

Pācittiya #10: Digging Earth

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Āḷavī, at the Aggāḷava Shrine. Furthermore, on this occasion, Āḷavī monks were performing new work; digging earth and causing [others] to dig. People, irritated and annoyed, complained: “How is that these Sakyan-son contemplatives will dig earth and cause [others] to dig! These Sakyan-son contemplatives are oppressing single-faculty life.” The monks heard of those humans denouncing, criticizing, and castigating. Those monks who were of few wishes... “How is it that these Āḷavī monks will dig earth and cause [others] to dig?” ... “Is it true, monks, that you dig earth and cause [others] to dig?” “It is true, Blessed One.” The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... “How is it that you, foolish men, will dig earth and cause [others] to dig? Foolish men, people perceive life in earth. This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training rule:

“If any monk digs earth or causes [others] to dig: a Pācittiya.”

Any monk: ...

Earth: Two [kinds of] earth – genuine earth and not-genuine earth⁴⁴⁸.

Genuine earth: Purely dirt, purely loam; a few stones, a little gravel, a few pebbles, a little coarse sand, a little fine sand, mostly soil, mostly loam. “Unburned” is also called “genuine earth.” A dirtpile or loampile which has been exposed to rain for more than four months is also called “genuine earth.”

Not genuine earth: Purely stones, purely gravel, purely pebbles, purely coarse sand, purely fine sand; a little dirt, a little loam, mostly stones, mostly gravel, mostly pebbles, mostly coarse sand, mostly fine sand. “Burned” is also called “not genuine earth.” A dirtpile or loampile which has been exposed to rain for less than four months is also called “not genuine earth.”

Digs: One digs oneself – a Pācittiya offense.

Causes [others] to dig: One commands another: a Pācittiya offense. Someone who is commanded once digs many [times]: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving earth as earth, one digs or causes to dig, breaks or causes to break, burns or causes to burn – a Pācittiya offense.

Doubtful about earth, one digs or causes to dig...: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving earth as non-earth, one digs or causes to dig...: non-offense.

Perceiving non-earth as earth: a Dukkaṭa offense.

⁴⁴⁸ *Jātā* and *Ajātā*. Literally, “born” and “not born.” The exact meaning of this adjective in this context is unclear.

Doubtful about non-earth: a Dukkaṭa offense.
Perceiving non-earth as non-earth: non-offense.

Non-offense[s]: One says, “Know this, provide this, bring this, with this purpose – make this allowable”⁴⁴⁹; for one who [acts] unintentionally, unmindfully, or unknowingly; for one who is crazy; and for the first offender.

⁴⁴⁹ *Imaṃ kappiyaṃ karohi*. Rather than digging or commanding another to dig, one can simply say this phrase in the presence of a layperson and hope the layperson acts of their own accord.