

## Chapter 18 – Elephant - Humble Teachers

Elephants the Educators The elephant, my chosen emblem for teachers, stands as a majestic and profound symbol of wisdom, guidance, and the power to impart knowledge. Its symbolism aligns beautifully with the teachings found in Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 11 through 16, where apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are bestowed upon humanity to perfect the saints and edify the body of Christ. Just as these spiritual leaders nurture the faithful, so does the elephant, with its remarkable attributes, symbolize the essence of a true teacher.

**Symbolism and Nature of the Elephant** In the spiritual realm, the elephant embodies wisdom and enlightenment. Its colossal presence mirrors the vast expanse of knowledge that teachers carry within them, guiding their students toward a unity of faith and understanding of the son of God. Much like the elephant's sturdy stature, teachers strive to lead their students to the measure of Christ's faithfulness, ensuring they are no longer tossed to and fro by the ever-changing winds of doctrine. The elephant's symbolism beautifully reflects the unwavering dedication of teachers to impart truth and wisdom with love.

In 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, verse 13, we are reminded of the enduring virtues of faith, hope, and charity (love). Among these virtues, love reigns supreme.



The elephant, with its compassionate nature and strong familial bonds, embodies the very essence of charity and love. Teachers, much like elephants, shower their students with the nurturing power of love and the invaluable gift of knowledge.

Moreover, the elephant's iconic features hold profound symbolic significance. Its large, attentive eyes are akin to the

watchful gaze of teachers, observing their students' growth and development.

The ears, representing the ability to listen and learn, align perfectly with the role of educators. The elephant's trunk, both powerful and dexterous, signifies the strength and adaptability teachers possess when imparting knowledge to their pupils.

In a world where the allocation of federal tax dollars to education seems insufficient, the elephant's symbolism reminds us of the immense value teachers bring to society. Like the elephant, they possess the power to guide, uplift, and empower generations to come. Teachers, much like these magnificent creatures, are beacons of hope and wisdom, shaping the minds and hearts of the future. Their role is not just noble; it is transformative, instilling knowledge, and nurturing growth in the hearts of those they teach.

The elephant stands as a symbol of wisdom, patience, and the profound honor of teaching. Much like the elephant, whose strength and gentle nature guide its herd through the wilderness, true teachers lead by example, offering guidance through their stories, experiences, and hard-earned lessons.

But what makes a teacher is not where they started or the trials they endured, it is the message they bring forth and the spirit they embody when the time to teach arrives.

Spiritual Significance of the Elephant Life's journey is often unpredictable. Many of us begin with meager beginnings or find ourselves on difficult path, through poverty, hardship, or the wrong choices. Some may walk through the shadows of prison walls, face the turmoil of therapy, or endure the wounds of abuse.

Others may pass through treatment programs, struggling to find their footing. Yet, none of these trials diminish the potential to teach. In fact, they often strengthen it.

It is not how you receive your message that matters, it is the truth of the message itself. The spirit does not discriminate in whom it chooses to inspire.

Those who listen, who learn, and who emerge with a story to tell hold within them the seeds of teaching. And when the time is right, when experience has ripened into wisdom, the greatest honor lies in sharing that truth with others.

Becoming a teacher is one of the highest callings. It is a role not defined by perfection but by perseverance. True teachers show that wisdom is not always born of ease but often through enduring and overcoming life's harshest lessons.

They embody the spirit of the elephant's steady, wise, and ready to guide others on their journey.

In honoring the teacher, we honor those who show us that no matter where we begin, we can all contribute to the greater story. We all have lessons to share. And in those lessons, there is a path forward, not just for ourselves but for all who walk beside us.

The elephant, with its majestic presence and deep well of memory, stands as a living symbol of wisdom and legacy. Elephants are known for their strong familial bonds, their gentle nature, and their incredible capacity to remember.

They carry within them not just their own experiences but the stories of their ancestors, embodying a bridge between the past, present, and future.

**WHO (The Sun God) and the Elephant** In the theology of WHO, YOU, HOW, and LAWHO, the elephant finds resonance with each divine aspect, creating a tapestry of meaning and connection.

Under the light of the sun god, WHO, the elephant represents the enduring nature of truth and the strength of character. Just as the sun rises consistently, the elephant walks the earth with purpose, demonstrating how wisdom is not only about knowledge but also about applying that knowledge with integrity.

The elephant's steady, deliberate pace is a mirror of the sun's path across the sky, a reminder to live life with a sense of direction and a clear purpose.

WHO's light also reflects the elephant's role as a leader. In the wild, matriarchal elephants guide their herds with experience and insight. They lead not by force but through earned respect, showing us that true leadership is about guiding others to safety and nurturing growth under the light of truth.

