

# HOW THE ELEPHANT GOT HIS TRUNK

A Humorous Reading

by  
Rudyard Kipling



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From the "Just So" stories.

Here is opportunity for a variety of impersonation. In telling this story, Charles Laughton used a pronounced English accent for the snake, and for the crocodile, he used a quiet, yet ominous, gangster accent.

In the Far-Off Times the Elephant had no trunk. He had only a blackish, bulgy nose, as big as a boot, that he could wriggle about from side to side; but he couldn't pick up things with it. Now there was one Elephant--an Elephant's Child--who was full of 'satiabile curiosity, and that means he asked ever so many questions.

He asked his tall aunt, the Ostrich, why her tail-feathers grew just so, and his tall aunt, the Ostrich, spanked him with her hard, hard claw. He asked his tall uncle, the Giraffe, what made his skin spotty, and his uncle spanked him with his hard, hard hoof. And still he was full of 'satiabile curiosity! He asked his broad aunt, the Hippopotamus, why her eyes were red, and his aunt spanked him with her broad, broad hoof; and he asked his hairy uncle, the Baboon, why melons tasted just so, and his uncle spanked him with his hairy, hairy paw. And still he was full of 'satiabile curiosity!

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