

## Metaphysical Anthropology of Conversation with the Dead: Naruto's Conversation with Minato In Konoha's Pain Attack

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**Abstract:** *Fear and depression are ready to take control of a person's life if he hesitates to accept death. Similarly, Naruto experiences this in the Naruto shippuden series. When he was an infant, Naruto lost both of his parents. Surprisingly, Naruto met his father, Minato Namikaze, in Konoha while battling agony. The out-of-control Naruto almost took out the nine-tailed bijuu (kyubi), but his father prevented it, and Naruto regained the will and fortitude to battle Pain. Mark 5:35–42 and Daniel 12:1-3 will be used to support the method of metaphysical anthropology that will be employed. This paper examines the relationship between metaphysical anthropology in the Naruto shippuden and Mark 5:32–42 and Daniel 12:1–3 to construct a consolation concept to face grief. This study drew several conclusions, the first being that Christianity values life both before and after mortality, necessitating the development of contextual counseling techniques. Second, the conversation between Naruto and Minato during Pain's attack on Konoha has a noble value because it ultimately leads to Pain's revival and the restoration of Konoha. Thirdly, the Christian doctrine of the asleep soul in Mark 5:35–42 and Daniel 12:1-3, which rewards the soul after death, supports this research.*

**Keywords:** *Death, Naruto, Metaphysical Anthropology, Soul*

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### 1. Introduction

Humans in their life will experience one phase that makes them get such strong pressure. This phase is to see their loved ones die. This is also what makes humans fall into the depression of death. Seeing this, there needs a development that can help humans to be free from the depression of death. The pressures of the impact of the death of the



closest person must be minimized to be able to maintain the lives of those who have been left behind.<sup>1</sup>

Christianity needs to develop releases associated with the stresses one experiences due to the grief of the death of the closest person. The concept to be offered is the concept of conversation with the dead. This concept is judged from the concept of Naruto's conversation with Minato at the time of Pain's invasion of Konoha. In episodes 152-175 of the Naruto anime, Pain, the commander of the Akatsuki organization, attacks the village of Konoha. In this scenario, Naruto is the protagonist, while Pain becomes the antagonist. Hinata, a companion of Naruto, attempts to protect Naruto in a difficult situation. Naruto, who was out of control because of Hinata who had been attacked by Pain, vented his anger by almost releasing Kurama (Kyubi) bijuu seal in his body. However, what happened was the emergence of Minato who then advised Naruto to be able to survive. The concept of the conversation gave Naruto some relief so that he could return to his senses. The impact that occurs is that Naruto can fight Pain to then resuscitate him.

Christianity offers the concept of metaphysical anthropology, which is the view of the soul/spirit after death. Metaphysical anthropology sees the man from his entire dimension through philosophy using metaphysical methods. It begins with the activity of thinking and speaking in humans and eventually results in metaphysical reflection.<sup>23</sup> Humans are both multidimensional and paradoxical creatures. That is, the dimensions that exist in man are contradictory but only true in their unity. The dimension in question is the dimension of body and soul/spirit. The dimensions of body and soul are also called material and spiritual, finite and infinite, bound and free. The body is expressed as a closed reality bound in space and time or spatial and temporal reality. Meanwhile, the soul is free and not bound to space and time and open without limits.<sup>4</sup> From the metaphysical anthropological approach that speaks of the dimensions of body and soul, it will be strengthened from the view of Gabriel Marcel. In the I-You relationship initiated by Gabriel Marcel, "In my love life is eternal music and love says you must not die".<sup>5</sup> So, a person's death is not necessarily eliminated completely, but will always be stored in memory as the integrity of body and soul. The connection with this metaphysical anthropological concept is raised in the presence of Minato's soul, Naruto's father. Minato's soul turns out to impact Naruto; of course, this can be related to the souls of people who have died. The same concept is tried to be presented through a Christian approach through a sleeping soul, that the soul is immortal, even though the body has died. The soul is immortal, even in memories that can heal from grief.

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<sup>1</sup> Gholamreza Rajabi and Zahra Naderi Nobandegani, "Death Obsession, Death Anxiety, and Depression as Predictors of Death Depression in Nurses," *Jentashapir Journal of Health Research* In Press, no. In Press (2017): 1.

<sup>2</sup> Wandrio Salewa, "Complete Death In Recognition of the Toraja Church According to the View of Metaphysical Anthropology," *SOPHIA: Journal of Christian Theology and Education* 1, no. 2 (2020): 65-66, <https://sophia.iakn-toraja.ac.id/index.php/ojsdatasophia/article/view/15/7>.

