

On Getting Even

It was St. Augustine,
over seventeen hundred years ago,
who suggested that revenge--
the temptation to get even--
is best fought in life
not by giving in to rage
but by arousing within
the sleeping Christ and
re-gaining his perspective.

Augustine's call was to remember
what Jesus himself said,
dying unjustly on the cross:
"Father, forgive them,
for they know not what they do."

How lovely the reminder,
even though in one sense sad,
that Christ is asleep within,
waiting only to be roused
that he might renew in us
what is his will and way.
And not only so, but
offer us also the grace to
desist from getting even.