



The Youth's Butterfly

Under the wide-spreading banyan tree, a sage had made his temporary abode in a hillside village. Every evening as the dusk gathered, there thronged around him men and women, with waiting hearts to drink deep the nectar of his wisdom. Irked by this seemingly blind adoration, a young man decided to expose the sage. He caught a butterfly and held it between his thumb and forefinger. Holding it aloft, he pierced through the crowd to loudly ask the sage: 'Dead or alive?' His intention was to let the butterfly free, should the sage respond: 'Dead', and to press it to its death, should the answer be: 'Alive'. In both cases, the people will see that the sage did not know everything after all.

As the young man's voice faded away, all eyes turned to the sage for an answer..... and his words fell softly upon all ears, as with his gentle eyes he plumbed the depths of the youth's heart and said: 'It's in your hands.'