<sup>3</sup> Anton Baker, *Metaphysical Anthropology* (Yogyakarta: Kanisius, 2008), 18.

<sup>4</sup> Salewa, "Complete Death In Recognition of the Toraja Church According to metaphysical Anthropology View", 78.

<sup>5</sup> Adelbert Snijders *Anthropology of Human Philosophy paradoxes and exclamations* (Yogyakarta: Kanisius, 2019), 49.

This paper aims to explain the new Christian approach, namely the conversation with the dead, and the implications of the conversation between Naruto and Minato during Pain's attack on Konoha. This writing moves from the paradigm that although there are many methods of counseling and consolation regarding grief, but the author states that the concept of conversation with the dead based on Naruto and Minato's conversation during Pain's attack in Konoha based on the metaphysical anthropology of the sleeping soul Mark 5:35-42 and Daniel 12:1-3 can be one of the references to renewable counseling. This is supported by the fact that, first, Christianity values life either now or after death so it is necessary to develop contextual methods of counseling. Second, there is a noble value in Naruto and Minato's conversation during Pain's attack on Konoha because in the end it succeeded in resisting, resuscitating Pain, and restoring Konoha. And third, this study is supported by the Christian doctrine based on the sleeping soul in Mark 5:35-42 and Daniel 12:1-3 which rewards the human soul/spirit after death.

## **2. Method**

This method of writing uses literature studies and discourse expositions of anime Naruto Shippuden scene pieces in the episode of Pain's invasion of Konoha (Episodes 152-175) but focuses more on Naruto's encounters and conversations with his father Namikaze Minato (Episodes 167-168). The narrative process to be displayed in this paper is, first outlining the impact of death and the level of depression that arises, and various approaches to handling it. Second, deciphering the scene of Naruto's conversation with Minato during Pain's attack on Konoha using a discourse exposition of the scene. Third, it describes the Christian view of metaphysical anthropology by using the concept of the sleeping soul based on Mark 5:35-42 and Daniel 12:1-3. Finally, try to formulate a reflection of the conversation with the dead based on the conversation scene of Naruto and Minato according to the doctrine of the sleeping soul.

## **3. Result and Discussion**

In this section, I will start talking about the impact of death and its handling, and secondly, enter into the plot of Naruto's conversation with Minato in Pain's attack on Konoha in episodes 163-169 of the Naruto Shippuden series. Third, read Mark 5:35-32 and Daniel 12:1-3 in the frame of metaphysical anthropology of the sleeping soul. Finally, the reflection of the conversation with the dead is based on the scene of Naruto and Minato's conversation according to the doctrine of the sleeping soul.

### **The Impact of Death and Its Handling**

The majority of human beings define death as the end of a person's life. In death, all human power and effort cease and are useless. Thus, death becomes something scary for humans. Moreover, the death that will be experienced later and the death of loved ones such as family, girlfriends, and friends. Death is a mystery because no one ever knows the limits of his life and when death will come to take his life. Therefore, death becomes a scary thing in human life. If a person cannot accept the death of his loved ones, it can cause depression and make his life unable to run well.

Death results in depression and needs to be helped. Depression produces a feeling of not accepting death. This is what led Pastors, Theologians, and Christians to develop Christian counseling to cope with and help those who were depressed by the death of their loved ones. One of the things that can be done to help this is to use conversation.

Conversational counseling research has been researched by Kristensen and Hedtke. The study focused on conversations with parents who lost their children while in the womb or after giving birth. The research resulted in the concept that there is hope from a conversation to remember a deceased child, thus encouraging the family to stand stronger. The ideas of the conversation are like remembering a time, place, or moment that has been passed together. Through the conversation, it gives a new hope that parents can connect to the child even though he is dead. The conversation is a careful conversation so that it can provide support to the relationship of parents with children who have died. This is based on the fact that before the death of the child, namely during the womb, they have had a relationship so that many stories can be remembered and discussed in solving the problem.<sup>6</sup> Seeing this, the conversation about the dead person turned out to be one of the references for the grief counseling process.

Counseling with methods of remembering and talking about death turned out to be one of the counseling references for grief. This is also in line with previous research by Hedtke and Winslade, which provides an approach to being able to successfully get through grief. The approach taken to negotiating grief and death is to focus on the memory of the person left behind instead of forgetting them.<sup>7</sup> Previous research from recall to alternatives in solving the problem of grief.<sup>8</sup> Seeing this, it turns out that recalling and talking to those who have died becomes one of the reliable counseling approaches to overcome the grief of death.

