

## (020) Look Before You Leap

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A clever but careless little boy was walking through the woods. He was not watching where he was going. He fell down a deep dark hole. He could not climb out of it.

An hour or so passed. Then he heard feet on the ground above. This was a large but foolish boy walking through the woods. He did see the hole in time. He stopped and looked into it. The little boy cried up to him.

“Hello, there! You must come down here. See what I have found. It is a very valuable baby white elephant!”

“Goodness me!” cried the large and foolish boy. He jumped straight down into the hole. His eyes grew accustomed to the darkness. He saw the little boy. He did not see any elephant.

“Where is the baby white elephant?” he asked. “As you jumped in, it jumped out. Such a pity!” explained the little boy. This surprised the large boy. The hole was deep. The little boy could not jump out. Neither could he.

The little boy said that baby elephants were very agile. He had a different plan for them. He asked the large boy to bend down. He climbed on his shoulders. The large boy stood up. The little boy was high enough to climb out of the hole.

“What about me now?” asked the large boy down in the hole. “I don’t know,” chuckled the little boy. “You should not have gone down there. You have no idea how to get out. You must look before you leap.”

The little fellow left him there to think about it. Someone more kind probably rescued him later.