

Pācittiya #27: Traveling Together with a Nun by Prior Arrangement

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Sāvatti, at Jeta's Grove, in Anāthapiṇḍika's park. Furthermore, on this occasion, [some] group-of-six monks set out on the same highway with nuns by prior arrangement. People denounced, criticized, and castigated: "Just as we travel with our wives, in the same way these Sakyan-son contemplatives travel with nuns by prior arrangement!" Monks heard of those people - denouncing, criticizing, and castigating. Those monk who were of few wishes... "How is that group-of-six monks will set out on the same highway with nuns by prior arrangement?" ... "Is it true that you, monks, set out on the same highway with nuns by prior arrangement?" "It is true, Blessed One." The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... "How is that you, foolish men, will set out on the same highway with nuns by prior arrangement? This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

"If any monk sets out on the same highway with a nun by prior arrangement, even just between villages: a Pācittiya."

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

On a [later] occasion, many monks and many nuns were on the highway from Sāketa to Sāvatti. Then those nuns said to the monks, "We will also go with the gentlemen." "Sisters, it is not allowable to set out on the same highway with nuns by prior arrangement. You go first, or we will go [first]." "Bhante, the gentlemen are the foremost people. Let the gentlemen go first." As those nuns were going behind [the monks], thieves on the road robbed and defiled them. Then those nuns, after going to Sāvatti, reported this matter to the nuns. The nuns reported this matter to the monks. The monks reported this matter to the Blessed One. Then the Blessed One, on account of this issue, on account of this incident, after giving a Dhamma talk, announced to the monks: "Monks, I allow [you] to set out on the same highway with nuns by prior arrangement when the road is to be traveled by caravan⁵⁰⁹, considered suspicious, or dangerous. And thus, monks, you may recite this training rule:

"If any monk sets out on the same highway with a nun by prior arrangement, even just between villages, except at the [proper] occasion: a Pācittiya. Here this is the [proper] occasion: The road is to be traveled by caravan, considered suspicious, and dangerous - this is the [proper] occasion here."

Any monk: ...

Nun: Ordained by both communities.

⁵⁰⁹ *Sattha*. This can mean either "by caravan" or "with a sword." Thus it denotes a road that is risky to use alone and/or unarmed.

With: Together.

By prior arrangement: “We will go, Sister, we will go, Sir; we will go, Sir, we will go, Sister; today or tomorrow or another [day] we go” one arranges: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Just between villages: When villages are close together, between each village: a Pācittiya offense. In a wilderness with no villages, for each half-*yojana*: a Pācittiya offense.

Except at the [proper] occasion: Having set aside the [proper] occasion.

To be traveled by caravan: A road that is not possible to go along without a caravan.

Suspicious: On that road, the living-place, eating-place, standing-place, sitting-place, [or] reclining-place of bandits is seen.

Dangerous: People who have gone on that road are seen to have been killed, robbed, [or] beaten by bandits. After going when it is dangerous, when it appears to not be dangerous one is to dismiss [the nuns]: “Go, Sisters.”

Perceiving it as a prior arrangement when it is a prior arrangement, one sets out on the same highway, even just between villages, except at the [proper] occasion: a Pācittiya offense.

In doubt about a prior arrangement, one sets out...: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as not a prior arrangement when it is a prior arrangement...: a Pācittiya offense.

The monk arranges, the nun does not arrange: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as a prior arrangement when it is not a prior arrangement: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt about it when it is not a prior arrangement: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as not a prior arrangement when it is not a prior arrangement: non-offense.

Non-offense[s]: At the [proper] occasion; one goes when one has not made a prior arrangement; the nun arranges, the monk does not arrange; they do not go at the appointed place; when there is misfortune; for one who is crazy; for the first offender.