

Pācittiya #82: Diverting Communal Gains

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Sāvatti, at Jeta's grove, in Anāthapiṇḍika's park. Furthermore, on this occasion, a meal with a robe was prepared for the Saṅgha by a certain guild in Sāvatti, [thinking] "After feeding [them], we will clothe them with a robe." Then [some] group-of-six monks approached that guild; after approaching, they said to that guild, "Sirs, give these robes to those monks." "Bhante, we will not give [them]. We have prepared food with robe[s] for the Saṅgha during the Rains." "Sirs, many are the Saṅgha's benefactors, many are the Saṅgha's meals. These [monks] depend on you; they live here looking to you. If you will not give to them, then who now will give to them? Sirs, give these robes to those monks." Then that guild, pressured by the group-of-six monks, after giving the prepared robe to the group-of-six monks, served the Saṅgha with a meal. Those monks who knew a meal with a robe had been prepared did not know it had been given to the group-of-six monks. They said, "Sirs, present the Saṅgha's robe." "There isn't one, Bhante. The group-of-six gentlemen allocated the robe that had been prepared to the group-of-six gentlemen." Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that group-of-six monks will knowingly allocate [previously] allocated communal gains to an individual?" ... "Is it true that you, monks, knowingly allocated [previously] allocated communal gains to an individual?" "It is true, Blessed One." The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... "How is it that you, foolish men, will knowingly allocate [previously] allocated communal gains to an individual? This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training rule:

"If any monk knowingly allocates [previously] allocated communal gains to an individual: a Pācittiya."

Any monk: ...

Knows: He knows [it] himself, or others report to him, or he reports.

Communal: Given or left behind for the Saṅgha.

Gains: Robes, almsfood, sleeping-place, sitting-place, supplies for the sick, [or] medicinal equipment; even just a lump of powder, a tooth-stick, [or] a loose thread.

[Previously] allocated: [Thinking] "I will give, I will act" speech is produced [and] one allocates that [item] to an individual: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as allocated when it is allocated, one allocates to an individual: a Pācittiya offense.

In doubt when it is allocated...: a Dukkata offense.

Perceiving it as not allocated when it is allocated...: non-offense.

When it is allocated to a Saṅgha, one allocates it to another Saṅgha or to a shrine⁶⁷⁰: a Dukkaṭa offense.

When it is allocated to a shrine, one allocates it to another shrine or to a Saṅgha: a Dukkaṭa offense.

When it is allocated to an individual, one allocates it to another individual or to a Saṅgha or to a shrine: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as allocated when it is not allocated: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt when it is not allocated: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as not allocated when it is not allocated: non-offense.

Non-offense[s]: When being asked, “Where do we give?” one says “Where someone worthy of your gift may make use of it, or where it will be used for repairs, or where it will last a long time, or wherever your mind is confident: give there”; for one who is crazy; for the first offender.

⁶⁷⁰ *Cetiya*.