



DIE TODAY, LIVE ANOTHER DAY

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Shakespeare's play entitled Hamlet tells the story of how Hamlet, a recently deceased king's son, decides to pursue justice for the sake of his father. His mother Gertrude so quickly went and married Claudius, whom Hamlet suspects was behind his father's killing. The crazy twists and turns in the story have us following Hamlet through several events that lead to the bloodbath that happens toward the end. Hamlet eventually gets revenge for his father but another man who's equally hungry for the throne helps himself to the vacant seat. Sure, someone ends up happy and justice is served, but what a twisted way to get all that justice.

In real life, it can be as difficult to seek justice. Many among us have had to undergo many trials—literally in a court of law or virtually in another court of battle—to prove themselves and their virtue to others. At work, we encounter many injustices, too. Women have had to work their way up in order to gain equal footing in the workplace with their male counterparts. Race, color and religion can prove to be hindrances to getting recognized for your innate talent and skills. We've made great strides in technology, but have made little to no progress in how we look at one another. For us, the best things to be enjoyed are not within our radii; they can only be found somewhere else.

However, it is still upon us to continue to strive for justice in whatever way we can. Justice may be elusive, but that doesn't mean justice doesn't exist. Let the evil ones enjoy their supremacy while they still can, and our day will also come. The reason that a week begins with a Sunday and ends with a Saturday is because we need to face every period of our lives with the sun in our stride and to end every chapter with rest for our weary souls. Then comes another week, and we have to face another fight. It's the same with justice. We may face any challenge with great hope, but there will always be the opportunity to regain what we have lost with some form of rest or respite in the end. Then we need only to regain our spirit for yet another battle ahead. Sometimes, we need to retreat in order to regroup, instead of going for it in full throttle.

Justice is not always obtained swiftly and in one solid motion. Sometimes there's a need to cut your losses, reassess your situation and find out how you can get it from a different angle. That's what lawyers are for, and that's what we can definitely learn a lot from. Fight for justice, but do it with dignity and silent courage. Perhaps Lady Justice would peek under her blindfold and consider what you need!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Have you or someone you know ever experienced injustice in any way? Be able to share that experience in class.
2. What is your opinion of "vigilantes"? Is summary execution a better alternative when justice is not served?
3. What is your opinion on "kangaroo courts"? Can they ever compare to a true court of justice?
4. Do research on the treatise Malleus Maleficarum (The Witches Hammer). Why do you think Inquisitors in the Dark Ages were so easily misled into identifying, prosecuting and dispatching of witches based solely on superstitious fallacies?
5. Do you think if such a publication were to come in this day and age, would there be a change in the way people would interpret it and promulgate justice against those who are "different"?