

Just a thought ...

I find it absolutely fascinating when it comes time to decide what the topic will be for this column. I put the question out to Spirit and Spirit answers me by bringing up the subject everywhere I turn! I "work hard" on being aware and find it quite easy for things like this column, however, like most people, I seem less aware when it comes to looking at my own behaviour patterns!

So this issue's *thought* is about perception. I remembered the story of the Blind Men and the Elephant which explains it perfectly. For those of you who don't know this parable here's a nice version (and for those of you who do know it here's a nice reminder!)

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.

The First approached the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl:
"God bless me! but the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"

The Second, feeling of the tusk
Cried, "Ho! what have we here,
So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 'tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"

The Third approached the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up he spake:
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a snake!"

The Fourth reached out an eager hand,
And felt about the knee:
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he;
"'Tis clear enough the Elephant
Is very like a tree!"

The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can,
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"

The Sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Than, seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope!"

And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!

**John Godfrey Saxe's (1816-1887)
version of the famous Indian legend**

So, my Inspirational Friends, next time you are sure your opinion is right, think again! Our opinions and expectations are based on the information we filter through our individual perceptions. Had the men embraced each others' perceptions or even just the *possibility* of the others' experiences, could they have come up with the complete elephant?

Maybe another's perception, although very different or even appearing opposite from our own, is equally valid. Could individuals, families, governments and religions opening up to this possibility take us all a step closer to a more peaceful world? *Just a thought...*

*With Love and Blessings,
Lisa Lyman, Founder/Director*