

## **Pācittiya #13: Fault-Finding and Criticism**

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Rājagaha, in the Bamboo Grove, at the squirrel's feeding ground. Furthermore, on this occasion, Venerable Dabba Mallaputta was assigning lodgings for the community and allotting meals. At this time, [some] monks who were followers of Mettiya and Bhummajaka were new and of little merit. They obtained the community's low-quality lodgings and low-quality meals. They incited [other] monks to find fault in Venerable Dabba Mallaputta, [saying] “Dabba Mallaputta assigns lodging based on desire, he allots meals based on desire.” Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: “How is that monks – followers of Mettiya and Bhummajaka – will incite [other] monks to find fault in Venerable Dabba Mallaputta?” ... “Is it true, monks, that you incited [other] monks to find fault in Dabba Mallaputta?” “It is true, Blessed One.” The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... “How is it that you, foolish men, will incite [other] monks to find fault in Dabba Mallaputta? This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training rule:

### **“In inciting fault-finding: a Pācittiya.”**

And thus this training rule was designated for the monks by the Blessed One.

On a [later] occasion, monks – followers of Mettiya and Bhummajaka – [thinking] “Inciting fault-finding is opposed by the Blessed One,” [and] “At least [other] monks will hear” – they criticized Venerable Dabba Mallaputta in the vicinity of [other] monks: “Dabba Mallaputta assigns lodging based on desire, he allots meals based on desire.” Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: “How is that monks – followers of Mettiya and Bhummajaka – will criticize Venerable Dabba Mallaputta?” ... “Is it true, monks, that you criticized Dabba Mallaputta?” “It is true, Blessed One.” The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... “How is it that you, foolish men, will criticize Dabba Mallaputta? This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training rule:

### **“In inciting fault-finding [or] in criticism: a Pācittiya.”**

**Inciting fault-finding:** Wishing to produce dispraise, disgrace, [or] shame, a fully ordained person incites fault-finding against or criticizes a fully ordained person appointed by the Saṅgha as a lodging-assigner, meal-allotter, porridge-distributor, fruit-distributor, food-distributor, trifle-distributor: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving a valid act as valid, in inciting fault-finding or in criticizing: a Pācittiya offense.  
In doubt about a valid act, in inciting fault-finding or in criticizing: a Pācittiya offense.  
Perceiving a valid act as non-valid, in inciting fault-finding or in criticizing: a Pācittiya offense.

One incites fault-finding against or criticizes an unordained person: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Wishing to produce dispraise, disgrace, [or] shame, a fully ordained person incites fault-finding against or criticizes a fully ordained person not appointed by the community as a lodging-assigner, food-allotter, gruel-distributor, fruit-distributor, sweetmeat-distributor, minor[-item]-distributor: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving a non-valid act as valid, in inciting fault-finding or in criticizing: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt about a non-valid act, in inciting fault-finding or in criticizing: a Dukkaṭa offense.  
Perceiving a non-valid act as non-valid, in inciting fault-finding or in criticizing: a Dukkaṭa offense.

**Non-offense[s]:** One incites fault-finding against or criticizes a person acting from a condition of desire, hatred, delusion, or fear; for one who is crazy; and for the first offender.