



Nature of Truth

A story is told about five blind men who encountered an elephant. One touched the beast's leg and concluded that the animal was like a tree trunk. Another touched the ear and thought the animal was like a fan. The third handled its tail and felt that the animal was like a rope. The last two men came to yet other conclusions. Who was right? They all were, even though they all contradicted each other. They each simply had only a part of the whole truth. Human understanding of truth is relative to and limited by individual beliefs. We all only see a tiny aspect of the picture - perhaps comparable to a handful of dirt from a tall mountain!

Grasping the truth about life can be compared to watching a photograph in the developing process or putting together a jigsaw puzzle - it is always a little here and a little there. Only when enough aspects of the whole have emerged, one can get an idea of the picture. Aspects of truth are the same - the more pieces we understand, the clearer our picture is. Even then, however, it is only a picture - an approximation in words and concepts - and not the total reality which cannot be described or even fully experienced in this life.

