

## Why Do We Not Harm Sentient Beings?

Hi Everyone, this is Nancy. Today is June 19th, 2021, how are you doing? Today, let's talk about why we do not harm sentient beings on purpose, no matter what kind. There is a well-known Chan verse:

In the bowl of thousands of years,  
The resentment is as deep as the ocean and the hatred is hard to ease.  
If you want to know the swordsmanship in the world,  
Just listen to the midnight crying from the butcher's home.

This verse reveals that all the wars in the world starts from what is in our bowl, from meat-eating, continuous killing, endless killing. All sentient beings have the similar emotions, similar fear, similar greed, similar hatred, similar ignorance... just in different clothes, in different forms. Today, I will not talk about killing, instead, I am going to share a couple of small things happened to me in the last week.

In the past week, a bird was trying to attack me. This is what happened. Normally, in the morning, before I get in the car and leave for work, I would check the plants in the front yard first. In the past few days, for three consecutive days, there was a bird trying to attack me during that time. It would stay in the trees or fly between the trees and the eaves. It might attack twice. If I stayed longer, maybe more times. It looked like there was another bird staying on the side somewhere. I wasn't sure what was going on. After the first two days, I videoed the scene on the third day and shared with my teacher.

My teacher said, "Some birds are vengeful. Are you too close to their nest?"

I checked around, and yes, there was a nest right by the front door and low in the Holly bush. So, the bird felt its territory was invaded and it tried to protect itself.

Another thing is about spraying peppermint oil solutions in the garden.

I have many plants in the yard. I saw the Japanese beetles eating the tender leaves and flowers of some of the plants. They like the Mary gold flowers, the tender crepe myrtle leaves. They eat, they mate, and next year, there might be more. I do not like that. I wanted to protect my plants. So I purchased some peppermint oil and prepared peppermint oil solutions, sprayed over the plants and tried to drive them away. This was what happened after that.

The second day, in the early morning dream, a swarm of bugs showed up and came to me. As I mentioned before, when I hurt ants, or my family harmed small animals, they would show up in my dreams. Sometimes, they would chase me, so were these insects.

After a couple of days, I saw that there were still Japanese beetles on the plants, so I sprayed some more. The next morning, in the early dreams, again some insects tried to reach me. They looked like butterflies. Those flowers are also what butterflies like to stay.

There two examples happened just in the past week. You see all sentient beings, no matter which form they take, the emotions, feelings, habits are similar. The difference may be the extent. What they feel are similar to what we feel if we were in their situation.

Some may say, "I don't feel anything."

Most people don't feel anything when harming lives. In general humans' spirits are dull and cloudy, not sensitive enough because of their attachment to their own physical world. This may also be the reason why when major disasters coming, even animals know, but not human beings. My teacher once said,

after we lose this physical body, our spirit sensitivity increases about nine times.

The other day, I saw a person answering one question from another person, “What happens after you kill cockroaches?” He answered, “They haunt you.” Do you believe it? They haunt you.

This is my today’s share. All sentient beings share the same Buddha nature and also similar emotions and habits. Do you agree? Do you have similar experience? Stay cool. Bye!