

## Pācittiya #61: Intentionally Killing Living Beings

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Sāvatti, at Jeta's Grove, in Anāthapiṇḍika's park. Furthermore, on this occasion, Venerable Udāyin had a bow, and crows were displeasing to him. After shooting the crows and cutting off their heads, he mounted them on stakes in an orderly manner. Monks said, "Venerable, by whom were these crows killed?"<sup>618</sup> "By me, Venerables. Crows are displeasing to me." Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that Venerable Udāyin will intentionally kill a living being<sup>619</sup>?" ... "Is it true that you, Udāyin, intentionally killed a living being?" "It is true, Blessed One." The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... "How is it that you, foolish man, will intentionally kill a living being? This is not, foolish man, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

**"If any monk intentionally kills a living being: a Pācittiya."**

**Any monk:** ...

**Intentionally:** Knowing, perceiving, after considering<sup>620</sup>, after giving in, there is a transgression.

**Living being:** This refers to a living being that is an animal<sup>621</sup>.

**Kills:** One cuts off [or] stops the life-faculty, one disrupts [its] continuity: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving a living being as a living being, one kills: a Pācittiya offense.

In doubt about a living being, one kills: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving a living being as not a living being, one kills: non-offense.

Perceiving something that is not a living being as a living being: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt about something that is not a living being: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving something that is not a living being as not a living being: non-offense.

**Non-offense[s]:** Unintentionally; unmindfully; unknowingly; for one not intending death; for one who is crazy; and for the first offender.

<sup>618</sup> *Jivitā voropesi*. Lit. "separated from life."

<sup>619</sup> *Pāṇa*. Lit. "breather."

<sup>620</sup> *Cecca*. From "ceteti" - thinks, considers, plans, etc. The same verb-root for *cetanā*.

<sup>621</sup> *Tiracchānagata*. Lit. "gone horizontal." Killing a human being is prohibited by Pārājika #3.