Counseling with a primary focus on recalling and talking to the deceased is one solution to grief. This concept turned out to be found in one scene of the Naruto Shippuden anime. This was presented in a conversation between Naruto and Namikaze Minato in episodes 167-168.

### **Uzumaki Naruto's conversation with Namikaze Minato (Episodes 167-168)**

Before entering into Uzumaki Naruto's meetings and conversations with his father Namikaze Minato, I will begin to tell the story of Pain's invasion of Konohagakure<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Helene Grau Kristensen and Lorraine Hedtke, "Still Alive: Counselling Conversations with Parents Whose Child Has Died during or Soon after Pregnancy," *THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NARRATIVE THERAPY AND COMMUNITY WORK*, no. 1 (2018): 22–30.

<sup>7</sup> Lorraine Hedtke and John Winslade, *Remembering Lives: Conversations with the Dying and the Bereaved*. (New York: Routledge, 2016).

<sup>8</sup> Stephanie Granados et al., "Grief Counseling Groups for Adolescents Based on Re-Membering Practices," *Journal of School Counseling* 7, no. 34 (2009).

<sup>9</sup> Kohogakure or Konoha is a village led by a Hokage. It was in this village that Uzumaki Naruto was born and became his residence.

to retrieve *the kyubi*<sup>10</sup> sealed in Naruto's Uzumaki body. Pain<sup>11</sup> is an organization led by Nagato, with the goal and dream of realizing world peace and wanting a world where people can understand each other. In episodes 152-175 in Naruto Shippuden, it tells the beginning of pain's invasion of Konoha until the completion of Naruto's fight against Pain and Pain's leader Nagato entrusts Pain's dream to Naruto and raise up those who have died due to their invasion of Konoha.

In episode 152, pain attacked konoha village to retrieve *Kyubi* sealed in Naruto's body. Kyubi's power will be used by Pain to realize their dream of world peace and a life of understanding each other. Hokage and Konoha's ninjas tried to fight Pain, but they were unable to. By the time Konoha had been destroyed, Naruto was present to fight the six-person Pain. Such a great and exciting battle between Naruto and Pain was fast, until Pain, who previously numbered six people, now only one Pain person is known as Yahiko (Tendo)<sup>12</sup>. The one-on-one battle between Naruto and Yahiko lasted a long time and was interesting. Naruto, who was pushed and almost killed by Yahiko, made Hinata try to help Naruto. However, the disproportionate strength between Hinata and Yahiko caused Yahiko to easily defeat Hinata. This is what Naruto saw, so that his anger was so fiery that Naruto lost control of himself and blindly attacked Yahiko. Naruto, who couldn't control himself, almost unsealed Kyubi. But thwarted by his father, Minato (Episode 167).

Minato's presence to thwart Naruto to unlock the Kyubi seal also succeeded in resuscitating Naruto from what he experienced. At first, Naruto did not know Minato was his father, Naruto only knew Minato as the fourth Hokage from the robe he used. Moreover, Minato had long since died and at that time Naruto was still a baby. Even so, Minato still introduced himself to Naruto that he was Naruto's father. This had made Naruto not believe it, but after being convinced by his father, he finally believed it. This made Naruto cry and his feelings were mixed between happy, sad, and angry and confused. Later, Naruto briefly recounted to his father the suffering and bitterness of life he experienced due to the Kyubi seal on his body. His father gave Naruto comfort, encouragement, and advice to stay strong, strong, and eager to live his life in the future (Episode 168).

What his father has said makes Naruto strong and excited again and rises to defeat Pain (Yahiko). In episodes 169-175, Naruto defeated Yahiko and managed to convince Nagato and Konan (pain leaders and members) that Naruto would realize their dream as well as Naruto's dream of a peaceful world and all humans living understanding each other. Naruto's concept is counseling himself through recalling and talking to the dead.

Recalling and talking to the dead is one of the counseling approaches that can be done in overcoming grief. However, of course, this is a controversy in the world of Christianity. Can Christianity accept this as one of the approaches to having a conversation with the dead? To overcome this so that it is not considered counseling with a misguided approach, it is offered the metaphysical anthropological view of "The soul is asleep" according to Mark 5:35-42 and Daniel 12:1-3.

