

# **JIM C – RELIGIOUS TERMS**

## **MONDAY - 05/17/2010**

**Mercy is twice blessed; it blesseth him that gives, and him that takes.**

**HOW DID THE TERM “*MERCY*” ORIGINATE?**

***Definition:*** The act of forgiving someone or not treating them severely, especially by someone who has the authority to punish.

***Online Etymology:*** Late 12<sup>th</sup> century, "God's forgiveness of his creatures' offenses," from Old French *mercit, merci* "reward, gift, kindness," from Latin *mercedem*. In Church (6c.) applied to the heavenly reward of those who show kindness to the helpless.

- **Buddhism – Quan-Yin, the Goddess of Compassion and Mercy, is also known as “she who harkens to the cries of the world”.**
- **Used in the early Christian ages for the reward that is given in heaven to those who have shown kindness without hope of return.**
- **Islam is a religion of mercy; Allah has commanded that mercy be applied to everything and in every action**
- **Roman Catholic - The Divine Mercy is a devotion focused on the mercy of God and its power, particularly as a form of thanksgiving and entrusting of oneself to God's mercy.**

**Conventional Wisdom: Mercy = Leniency for a crime or wrongdoing**

**Zen: A blessing is bestowed when mercy seasons justice**