

parricide In Roman law, the worst case of murder, involving close relatives, traditionally punished by an aggravated form of death penalty. The culprit was put in a sack together with a dog, a cock, a viper and an ape and thrown into the sea or a river or, lacking these, to wild beasts (*Dig.* 48.9; *CTh.* 9.15.1). Most of the time, this applied only to persons who had killed their parent or grandparent. The murder of other close relatives, up to cousins and the children's spouses, although called parricide and covered by the same law, was punished by simple death. The father had an ancient right to slay those who were in his legal power, like sons and daughters, but this remained a theoretical scenario which was not accepted in practice. Infanticide and exposure of children were not identified with parricide.

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142 words

Possible cross references:

Infanticide and exposure of children