

Greek goddess of law and order. One of the Titans who survived their overthrow by Zeus, she was revered among the Olympian gods as a protector of the just and punisher of the guilty. The overseeing of justice was even shared by Dike, one of her daughters.

For the Norse, affairs of law and justice were meted out by the god Forseti from his throne in the hall Glitnir. So equitable were his immutable rulings in the disputes among both gods and humans that it is said the quarreling parties were always satisfied with his verdict.

These few examples help to illustrate the importance notions of justice have had in human cultures for as long as structured societies have existed. The definitions of what is just and what is unjust may change from age to age and people to people, but the need for guidelines of what constitutes acceptable conduct within a community will always be necessary to the community's stability and ultimate survival.

Often the myth and religion of a people holds that these laws and ideals were bestowed upon humanity by a god or gods at some point in the past. It is for this reason that many priestly castes are also interpreters or enforcers of laws and arbiters of justice. Invested with divine authority and teachings, such priests are usually believed to speak for the deity that oversees justice and make pronouncements in the deity's name.

What happens, however, to those in such positions who themselves violate the decrees they have sworn and been trained to uphold? The following tale by new writer H. T. Aldrich Whetenworth offers one excellent answer to this very question . . .

*Don't miss "The Fate of the Unbeliever" by H. T. Aldrich Whetenworth, appearing only in the Winter 2017/2018 issue of Startling Visions Magazine.*