



The Blind Man and the Hunter

This is a much loved story that often elicits reflection in the listener. There are themes of honesty, learning from mistakes and different perspectives or ways of seeing the world. We understand it to originate as a folk tale from West Africa and has been published as a book authored by Hugh Lupton.

Ages

This story can be enjoyed by any age.

Duration

Approximately 5-10 minutes

Bare Bones

We find having the bare bones of a story and listening to a version of it the most helpful way to learn stories:

- There is a blind man who lives with his sister.
- People come to the blind man for advice
- **“How is it that you know so much?” “Because I see with my ears”**
- One day, a hunter comes to the village and falls in love with the blind man’s sister, they marry.
- Blind man asks to come hunting with the hunter. Hunter laughs and says what use is a man who can not see.
- His wife tells him that her brother is wise and knows many things that people who see do not know.
- Every evening they have the same conversation.
- One day the hunter comes home with a great catch, a gazelle.
- That evening when the blind man asked if could go hunting the next morning, the Hunter says yes
- They leave before dawn
- Hunter leads blind man by the hand. Walked a long, long way.
- Blind man says ‘stop’ and warns of a **lion** ahead. After some time, the blind man says it’s ok as the lion has eaten and is sleeping under a tree.
- They continue and find the lion as the blind man said. Hunter asks how he knew. Blind man says **“Because I see with my ears”**

- They continue again, and again the blindman stops the hunter and warns of a great **elephant** ahead. The hunter could not see nor hear nothing to alarm him.
- The blindman says it's ok, it's a big boar elephant but he is in a watering hole watering himself.
- They continue, sure enough they find the elephant as the blind man said.
- Again the hunter asks how he knew and again the blind man says: "**Because I see with my ears**"
- They come to a clearing and hunter lays one trap for blind man and one for himself. Then they return to the village.
- They set out early the next morning. The hunter goes to take the blind man's hand but the blind man says thank you but I know my way now.
- Get to clearing and in hunters trap is a small grey bird, in the blind man's trap is a colourful bird.
- The **hunter swaps the birds** giving the small grey bird to the blind man and taking the colourful one for himself.
- Hunter asks: "**if you're so wise and clever, tell me this: why is there so my hatred and anger in the world?**"
- Blind man: "**because of people like you who take things that do not belong to them.**"
- Hunter feels shame and returns the colourful bird to the blind man
- Hunter: "**If you're so wise, why is there so much love and kindness in the world?**"
- Blind man: "**Because of people like you who learn from their mistakes**"
- Whenever a passerby spoke with the blind man and received good advice and asked how is it that you are so wise? The Hunter would put his arm around the blind man and say: "**because he sees with his ears and listens with his heart.**"

Links

- Blindfold string walk
- Meet a tree
- Mystery Bag

Tags

- Story, blind, senses, tracking, hunting, pride, mistakes, worldviews, perspectives, wise, wisdom, honesty, learning, love, anger