

# VENGEANCE

## *Punishment and Revenge*

### 1. ESSENCE

- 5428 The root of revenge, is in the weakness of the Soul;  
the most abject and timorous are the most addicted to it.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 5429 We do not correct the man we hang;  
we correct others by him.  
Montaigne (1533-1592)
- 5430 Revenge is an act of passion; vengeance of justice.  
Injuries are revenged; crimes are avenged.  
Johnson (1709-1784)

### 2. OPPOSITES

- 5431 There is nothing so easy as to revenge an offence;  
but nothing is so honourable as to pardon it.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 5432 He hurts the good who spares the bad.  
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 5433 Punishment, that is the justice for the unjust.  
Augustine (354-430 A.D.)
- 5434 Severities should be dealt out all at once,  
that by their suddenness they may give less offense;  
benefits should be handed out drop by drop,  
that they may be relished the more.  
Machiavelli (1469-1527)
- 5435 By taking revenge, a man is but even with his enemy;  
but in passing over it, he is superior.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 5436 Revenge, at first though sweet, bitter ere long,  
back on itself recoils.  
Milton (1608-1674)
- 5437 Crime and punishment grow out of one stem. Punishment is a  
fruit that, unsuspected, ripens within the flower of the  
pleasure that concealed it.  
Emerson (1803-1882)

**3. INSIGHT**

- 5438 Why seeketh thou revenge, O man! with what purpose is it that thou pursuest it? Thinkest thou to pain thine adversary by it? Know that thou thyself feelest its greatest torments.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 5439 Before a thunderstorm there is a build-up of tension which is only relieved by the explosive force of thunder and lightning. In human affairs there must be a clear distinction between the penalties for small and great crimes. Retribution for wrongdoing must be swiftly and surely applied if greater problems are to be prevented.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 5440 If you have committed iniquity, you must expect to suffer; for vengeance with its sacred light shines upon you.  
Sophocles (B.C. 495-406)
- 5441 Vengeance comes not openly, either upon you or any wicked man, but steals silently and imperceptibly, placing its foot on the bad.  
Euripides (B.C. 480-406)
- 5442 We will not punish a man because he hath offended, but that he may offend no more; nor does punishment ever look to the past, but to the future; for it is not the result of passion, but that the same thing be guarded against in time to come.  
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 5443 There's small revenge in words,  
but words may be greatly revenged.  
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 5444 There is only one thing worse than Injustice,  
and that is Justice without her sword in her hand.  
When Right is not Might, it is Evil.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 5445 Revenge upon a wrong-doer brings only one day's pleasure.  
For him who bears with patience evil from another,  
there will be praise until the world shall end.  
Indian Proverb

**4. POSITIVE**

- 5446 If there were no strong hand at the service of good in the world, evil would multiply.  
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)

- 5447 In punishing folly  
It does not further one  
To commit transgressions.  
The only thing that futhers  
Is to prevent transgressions.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 5448 It (revenge) is sweeter far than flowing honey.  
Homer (c. B.C. 700)
- 5449 Heaven is not always angry when he strikes,  
But most chastises those whom most he likes.  
John Pomfret (1677-1702)
- 5450 The work of eradicating crimes is not by making  
punishment familiar, but formidable.  
Goldsmith (1728-1774)
- 5451 Revenge is profitable, gratitude is expensive.  
Gibbon (1737-1794)

## 5. NEGATIVE

- 5452 Think not thou art revenged of thine enemy when thou slayest  
him; thou puttest him beyond thy reach, thou givest him  
quiet, and takest from thyself all means of hurting him.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 5453 The people are not afraid of death.  
Why, then, threaten them with death?...  
There is always the master executioner (Heaven) who kills.  
To undertake executions for the master executioner is like  
hewing wood for the master carpenter.  
Whoever undertakes to hew wood for the master carpenter  
rarely escapes injuring his own hands.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 5454 Blood stains can not be removed by more blood;  
resentment can not be removed by more resentment;  
resentment can be removed only by forgetting it.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 5455 If the people be led by laws, and uniformity sought to be  
given them by punishments, they will try to avoid the  
punishment, but have no sense of shame.  
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)
- 5456 Nothing is more common than for great thieves to ride in  
triumph when small ones are punished.  
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)

- 5457 Revenge is always the weak pleasure  
of a little and narrow mind.  
Juvenal (40-125 A.D.)
- 5458 He that studieth revenge keepeth his own wounds green.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 5459 Revenge...is like a rolling stone, which, when a man hath  
forced up a hill, will return upon him with a greater  
violence, and break those bones whose sinews gave it motion.  
Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)
- 5460 Many without punishment, but none without sin.  
John Ray (1627-1705)
- 5461 Revenge is barren: its delight is murder,  
and its satiety, despair.  
Schiller (1759-1805)

## 6. ADVICE

- 5462 Be always more ready to forgive, than to return an injury;  
he that watches for an opportunity of revenge, lieth in  
wait against himself, and draweth down mischief on his own  
head.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 5463 Punishment should not be meted out in anger. It must fulfill  
the purpose of preventing unreasonable excesses by others.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 5464 Let the punishment be equal with the offence.  
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 5465 The best sort of revenge is not to be like him who did the  
injury.  
Marcus Aurelius (121-180 A.D.)
- 5466 Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot  
That it doth singe yourself.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 5467 To make punishments efficacious, two things are necessary.  
They must never be disproportioned to the offence, and they  
must be certain.  
William Simms (1806-1870)
- 5468 Distrust all in whom the impulse to punish is powerful.  
Nietzsche (1844-1900)

**7. POTPOURRI**

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- 5469 O think not, bold man, because thy punishment is delayed,  
that the arm of God is weakened; neither flatter thyself  
with hopes that He winketh at thy doings. His eye pierceth  
the secrets of every heart, and He remembereth them for  
ever...  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 5470 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.  
Deuteronomy (B.C. 1200?-800?)
- 5471 The ways of the gods are long, but in the end  
they are not without strength.  
Euripides (B.C. 480-406)
- 5472 The divine wrath is slow indeed in vengeance,  
but it makes up for its tardiness by the severity  
of the punishment.  
Valerius Maximus (fl. c. 20 A.D.)
- 5473 The man against whom you feel anger in your heart  
Is not to be admonished by mere words.  
First, subdue him by force,  
And then use your weapon of words.  
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)
- 5474 Had all his hairs been lives, my great revenge had stomach  
for them all.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 5475 If I wished to punish a province, I would have it governed  
by philosophers.  
Frederick II (1712-1786)
- 5476 Revenge - A debt in the paying of which the greatest knave  
is honest and sincere, and, so far as he is able, punctual.  
Colton (1780-1832)
- 5477 Punishment - The justice that the guilty deal out to those  
that are caught.  
Elbert Hubbard (1859-1915)