

## THE ELEPHANT AND DONKEY



HERE every step required care  
Once met by chance a rural pair,  
A Donkey with assurance filled,  
And Elephant of heavy build.

The latter said, with manners kind,  
"Here one alone can footing find,  
So let us choose the safest scheme  
And singly cross the brawling stream.  
You're nearest to the shore you see  
And should, I think, give way to me.  
When I have cross'd the dangerous place  
Then you can soon resume your pace."

"Not so," the Donkey quick replied,  
Who, blinded by his silly pride,  
Mistook the traveler's civil air  
For evidence of craven fear;  
And thus went on with haughty tone,  
"My time is precious as your own,  
And here I'll stand throughout the day  
Upon my rights, let come what may."



Now, angered at conceit so great,  
The Elephant cut short debate