

To Prisoners:

Punishment, Help, or Thanks

Some people see a hurt as needing an answer in like kind.
Others respond with help.
Yet others still, see a woeful act as a call to the group -
a call that brings the group together.
These people - though few - are grateful for this call, because it causes unity.

I do not celebrate unkindness.
I do not praise misdeeds or transgressions.
But I do not blame them, either.

And further, if one sees through the needs of the group at large,
there is revealed the need to unify over a problem.
And thanks are again in order to the provider of the hurt.

And further yet, if one sees through the eyes of the perpetrator of the hurt,
a new perspective unfolds. Someone had to do it.
So, once again, thanks seem appropriate.

Yes, punishment seems necessary.
Yes, help is needed.
But thanks are rarely given.

If one treated oneself this way,
we would never get back up, once we had fallen down.