

The conviction that keeps us deaf and blind.

The Buddha told this story to his monks.

A young widower was devoted to his small boy.

Whilst he was away on business, some thieves burnt the whole village, leaving only ashes and kidnapped the small boy.

When the father came back, all he could see were ruins and it broke his heart. Seeing what was left of a child's body burnt to ashes, he believed these to be his own son and made plan for a cremation. He gathered the ashes and put them in a bag that he carried everywhere with him.

One day, his real son, managed to escape the thieves and found his way back home, that his father had re-built.

He arrived late at night and knocked on the door. The father asked :

- Who is there ?

- It's me, your son, please let me in.

The father, who always carried the ashes with him, desperately sad, believed that it was a shabby man taking advantage of him.

He shouted :

- Go away.

His son was forever knocking and calling but the father was always giving the same answer.

Finally, the son left, never to return.

After finishing the story, the Buddha added:

- If you keep clinging onto an idea as being an unchanging truth, when the truth comes knocking on your door, you wont be able to open and accept it.

From the Undana Sutta
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