Lecture on European Prehistory

Economies of destruction?

4000 years ago, Prehistoric societies in Europe had bizarre practices: enormous quantities of valuable metalwork was deliberately destroyed and placed in peat bogs and rivers forever. Why did people give up their most precious belongings? We are now trying to make sense of these strange practices. Was there an economy of destruction? And speaking of which: How ‘rational’ is our own actually?

Assignment:
Read this background information:
https://www.academia.edu/23600583/Un_familiar_and_un_comfortable_-_the_deep_history_of_Europe

for those who can read Dutch, here is an example of a treasure that was recently found in Holland
https://www.academia.edu/30575226/een_bijzonder_bronsdepot_in_het_trace_van_de_N23-Westfrisiaweg

Question: do you have examples from your own life where you once deliberately destroyed and threw away something that was valuable and important to you?