

Q2.12 Impunity

Impunity has the same Latin root as *punitive* and *punish*, and translated, it literally means “without punishment.” In English, *impunity* means “exempt from punishment, harm, or consequences” and often carries a sense of boldness or brazenness, a lack of fear of being caught or punished.

You look at these scattered houses, and you are impressed by their beauty. I look at them, and the only thought which comes to me is a feeling of their isolation and of the impunity with which crime may be committed there.

—Jeremy Brett playing Sherlock Holmes
in the TV show *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*