

Nissaggiya Pācittiya #17: Causing an Unrelated Nun to Wash Wool

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling among the Sakyans, at Kapilavatthu, in the Banyan Park. Furthermore, on this occasion, [some] group-of-six monks caused nuns to wash, dye, and comb³⁵¹ wool. As they were washing, dyeing, and combing wool, the nuns neglected recitation, questioning, heightened virtue, heightened mentality, and heightened discernment. Then Mahāpajāpati Gotamī approached the Blessed One; after approaching and paying respects to the Blessed One, she stood to one side. While she was standing to one side, the Blessed One said to her, “Gotamī, are the nuns vigilant, ardent, and resolute?” “Bhante, how could the nuns be vigilant? The group-of-six gentlemen make the nuns wash, dye, and comb wool. As they are washing, dyeing, and combing wool, the nuns neglect recitation, questioning, heightened virtue, heightened mentality, and heightened discernment.”

Then the Blessed One instructed, encouraged, energized, and gladdened Mahāpajāpati Gotamī with a Dhamma-talk. Then Mahāpajāpati Gotamī - instructed, encouraged, energized, and gladdened by the Blessed One's Dhamma-talk - paid respects to and venerated the Blessed One, and left. Then the Blessed One, on account of this precedent, on account of this incident, after convoking the community of monks, questioned the group-of-six monks: “Is it true, monks, that you caused nuns to wash, dye, and comb wool?” “It is true, Blessed One.” “Relatives of yours, monks, or non-relatives?” “Non-relatives, Blessed One.” “Non-relatives, foolish men, do not know what is proper or improper, good or bad, for non-relatives. And you, foolish men, will cause unrelated nuns to wash, dye, and comb wool? This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training rule:

“If any monk causes an unrelated nun to wash, dye, or comb wool: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.”

Any monk: ...

Unrelated: Not connected, by mother or by father, as far as the seventh grandfather's generation.

Nun: Ordained by both communities.

One commands, “Wash!”: a Dukkaṭa offense. When it is washed, it [requires] relinquishment. One commands, “Dye!”: a Dukkaṭa offense. When it is dyed, it [requires] relinquishment. One commands, “Comb!”: a Dukkaṭa offense. When it is combed, it [requires] relinquishment. It is to be relinquished to a Saṅgha, a group, or an individual. And, monks, it is to be relinquished in this way... “Bhante, this wool, which [I] caused to be washed by an unrelated nun, [requires] relinquishment. I relinquish it to the Saṅgha...”

³⁵¹ *Vijaṭeti*. Lit. “disentangle” or “unravel.” This may refer to preparing raw wool to be woven into cloth.

Perceiving a non-relative as a non-relative, one causes [her] to wash wool: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.

Perceiving a non-relative as a non-relative, one causes [her] to wash and dye wool: a Dukkaṭa offense along with a Nissaggiya.

Perceiving a non-relative as a non-relative, one causes [her] to wash and comb wool: a Dukkaṭa offense along with a Nissaggiya.

Perceiving a non-relative as a non-relative, one causes [her] to wash, dye, and comb wool: two Dukkaṭa offenses along with a Nissaggiya.

Perceiving a non-relative as a non-relative, one causes [her] to dye wool: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.

Perceiving a non-relative as a non-relative, one causes [her] to dye and comb wool: a Dukkaṭa offense along with a Nissaggiya.

Perceiving a non-relative as a non-relative, one causes [her] to dye and wash wool: a Dukkaṭa offense along with a Nissaggiya.

Perceiving a non-relative as a non-relative, one causes [her] to dye, comb, and wash wool: two Dukkaṭa offenses along with a Nissaggiya.

Perceiving a non-relative as a non-relative, one causes [her] to comb wool: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.

Perceiving a non-relative as a non-relative, one causes [her] to comb and wash wool: a Dukkaṭa offense along with a Nissaggiya.

Perceiving a non-relative as a non-relative, one causes [her] to comb and dye wool: a Dukkaṭa offense along with a Nissaggiya.

Perceiving a non-relative as a non-relative, one causes [her] to comb, wash, and dye wool: two Dukkaṭa offenses along with a Nissaggiya.

In doubt about a non-relative... Perceiving a non-relative as a relative...³⁵²

One causes [her] to wash wool belonging to another: a Dukkaṭa offense.

One causes a one-side-ordained [nun] to wash: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving a relative as a non-relative: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt about a relative: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving a relative as a relative: non-offense.

Non-offense[s]: A relative who is washing has an assistant who is not a relative; she washes when not told to; one causes [her] to wash unused [wool] that has been made into goods³⁵³; one causes [her] to wash another item that is not a robe; for a female trainee; for a female novice; for one who is crazy; for the first offender.

³⁵² Both of these clauses are so abbreviated in the text that it is unclear what offense is assigned. Based on the pattern of similar rules, one would assume Nissaggiya Pācittiya in both cases.

³⁵³ *Katabhaṇḍa*. This probably means wool that has already been made into cloth.