

Story Inspiration

Inspiration Source

*“The Honest Farmer
(Germany, 3
min)”*

What justifies honesty? In this situation, everything was on the farmer’s side to take the 1st field, and he could justly say to that farmer “the military required it.” Yet he worsened his position because of “honesty.” Why? Can society function without honesty? What prerequisites are required for honesty to be valued in a society?

*“The Honest Farmer
(England, 1 min)”*

Assume the judge did not believe the farmer. What then could he do? Do honest people win in the end? Does “karma” or God right all wrongs?

*“The Honest Farmer
(Africa, 1 min)”*

What is the lesson here? The English tale teaches that honesty will protect honest men, but the African tale seems to say, “this is how reality works.” Which tales should we tell ourselves to build a happy society? In this tale, the rich got richer and the poor stayed poor. What is the function of honesty in society?

Discussion ✦ Leading Questions

Why is it that many cultures have farmers being the honest ones? Is there something inherently more virtuous about those who work the land?

Compare the cultures. In Germany, there were no bad guys. In England, the accuser had bent morals. In Africa, there were no deceit, but the honest man still lost. Why do you think these cultures produce the stories that they do?

Do you try and live an honest life? To what degree do you try and practice integrity? Where do you draw the line of “too far?”