

Balance

Nemesis was the Greek goddess of retributive justice.

Retributive justice is the idea our modern day justice system is based on. Nemesis everywhere look to inflict retribution and/or vengeance on those who have offended. This is an idea separating humanity from the balance of nature. An idea creating all the good and bad we perceive in the world around us because animals do not look for "payback." It is an idea unique to us humans. Turning the natural balance of things into a sort of cosmic struggle on some perceived higher level. In the Abrahamic religions, Satan, which literally means "adversary," looks to defeat YHWH; during the final battle of Ragnarok, Odin and the Norse gods fight Hel and the forces of chaos; Zoroaster preached that good deeds empower the supreme god, Ahura Mazda, to continue his struggle against the evil spirit, Ahriman; etc. Perceive it as you may, these adversaries and nemesis are still in balance. Good and bad, righteous and evil, and even law and crime all serve as bywords to make sense of this natural balance in our human nature.

When one acts in a manner adverse to the written law, they are committing a crime. If someone is caught committing a crime, the upholders of law look to enforce retributive justice and extract penance from this adversary. Crime is basically the destruction of law, whereas law looks to undo crime. Two polar-opposites locked in eternal conflict, each extreme looking to counter create the other. And when retributive justice is imposed, granting the sought after vengeance these upholders of law thirst

for, the struggle does not end – it simply takes a new form.

The nemeses running prison facilities look to counter create all the adversaries placed inside the metal and concrete of any given institution. In return, they allow for the experience to dictate who they choose to become. True to this cosmic balance, the very embodiment of all these adversaries defines what prison is because officials must constantly change tactics to attend to that which such a massive embodiment decides to do in order to keep control. Prison, therefore, consists of two totally different forms juxtaposed and creating a perfectly balanced singular entity. These forms are complimentary to one another but they will never be homogeneous. It's an age-old struggle creating another form of what many see as right and wrong, good and bad, righteous and evil, and remains controversial, no matter which side you are on, because the harmony unseen by so many stems from polarity.