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<sup>10</sup> *Kyubi* is a nine-tailed monster and resembles a kind of fox animal which is sealed in Naruto's body. This monster is very dangerous when it comes off the seal in Naruto's body. In the previous few episodes Kyubi showed his strength through Naruto and had time to control Naruto, but this can still be overcome by Naruto and his teacher.

<sup>11</sup> Apart from being an organization, Pain It also consists of eight. This person also became the founder of the Akatsuki organization with the initial leader Yahiko (Nagato and Konan's best friend), then led by Nagato.

<sup>12</sup> *Having* Is a name for the body of Yahiko (container) who has become a corpse and resurrected and controlled by his best friend Nagato using his eyes.

### **Metaphysical anthropology of the Sleeping Soul in Mark 5:35-42 and Daniel 12:1-3**

Metaphysical anthropology is one of the philosophic sciences that discusses and investigates the whole of human beings as a whole using metaphysical methods or transcendental methods.<sup>13</sup> Metaphysical methods use philosophical methods to explain the whole of man and avoid errors. Specifically in this paper, I use the concept of metaphysical anthropology developed by Anton Bakker in the book "Metaphysical Anthropology" and equipped with the concept of I-You relations from Gabriel Marcel that emphasizes the metaphysical part. A brief explanation of metaphysical anthropology becomes a brief introduction to the entry of findings and interpretation of Mark 5:35-42 and Daniel 12:1-3 in the frame of metaphysical anthropology.

The text discussed in this passage, daniel 12:1-3 and Mark 5:35-42, provides a clear context that death is sleep and resurrection is wake. It is very firmly the similarity of words used and the similarities that are interconnected. From the narrative, it is also said that Daniel saw eschatologically the person who slept from the dust of the ground would wake up and Jesus saw that the dead son of Jairus was sleeping and then Jesus woke him up which then occurred the resurrection of the son of Jairus from the dead.

The thing that reinforces death as a concept called "sleep" is when the Lord Jesus raises Jairus's dead son. Jesus performed an unexpected miracle and there were five witnesses: James, John, Peter, Jairus, and his wife. The miracle was performed by Jesus using the word *Talitacumi*, this is a familiar word and like the word spoken by Jesus. Jesus raised the child by the power of words. This power is like a command to the dead child to wake up. Miracles occurred and eventually, the son of Jairus received a miracle from Jesus so that he could rise from his death. The use of the word that is strongly emphasized in this section is *talitacumi* which can be identified with the word "wake up". Waking up is the opposite of the word from sleep so that the resurrection of the dead can be aligned with the understanding of waking up from his sleep. This can be attributed to the eschatological view that a dead human being can be said to sleep and will later be resurrected on the day of judgment. The resurrection event on the day of judgment can be said to be the waking event of the dead. Based on this, it can be drawn from the interpretation that in the event of a miracle to raise the son of Jairus, Jesus gave the meaning that death is an event called "sleep" and the resurrection is an event called "wake up".<sup>141516</sup>

The narration of Daniel 12:1-3 describes the narrative of the archangel Michael who will fight together with the Jews during the persecution. Nevertheless, everyone who is part of God's people will be saved. The concept of Michael that appears in the first verse is also a picture of the salvation that the Lord Jesus Christ will bring. Christ stood as a savior for his people (every believer), sacrificed, and avoided condemnation in exchange for the punishment of every human being. This passage states that it is Christ's sacrifice

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<sup>13</sup> Baker *Metaphysical Anthropology*, 18.

<sup>14</sup> Robert Jamieson, A R Fausset, and David Brown, *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible* (Grand Rapid, MI : Christian Classics Ethereal Library, 2009).

<sup>15</sup> Don Fleming, *Bridge Way Bible Commentary* (Brisbane: Bridge Way Publication, 2005).

<sup>16</sup> Matthew Henry, *Commentary on the Whole Bible Volume V ( Matthew to John ) by Publisher*, vol. V (Grand Rapid, MI : Christian Classics Ethereal Library, 2000).

that will bring to the throne grace. The next narrative explains about many people who have slept to wake up. Zdravko Stefanovic explains in his interpretation that the Bible describes death as termed as falling asleep. This section is also unique because it is the only thing that explains the resurrection of the dead in the Old Testament. This resurrection becomes a short part of the new creation of mankind although some will gain eternity and some will get eternal shame. This part is an important point because it is in line with Zdravko's interpretation, death is termed with the concept of falling asleep, and awakening is termed in the concept of waking up. This concept that will be an important point in the discussion of death according to the book of Daniel is termed falling asleep. It is clear in this passage that the narrative conveyed is that the Bible states death is sleep. This is reinforced in the eschatological view that the "sleeping" of the dust of the soil will wake up to obtain eternal life and gain shame or humiliation.<sup>171819</sup>

