Weighing Elephant

Instructive Stories from teachings of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

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Once in the kingdom, the ministers got together and complained about their colleague Ramdas.

Your majesty, you always listen to Ramdas.

We are also very intelligent. We too should also be given a chance to show our wisdom.
They are simply envious of Ramdas. Let me give them a challenge than they will know how intelligent Ramdas is.
Surely! The King is equal to everyone.
One day...

My dear ministers. I want to know the weight of Kalu....
 .......... the biggest elephant of our kingdom. Can you please tell me within three days?
Kalu is so huge!

It's impossible to weight him on even the biggest weighing scale available.

So foolish of our king to ask for Kalu's weight.
After three days, the ministers returned..

Your majesty, it’s simply not possible to weigh Kalu as we don’t have such large scale in our kingdom.
Oh none of you are able to tell me the weight of Kalu? Let me ask Ramdas.
Ramdas, I want you to calculate the weight of Kalu.
After a short time Ramdas returned....

My majesty, Kalu weighs exactly twenty one mounds.
He is telling lies. How is it possible to weight Kalu?

He always fakes. Let him prove it.
Yes Ramdas. How did you do it. We don’t have any scale so big that we can weight Kalu?
No sir! I did not use any weighing scale. I took it on a boat. When I got him on the boat then I saw the watermark and I marked it. Then, after getting the elephant off the boat, I added weight onto the boat, and when it came to the same watermark, then I understood.
So ministers, you all see the difference?
Moral:

Buddhir yasya balang tasya nirbuddhes tu kuto balang /
pashya singha madonmatah shashah kena nipatata //

A shasha, a rabbit killed a singha, a big lion by intelligence. One who has got intelligence, he has strength, and one who has no intelligence has no strength. Foolish people often criticize devotees as do-nothings and weaklings, but such people do not understand the intelligence of a devotee. Therefore, a devotee does not have to heed such people.

Srila Prabhupada