YOU (The Earth Goddess) and the Elephant The elephant's connection to the earth goddess, YOU, is profound. Elephants are deeply connected to their environment, moving with the rhythms of the land and showing respect for nature. They understand the cycles of life, the balance of giving and taking, and the need to nurture both the earth and one another.

Through the essence of YOU, the elephant teaches us to honor where we come from, to hold space for our roots, and to contribute positively to our communities. The elephant's memory is not just about the past but about keeping alive the stories and lessons that bind us to one another.

The earth goddess YOU embodies this nurturing spirit, reminding us that our experiences are not solely our own but are shared with the whole of creation.

HOW (The Holy Spirit) and the Elephant In the flow of the Holy Spirit, HOW, the elephant is a vessel of energy and connection. The spirit moves through the elephant in its deep empathy, in the way elephants mourn their dead, celebrate life, and comfort each other. The elephant's spirit encourages us to connect with one another, to recognize the divine spark within all beings, and to act with compassion.

HOW's influence is seen in the elephant's ability to navigate long journeys, trusting its instincts and the wisdom passed down through generations. The elephant shows us that the spirit guides us not only through inspiration but through the subtle movements of intuition and inherited knowledge.

LAW-HO (The Moon God) and the Elephant Under the moon god, LAWHO, the elephant's memory and wisdom take on a mystical quality. The moon governs the hidden, the subconscious, and the ancient wisdom within us. The elephant, with its deep memory, is a guardian of these hidden truths.

LAWHO's essence shines through the elephant's gentle strength. The elephant's ability to grieve and to remember speaks to the moon's power over the emotional and spiritual tides within us. It invites us to look yonder, beyond the immediate, and to honor the cycles of life, much like the

elephant that returns to old trails and ancient burial grounds.

Embrace the Spirit of the Elephant A person might call upon the spirit of the elephant when they need to draw upon wisdom, when they are seeking to honor the past, or when they must guide others with patience and empathy.

The elephant's spirit offers strength in times of hardship, a reminder that even the heaviest burdens can be carried with grace. In embodying the elephant, we learn to walk gently upon the earth, to honor our roots, and to lead with a wisdom that flows from both experience and the divine.

We are encouraged to hold onto what is sacred, to pass down what is true, and to be a living testament to the strength of memory and the power of love.

A Proverb for the Wisdom of the Elephant A true teacher is like the elephant, grounded, steady, and open. With ears larger than their mouth, they listen before they speak. Their strength is quiet, their wisdom earned, carried like tusks, visible, enduring, and respected. They do not chase applause. Their words do not demand attention, but carry the weight of experience.

To teach is not to impose with strength, but to invite with strength. And in that invitation, something sacred begins.

The one who listens deeply teaches with grace. The one who teaches with grace will never be forgotten.

A Parable for The Elephant In a vast savannah where the grass whispered secrets to the wind, a herd of elephants moved as one. They were strong, their tusks bright, their skin smooth with youth. They followed well-worn paths, their lives a rhythm of tradition and safety.

One afternoon, as the sun cast long shadows, a lone elephant appeared on the horizon. His skin bore the rough marks of time, and a deep scar cut across his left eye, leaving it clouded and dim. His tusks were uneven, and his gait held a slight limp. The herd watched him approach, their eyes filled with caution.

The matriarch, a great silver elephant with a crown of white tusks, stepped forward. "Who are you?" she asked, her voice a rumble that echoed through the plains.

The scarred elephant bowed his head. "I am only a traveler," he said. "I have walked many paths, seen many things. I seek only to rest my bones and share what I have learned, if you will have me."

But the younger elephants whispered among themselves. His appearance made them uneasy. His scars were stories they did not want to hear, his limp a reminder of dangers

they had not faced. "He is not like us," they murmured. "He could bring trouble."

The matriarch, wise but cautious, allowed him to stay on the edge of the herd. He kept his distance, moving slowly, his eyes always watching. At night, while the others slept, he remained awake, his good eye scanning the horizon.

One night, a storm swept across the savannah. The wind howled, and the earth trembled. Lightning flashed, and the sky opened up, pouring rain that turned the land to mud. The river, usually a gentle stream, swelled into a torrent, cutting off the herd's familiar path.

Panic rippled through the elephants. The youngest calves cried, and the older ones stamped their feet, unsure of where to go. The matriarch, for all her strength, could not see a safe way forward. The scarred elephant stepped forward. "I know this storm," he said. "I have walked through floods and crossed rivers when they raged. There is a way, but it is not the path you know."

Desperation silenced the herd's doubts. They followed him, the scarred stranger with the clouded eye. He led them through a hidden pass, over rocks and through groves of trees where the ground held firm. He moved with purpose, his limp no longer a hindrance but a testament to his strength.

When the storm passed and the herd found safety on higher ground, the elephants looked at him with new eyes. His scars were no longer marks of fear but of survival. His stories, once unwanted, became lessons they eagerly listened to.

