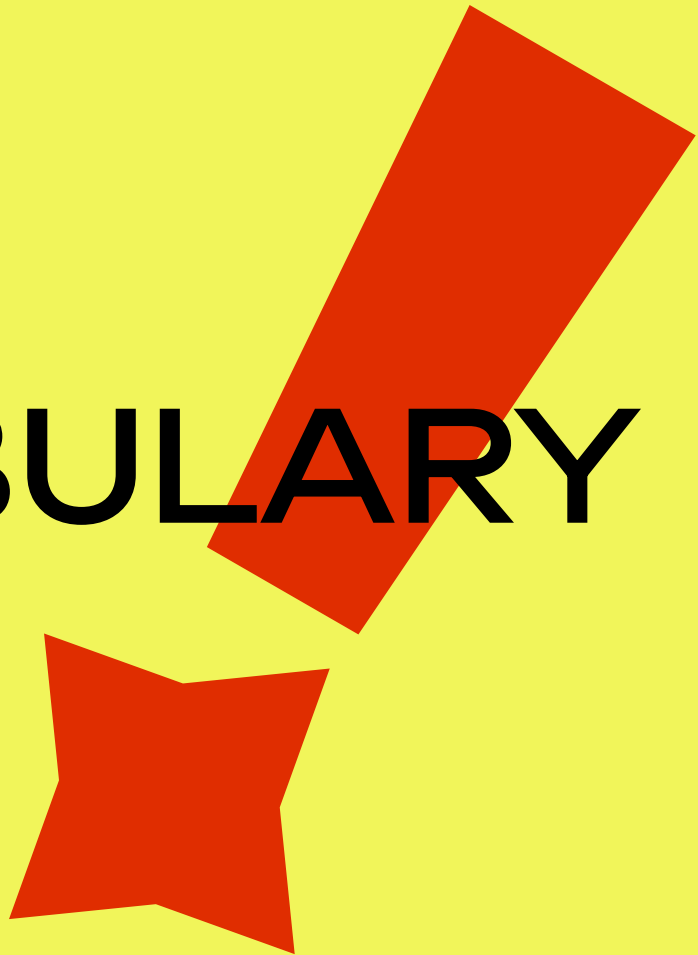
He was a wise teacher.

Meet the Characters

What happens when someone only knows a small part of the story?

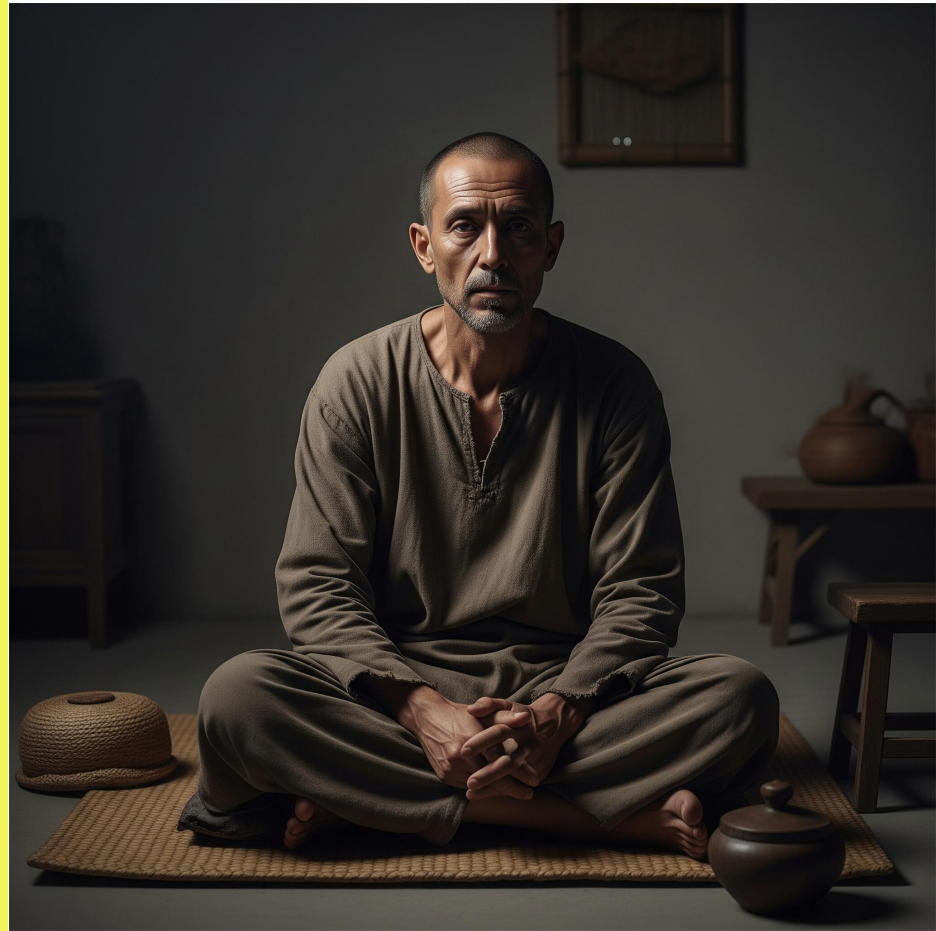
- The Buddha
- Ascetics and Wanderers
- The Beggars
- The King
- The Blind Men
- The Elephant

KEY VOCABULARY



Ascetic

A person who chooses to live a very simple life, often giving up comfort or pleasure to focus on spiritual goals.



Dispute

A strong disagreement or argument between people who have different opinions.



Perspective

The way someone sees or understands something; their point of view.



Realized one

A person who has reached deep wisdom and peace by fully understanding the truth about life and why humans suffer



Cling

To hold on tightly to something, either physically or with your thoughts and desires



Pre-reading: Have you ever disagreed with someone because you saw or experienced something differently? What happened? What did each person believe?

During reading: Why
are the ascetics
arguing?

During reading: What happens when the blind men describe the elephant?

During reading: What
lesson is the *Buddha*
teaching?

Post-reading

- Why did each blind man describe the elephant differently?

Post-reading

- What does this story teach us about truth and disagreement?

Post-reading

- How can this story help us in everyday life?

Connect to Your Life

- Describe a time when you only saw part of the story. How did your view change?
- Share with a partner.