

Two writers were in a dispute about authorship of a particular article and brought their case before a judge. The one man said, "Please, your honor, this other man and I work together in the same building for a religious magazine; and I recently wrote this article on the Unfailing Love of God for publication. Then a few days later, this man claimed that he actually had written the piece. We have desks close together, and while I was absent for a while, he stole my paper and submitted it as his own." The other man denied all of this and represented the work as his creation. So they argued before the judge.

Then the judge said, "The one says, 'This is my article that I wrote, and the other states the same thing. Bring me a black marker!' So he was brought the marker. He took the paper and marked out the name listed as author and said, 'The article is good, and has a good purpose. So it will be published without either of your names associated with it!'"

The first man, who actually wrote the article, said, "I bow to your judgment! Better that the article be published with no name than to not be published at all and no one become strengthened by it."

But the other said, "That is not right! I demand that the article be published with my name on it so that I get the credit!"

So the judge responded, "I'm taking the marker and putting the first man's name on it, for he is clearly the author. He writes to credit God, and not himself. He just wants the work to be a blessing to others."

All those in the courtroom that day understood the judge's ruling and perceived that the wisdom of God was in him, to execute justice.

Note: see 1 Kings 3:15ff