The scarred elephant became a part of the herd, not just as a member but as a guide. He shared his wisdom, taught them the signs of change, the meaning of the wind, and how to find water when the land was dry. The young ones gathered around him, not afraid of his scars but curious about the stories behind them.

In time, the herd thrived, and they owed much of their strength to the wisdom of the stranger who had become their own. And they learned that true strength is not in the smoothness of the skin or the brightness of the tusks but in the endurance of the spirit—the spirit that can weather any storm, carry any scar, and still find the way home.

**A Personal Story: The Elephant** When I think of the elephant, I think of wisdom, strength, and endurance—the kind of qualities that only come from walking through fire and coming out the other side. The elephant carries its scars with dignity, and in a way, I feel a kinship with that. I've got my own scars, both visible and hidden, and I've learned that

it's not about pretending they aren't there but about finding the wisdom in them.

I don't claim to have all the answers. I've spent a lot of my life searching, questioning, trying to make sense of the signs and the paths I've been shown. But there are a few voices out there that I believe in, and one of them folk or country musicians. But as you listen to other artist, you'll see more and more have and will be voicing similar support of your soul.

Not to exclude, spiritual leaders, teachers and professors. I focus on people where feeling spiritual is new and various artist are a great way to strength beliefs and connection to the divine.

There's this idea I keep coming back to, something Leonardo da Vinci wrote: "The elephant will take down the dragon." It feels prophetic to me, a reminder that wisdom and patience will overcome greed and deceit.

The dragon, to me, represents the chaos, the lies, the temptations that try to pull us away from our true path. The elephant, with its slow, steady steps, shows us that the way forward isn't always fast or easy, but it's sure. When the dragon falls, it won't be from a single blow but from the quiet persistence of truth, of wisdom, of the spirit that cannot be shaken.

In my own life, I try to channel that elephant spirit. I may not always move quickly, but I aim to move with purpose. I've had to learn when to speak and when to stay silent, when to push forward and when to let things unfold in their own time. Like the scarred elephant in the parable, I hope to share what I've learned, to help guide others not by telling them where to go but by showing them where I've been.

The elephant is a reminder to me that every scar has a story, and every story has the power to help someone else find their way. It's a call to embrace my own journey, to walk with the strength of knowing that wisdom often comes not from the smooth path but from the rough road, the one where each step leaves a mark, not just on the ground but on the soul.

Leonardo da Vinci "The dragon throws itself under the elephant's body, twines its tail round its legs and clings to its ribs with wings and claws and bites open its throat. The elephant falls on top of it and the dragon bursts open; thus it revenges itself by the death of its enemy." Reflection Here Leonardo presents one of the most vivid images in his bestiary: the clash between the dragon and the elephant. The dragon is fierce, cunning, and relentless — a picture of ultimate malice. It strikes not with honor but with desperation, clawing, biting, and constricting in its attempt

to destroy. In this, it represents the forces of evil, deception, and darkness that seek to choke out truth and goodness.

But it is the elephant — the teacher, the wise one, the bearer of great strength — who triumphs. The elephant does not escape the attack without cost, but in its fall it crushes the dragon, ending its threat. The very weight of its being — symbolizing wisdom, patience, and enduring truth — becomes the instrument by which evil is undone.

The lesson is clear: evil may be violent and aggressive, but it is ultimately self-defeating when it collides with truth and teaching. The dragon's destruction comes not by the elephant's fury, but by the elephant's very nature. Just as the elephant's great weight overpowers the dragon, so does the weight of truth overpower falsehood. The teacher does not need to match evil's venom with venom; simply by standing firm in what is true, evil brings about its own ruin.

Blessun of the Elephant May the eyes of the elephant grant you memory, to carry wisdom from the past, and to honor the footsteps of those before you.

May the heart of the elephant give you compassion, to shelter the weak, and to lift the fallen with gentleness.

May the spirit of the elephant keep you steadfast, walking slowly but surely, undaunted by the weight of the journey.

May the voice of the elephant awaken unity, teaching you when to trumpet with power, and when to share silence in peace.

May the strength of the elephant carry you forward, through deserts and rivers, with courage unbroken and might unshaken.

And may the soul of the elephant remind you always: you are a guardian of wisdom, a pillar of strength, and the Great Spirit walks beside you with every step.

**Fun Facts About Elephants** Their trunks are like super tools—they can smell, drink, lift, trumpet, and give dust showers to cool off.

An elephant's ears act like fans, helping to regulate body temperature in the hot sun.

Baby elephants are called calves, and they can weigh over 200 pounds at birth!

Elephants are very social—they comfort each other when sad and mourn their loved ones.

Communicating by rumbling through the ground with sounds too low for humans to hear—elephants send secret messages!