If the interpretation is associated with metaphysical anthropology, the authors suggest that the metaphysical part of man in the concept is termed the "sleep" phase. Like people who are in a coma, this phase of the sleep cannot have an impact on the present life. This interpretation still supports that the doctrine of worship to the ancestors to ask for blessings is certainly not under the Christian faith. However, this doctrinal approach can give leeway that there is no problem with conversing with the dead. The dead person is considered as sleeping or coma, although it does not respond to the speech of a living human being, of course, it can be done by talking one way and letting go and telling his life.

This concept of the metaphysical anthropology approach of the sleeping Soul supports counseling recalling and talking to the dead as depicted in naruto Shippuden scenes episodes 167-168. Just like Naruto who has been conversing with his father and then can let go of all his burdens and problems, of course, counseling by recalling and having conversations with the dead is one of the approaches that can be done. There is no longer a problem regarding the doctrine of Christianity which will then consider this teaching heretical if the method of counseling Uzumaki Naruto-Namikase Minato is seen from the lens of the doctrine of the sleeping soul.

### **Reflection of Conversation With the Dead Based on Naruto And Minato Conversation Scenes According to The Doctrine of the Sleeping Soul**

Previous discussions about death depression, recall counseling, conversation counseling with the dead, Naruto-Minato conversation scenes, and the doctrinal picture of the sleeping soul give a picture of the concept of conversation with the dead as one of the approaches to grief counseling. The reflection of the concept can be described in the description of several things as follows:

First, a conversation with a dead person as a form of grief counseling. Seeing the concept of grief that cannot be separated from human life that usually arises from depression left to die by loved ones, it is necessary to have a counseling approach to recall and conversation with people who have died. Uzumaki Naruto and Minato Namikaze's conversation provides a scene that can be realized in real life. Naruto who is tired and

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<sup>17</sup> Fleming, *Bridge Way Bible Commentary*.

<sup>18</sup> Matthew Henry et al., *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary on The Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Christian Classics Ethereal Library, 2005).

<sup>19</sup> Zdravko Stefanovic, *Daniel: Wisdom to the Wise; Commentary on the Book of Daniel* (Nampa: Idaho Pacific Press Pub. Association, 2007), 435.

about to take off the seal can be calmed and can even come to terms with his past which he considers dark after conversing with his father. Furthermore, the impact of the problem allowed Naruto to resuscitate Pain and become a hero in Konoha. The scene can be practiced as a form of counseling to recall and talk to the dead. This counseling offers a relationship with the dead and conversing with them as a pain-release form of grief experienced by being left for dead by their loved ones. Of course, this conversation also needs to be given boundaries so that it does not become a dependency and instead becomes a form of syncretism. To overcome this it is necessary to be based on the doctrinal approach of the sleeping soul according to Mark 5:35-42 and Daniel 12:1-3. Second, conversation with the dead is not a heretical doctrine. When looking at the impact that Naruto received from the results of his conversation with his father's spirit (metaphysics), there are many positive sides. Although the conversation in the real world will not be as two-way as Naruto and Minato's conversation, at least it can cultivate a memory back and a simple conversation to then be able to provide a way out of the grief he faced. Surely the spirit of the dead can be identified as a spirit that falls asleep given the metaphysical anthropological concept of the sleeping soul. Although this practice converses with the spirit/soul of the dead but based on the lens of the sleeping soul, it is not a practice of syncretism. It is based on the fact that the spirit/soul of the dead person (metaphysical anthropology) is called in a sleeping position. The basis given is in this conversation as a form of pain-release and not as a request for blessings or giving something to the spirit/soul because the spirit or soul is in a sleeping position or can be said to have no power whatsoever. The limit is pain-release counseling against grief.

#### 4. Conclusion

Based on the above concept, conclusions can be drawn related to counseling conversations with the dead based on Naruto and Minato's conversations, namely that the counseling approach can be applied to the problem of grief due to death depression. The approach of counseling with the dead based on the concept of Naruto and Minato's conversation is outlined in two parts, namely: First, a conversation with a dead person as a form of grief counseling. Second, conversation with the dead is not a heretical doctrine when viewed through the lens of the doctrine of the sleeping soul. The advice of this writing is the need to look at the effectiveness of counseling conversations with the dead, in pain-release efforts to cause grief.

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