A group of elephants, wisest of the beasts, wanted a leader and asked the Wise Old Elephant what to do. She asked why they could not make their own decision. They did not understand her response and created a King.

The Rhinos said don't do it, but the elephants would not listen.

He was not a very good King but they followed his orders. Their society suffered but they believed that was their fate. Eventually, their King died. They had gotten used to someone making their decisions for them, so once again the Elephants decided to seek the advice of the Wise Old Elephant. Frustrated they had learned nothing, the Wise Old Elephant advised them to choose a King who would not die, and they should therefore choose Death as their King.

The Rhinos said don't do it, but the elephants would not listen.

The elephants eagerly followed the Wise Old Elephant's advice and made Death their King. Who then claimed them as his subjects. As they all perished, they asked the Wise Old Elephant why she had given them such bad advice. She replied because they were so willing to follow it.

Turns out rhinos *are* wisest of the beasts.

(C) Victor Schwartzman 2025. All rights reserved. http://www.VictorSchwartzman.ca