

To me, justice means the idea that people will be treated impartially and properly, and within reason in the eyes of the law. This is ideally done fairly, but in practice it often fails to take into consideration the circumstances of the accused and accusers.

In my ideal world, circumstances would always be taken into consideration in court. Unfortunately, we as a species do not have the resources to investigate the circumstances of every case, and I do not foresee us gaining them in the near future.

I can recall numerous times that I have been misunderstood or unfairly blamed, and it never feels good. I have often speculated about what life must be like for a person who lives under very different circumstances, such as prison.

I am a firm believer in the idea that even people who have done something very wrong have the ability to change because I don't believe any individual, nor any social norm, has the ability to decide whether someone is capable of rising above who they are at this time. A justice system with forgiveness would be beautiful, but with the sheer quantity of cases that the justice system already deals with, finding a realistic way to administer it to everyone while keeping public safety intact sounds implausible for the time being.

I would argue that the community has the most power in deciding what is "just" because all of the rules that the authorities enforce are shaped by the expectations of the community that they are designed for. I find the practice of imposing excessively large mandatory minimum sentences to be unfair because they make a lot of assumptions about the deed in question.

I believe that it is more important for us to protect the innocent people than to punish the guilty ones because the reason I believe in punishing the guilty is to protect the innocent rather than an "eye for an eye" type justice system. A lawyer might choose to spend their career helping those accused of crimes because not all people accused actually deserve punishment.