

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 stumbled 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