

JUDGEMENT. I would be most uncomfortable being a judge. Even after all the evidence is viewed - regardless of how comprehensive it seems - how can we ever claim to know the truth? **W**e need justice, and we must accept that in every hundred cases there will be at least one with a person judged unfairly. But why do we insist on passing judgement in our private lives? **I**n a true-story-movie it was alleged a woman had killed her baby. She claimed it had been taken by a dingo. A man in the movie said "I don't care about the evidence, she's guilty, that's my gut feeling." **I**n another case a well-known person had been acquitted of the charge of rape. A friend said "it's a cover-up, of course he's guilty; just look at him - just look at his family and their family history." **I**t is easy for us to be instant judges; but I wonder if we are not caught in a conflict of terms. Wouldn't it be better if we looked at the principle in question - rather than make a swift judgement? **T**hen we would condemn killing and rape, but not judge people. At times public opinion helps finding 'the truth', whatever that may be. However, at other times it stands in the way of finding it. **I** am just ever so glad that I don't have to be a judge.

In public life the issue is problematic, if seen with my principle of "maintain doubt ... don't be certain about anything". In philosophy and spirituality this is true; but in regard to justice and judgements, if any reasonable doubt exists, a conviction will not be handed down.

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JUSTICE. We often fail to see the world as just. Most of us sometimes feel wrongly done by. A story from the East illustrates how justice may present itself in mysterious ways. **O**nce a righteous man, after listening to his teacher's discourse, met a wicked man, who had been out drinking and brawling. **T**he righteous man was distressed - he had stepped on a thorn, which gave him much discomfort. The wicked man in turn was exuberant - he had come upon a cauldron full of coal, topped by a lump of gold. Outraged, the righteous man went to his teacher and asked: "Master, where is there justice? I live an honourable existence, but misfortune befalls me - while my neighbour, who's a scoundrel, is rewarded!" The Master replied: **"M**y son, unbeknown to you, justice has prevailed. You see, in your previous lives you were bad - thus you were to die today. But since you were virtuous in this life, your death sentence was converted to a mere thorn prick. However, your neighbour was good in previous lives - as a reward he was to find a cauldron full of gold. But according to his conduct, pieces of gold have turned to coal with each one of his misdeeds."

see also KARMA