

Pācittiya #53: Playing in Water

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Sāvatti, at Jeta's grove, in Anāthapiṇḍika's park. Furthermore, on this occasion, group-of-seventeen monks were playing in the water of the Aciravatī River. Furthermore, on this occasion, King Pasenadi of Kosala and Queen Mallikā had gone to the upper level of the palace. King Pasenadi of Kosala saw the group-of-seventeen monks playing in the water of the Aciravatī River. Seeing this, he said to Queen Mallikā, “Mallikā, these arahants play in the water.” “Great king, undoubtedly a rule has not been designated by the Blessed One. Or those monks know very little.” Then it occurred to King Pasenadi of Kosala, “By what expedient can I avoid reporting this to the Blessed One, and [yet] let the Blessed One know that these monks played in the water?” Then King Pasenadi of Kosala, after summoning the group-of-seventeen monks, gave them a large ball of sugar, [saying] “Bhante, give this sugar-ball to the Blessed One.” The group-of-seventeen monks took that sugar-ball and approached the Blessed One; after approaching, they said to the Blessed One, “Bhante, King Pasenadi of Kosala gives this sugar-ball to the Blessed One.” “But where, monks, did the king see you?” “At the Aciravatī River, Blessed one; [we were] playing in the water.” The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... “How is it that you, foolish men, will play in water! This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

“In playing in water: a Pācittiya.”

Playing in water: Intent on mirth, one dives into, emerges from, or floats in water over the ankle: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as playing in water when it is playing: a Pācittiya offense.

In doubt when it is playing in water: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as not playing in water when it is playing: a Pācittiya offense.

One plays in water below the ankle: a Dukkaṭa offense.

One plays in water on a boat: a Dukkaṭa offense.

One strikes water with hand, foot, stick, or stone: a Dukkaṭa offense.

One plays with water, porridge, milk, buttermilk, dye, urine, or mud in a vessel: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as playing in water when it is not playing: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt when it is not playing in water: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as not playing in water when it is not playing: non-offense.

Non-offense[s]: Not intent on mirth; when there is something to be done, after entering water one dives, emerges, or floats; going across, one dives, emerges, or floats; when there are misfortunes; for one who is crazy; and for the first offender.