Ignorance Is Bliss

Once there was a well-educated knowledgeable man. He was clever and argued with anyone who would try to question his knowledge. He would debate on any subject. If he saw or heard something wrong, he would be furious until he was able to put it right. He did not have many friends, because he would constantly correct them. He was always aggressive.

One day, as he was walking down the street, he saw a happy man watching butterflies. He thought “Butterflies are just caterpillars with wings.” and so he continued walking. A bit later, he saw the same man enjoying a fresh fig that he had picked from a tree, and he thought, “Figs lure, kill and digest wasps. I don’t want to eat them.” and he continued walking. When he arrived at the town centre, he went straight to the newspaper vendor. He bought one, sat on a bench and started to read it, following his usual, rigid, daily routine. Then he spotted the happy, carefree man walking towards him, without the newspaper that everyone else was engrossed in. The happy man sat next to the well-educated man on the bench. Unable to hold his tongue, the clever man asked “Don’t you read the news?” Cheerfully, the happy man replied, “No, why would I?” “Well, don’t you wonder what is going on around the world? Or even in this country?” he asked aggressively. “Why would I need all of this unnecessary information? I cannot change the inevitable. Useless knowledge just blinds you and makes you focus on the future. You need to live in the moment,” said the happy man calmly, and then he smiled, stood up and left.

After a moment, the educated, aggressive man realised the happy man was right; it seemed that being obsessed with unnecessary knowledge had become a burden. He realised how much easier life would have been if he did not have as much knowledge and was not stressed with insignificant details.