

Why Retribution Matters: Progression not Regression

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The only logical philosophy to serve punishment goals is retribution. Retribution provides the necessary catalyst to execute the most important elements of any sentence – equity and social debt. Retribution is not revenge; it affords the offender a just punishment, while satisfying societal needs for discipline and order. We must punish transgression against societal norms and laws in order to restore and maintain communal balance. Pain or suffering, associated with the retributive model, are not bad in and of themselves; the conceptual notion of pain is a model to embrace rather than to avoid. Punishment should not be pleasant and should serve a formidable purpose. Pain, although not a direct goal, begets remorse, introspection, and repentance that serve to further other punishment objectives such as rehabilitation and deterrence. These philosophies provide complementary goals of punishment but their true value/purpose are only promoted with retribution as the principle goal of punishment. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2017 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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