

「人の血を流す者は、人によって血を流される」  
(創世記 9 章 6 節a) の意味

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**ABSTRACT** Haruki HIRATSUKA, “The Meaning of ‘Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed’ (Genesis 9:6a).” Genesis 9:6a is commonly regarded as a legal stipulation imposing the death penalty on murder. This interpretation seems to stem from a tendency to compare the verse with other legal materials in the Pentateuch and from a general understanding that the focus of 9:6 as a whole is on the sanctity of human life. However, a close examination of the style of the verse and its immediate context, especially the meaning of the word  $\text{שָׁפַךְ}$  found in 9:4–5, leads to a different conclusion: “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed” is a principle of retributive justice expressed, not in a legal formula, but in language closer to the Proverbs or Ecclesiastes, and the focus of 9:6 is on the inviolability of human *soul*, rather than his biological *life*, for “to shed blood of man” indicates an assault on man’s soul, which has a close connection with the image of God.