

THE BUTTERFLY STORY

A story about the wisdom of suffering.

A man found a butterfly cocoon. One day a small opening appeared and he sat and watched the butterfly as it struggled for several hours to force its body through the little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared that it had gotten as far as it could.

The man decided to help the butterfly, so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily but it had a swollen body and small, shrivelled wings. The man expected that at any moment the wings would expand and be able to support the body, but this never happened.

The butterfly spent its whole life crawling around with a swollen body unable to fly. The restricting cocoon and the struggle required to get through the tiny opening were needed to force fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight when it achieved freedom.

