Hans Christian Andersen's story "The Emperor's New Clothes"

The story is about an emperor who is very fond of clothes and has a different set of robes for every hour of the day. An entire guild of weavers develops in his kingdom whose sole purpose is to meet the emperor's unquenchable thirst for new clothes. Each weaver tries to outdo the other by weaving more and more refined fabrics with increasingly subtle texture and ornamentation.

Finally a group of weavers approaches the emperor claiming that they can create robes of fabric so subtle that only people of highly refined intelligence will be able to see the robes, let alone appreciate them. The emperor is thrilled and commissions the weavers to create for him the most glorious raiments in the kingdom. They work for months and years, demanding more and more silk and gold to weave their subtle fabrics, and from time to time they invite the emperor to review their work in progress. The emperor, to his great dismay, is unable to see anything at all, but out of fear of being shamed and derided as an ignorant emperor, he praises them for their extraordinary work. At last the weavers announce that the robes are ready and invite the emperor to try them on. He summons his courtiers to his chambers to see him arrayed in his exquisitely subtle and richly textured new robes. They too, not wanting to be deemed ignorant, express appreciation for the greatness of the weavers' work.

The emperor announces that he will wear his new robes in a procession through the streets of the town. All the townspeople line the streets to view the emperor in his new regalia. "Behold the beauty of the emperor's new clothes!" they exclaim to one another. "How magnificent and exquisitely subtle, how stunning!" Suddenly a young child pulls her mother's skirt and says loud enough for all to hear, "Why is that man walking down the street without any clothes on?"

The Emperor’s New Clothes is really a story about people bound by mental models. Their image of the monarch’s dignity kept them from seeing his naked figure, kept them from seeing reality.