

The Mighty Ants

Once there was an elephant who was very bold and boastful. He boasted that he was the strongest of all the animals.

Monkey challenged him. "I bet you are not as strong as Buffalo with his huge horns and powerful body", said Monkey.

Elephant was annoyed at this suggestion. "Bring me Buffalo," replied Elephant, "then we can decide this once and for all!". Monkey scampered off and soon came back with the mighty Buffalo. Buffalo snorted, kicked his hooves into the sand and charged at Elephant. But Elephant quickly flicked out his trunk which tripped the unsuspecting Buffalo. Buffalo crashed heavily into the sand and Elephant kicked her with his large trunk-like leg.

"Uuugh," groaned Buffalo. "You win! I cannot get up to fight you now."

But Monkey was not satisfied by this trick. "What about Rhinoceros?" he asked. "I am sure HE is stronger than you. Rhinoceros has a great big horn, a thick skin and is very strong."

As Elephant was pleased with how easily he had been able to beat Buffalo he said to Monkey, "By all means, bring Rhinoceros if he is brave enough to fight."

Presently Monkey came back with Rhinoceros. Rhinoceros was in a bad mood, (rhinoceroses usually are!) He wasted no time in putting his head down and charging furiously at Elephant. Elephant was amused. He stepped aside and Rhinoceros ran straight into a large baobab tree. Rhinoceros went crashing to the ground, his head throbbing with pain. Elephant kicked Rhinoceros once with his large trunk-like leg.

"Uuugh," groaned Rhinoceros. "You win! I cannot get up to fight you now." Elephant grinned, feeling very proud of himself, he looked up at Monkey and laughed.

But Monkey was still not ready to give up.

"But what about Hippopotamus?" asked Monkey. "There is no animal with such a large, round body. Hippopotamus kills more Humans in Africa than any other animal. Surely you can be no match for him!"

By now, Elephant was feeling really confident with himself, after all he had had no problem beating Buffalo and Rhinoceros. Infact the fight with Rhinoceros had been a bit of a disappointment and Elephant felt strong enough for a real fight!

"Fetch Hippopotamus," taunted Elephant, "he is no match for Mighty Elephant."

Monkey scampered off once more and soon arrived back followed by Hippopotamus. As soon as Hippopotamus stamped his feet to get ready to charge, the mud dripped off his body into a pool around him and as soon as Hippopotamus tried to charge, he slipped in his own mud and crashed to the floor, hurting his legs badly.

Elephant kicked Hippopotamus once with his large trunk-like leg.

“Uuugh,” groaned Hippopotamus, “You win! I cannot get up to fight you now.”

Just as Monkey was about to give up, he thought of one last idea. Quickly he scampered away and as he returned a strange tramping noise could be heard behind him.

“I bet you can’t push down that great tree that knocked out Rhinoceros,” said Monkey. Elephant pushed and pushed but as hard as he tried, the tree remained strong and firm.

Tramp, tramp, tramp. The noise became louder and louder. Rustle, rustle, chomp, chomp. The tree started to shake and shiver and with a final groan it crashed to the ground. Elephant looked, amazed, as the army of Soldier Ants, having completed their task of knocking over the tree, marched off. Tramp, tramp. tramp.

“Ah ha!” said Monkey, satisfied at last. “The Soldier Ants are much smaller than you but they work together. And together they are stronger than even you!”

Elephant was rather ashamed of his boastfulness and he had to agree.