

What Is Justice?

Exploring Stories 1



A Plan in Three Parts

1. Read this presentation to develop your understanding of the concept of justice.
2. Read the religious story also uploaded to the blog.
3. Consider the questions on the final slide and write your answers.

How would you define justice?

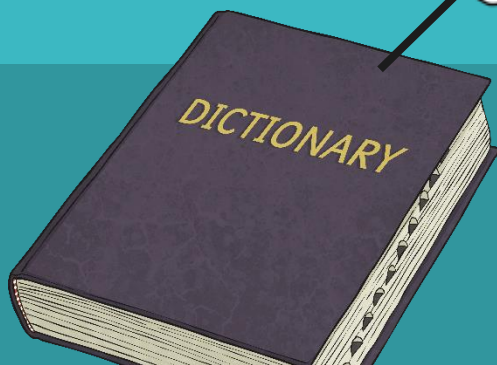


Dictionary Definition

Being **fair** and **reasonable**

Fair: Treating people equally without favouritism or discrimination

Reasonable: Based on good sense, logical, sensible, appropriate



Remember to concentrate on both words.

Download and read this story:

The Dog King Silver

A Buddhist Story about Justice.



Once, the King of Benares had a fancy decorated chariot, which he loved mostly because of the rich hand-worked leather belts and straps.

On this occasion the chariot was left outside in the compound all night, instead of being locked up properly.



During the night the pampered palace dogs smelled the delicious leather scent, came down into the compound and chewed off the soft, wet chariot straps.

They returned unseen to their places in the palace.



When the King woke up and came down, he saw that the leather had been chewed off and eaten by dogs. He called the servants and demanded to know how this happened. Since they were supposed to watch the palace dogs, the servants were afraid to blame them. Instead, they made up a story that stray dogs, the mutts and mongrels of the city, had come into the grounds and eaten the fancy leather.

The King flew into a terrible rage and decreed that whenever anyone in the city saw a dog, he was to kill him or her at once! The people began killing dogs. The dogs could not understand why suddenly they were being killed. Later that day, they learned of the King's decree.

They became very frightened and retreated to the cemetery just outside the city. This was where their leader lived, the Dog King Silver.

Silver was King not because he was the biggest, or strongest, or toughest. He was average in size, with sleek silver fur, sparkling black eyes and alert pointed ears. He walked with great dignity, that brought admiration and respect from men as well as dogs. In his long life he had learned much, and was able to concentrate his mind on what is most important. So he became the wisest of all the dogs, as well as the one who cared most for the others. Those were the reasons he was King of Dogs.



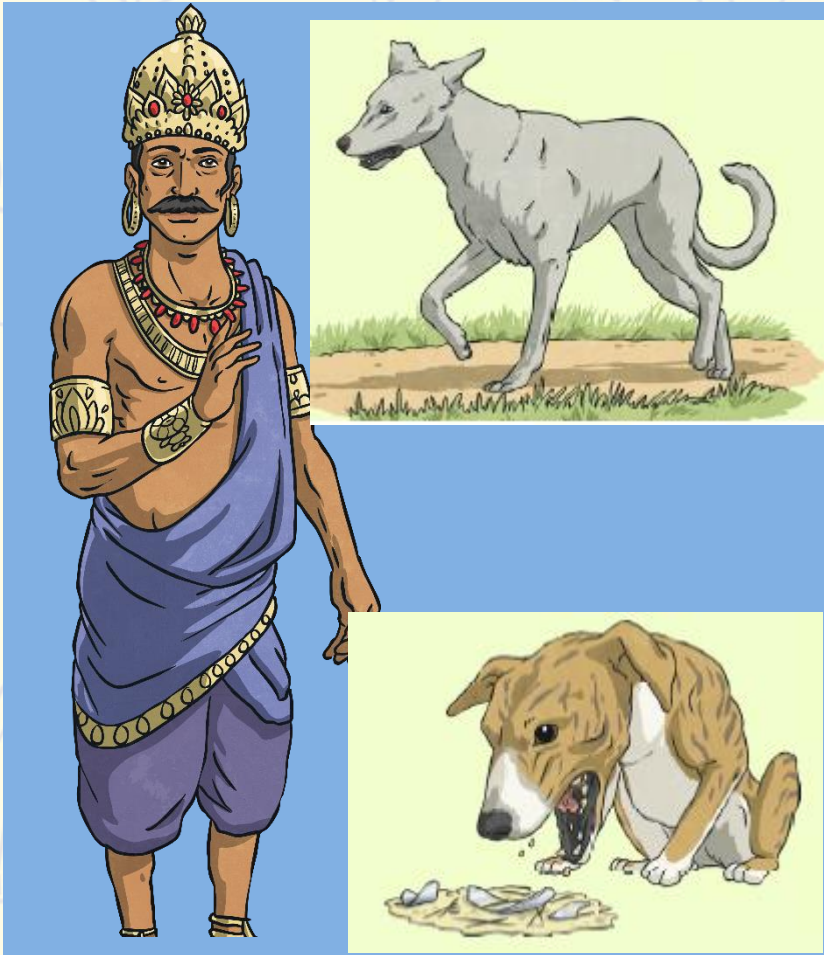
In the cemetery, the dogs were in a panic and the Dog King Silver asked them why this was. They told him all about the chariot straps and the King's decree, and the people killing them whenever they saw them. King Silver knew there was no way to get into the well-guarded palace grounds. So he understood that the leather must have been eaten by the dogs living inside the palace.

He comforted them by saying, "Do not be afraid. I will save you all. Stay here in the cemetery and don't go into the city. I will tell the King of Benares who are the thieves and who are the innocent. The truth will save us all."



RE1 Year 4 (Freedom and Justice) What is Justice? Exploring Stories 11 Lesson 2

Questions to Answer:



Was justice done in this story?

For whom?

Where did Dog King Silver
emphasise fairness?

Where did he emphasise
reasonableness?

What lesson do you think the
human king learned?