

Pāṭidesaniya

Pāṭidesaniya #1: Eating Food Received from a Nun

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Sāvatthi, at Jeta's grove, in Anāthapiṇḍika's park. Furthermore, on this occasion, a certain nun went for alms in Sāvatthi. When it was time to walk back, she saw a certain monk. She said, "Come, Sir, receive alms." [Saying] "Very good, Sister," he took all [of her food]. When [noon-]time approached she was not able to go for alms, and was deprived of a meal. Then that nun, on a second day... on a third day as well, went for alms in Sāvatthi. When it was time to walk back, she saw that monk, and said, "Come, Sir, receive alms." [Saying] "Very good, Sister," he took all [of her food]. When [noon-]time approached she was not able to go for alms, and was deprived of a meal. Then on the fourth day, that nun was shaking as she walked along the road. A wealthy householder coming the other direction in a chariot said to that nun, "Go away, Lady." Turning aside, she fell down right there. The wealthy householder asked that nun for forgiveness: "Forgive me, Lady, I made you fall." "Householder, you did not make me fall. Rather it is just that I am weak." "Lady, why are you weak?" Then that nun reported this matter to the wealthy householder. The wealthy householder, after leading that nun to [his] house and feeding her, denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that the Auspicious Ones will receive food⁶⁹⁷ from a nun's hand? Acquisition is difficult for women."

Monks heard of that wealthy householder – denouncing, criticizing, and castigating. Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that a monk will take food from a nun's hand?" ... "Is it true that you, monks, received food from a nun's hand?" "It is true, Blessed One." "A relative of yours, monk, or a non-relative?" "A non-relative, Blessed One." "Foolish man! A non-relative does not know what is suitable or unsuitable, good or bad, for a non-relative. How is it that you, foolish man, will receive food from a nun's hand? This is not, foolish man, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

"If any monk consumes or eats a consumable or edible after receiving it from the hand of an unrelated nun who has entered among houses⁶⁹⁸, it is to be acknowledged by that monk: 'Venerable, I have performed a blameworthy and inappropriate act that is to be acknowledged. I acknowledge it.'"

Any monk: ...

Unrelated: Not connected, by mother or by father, as far as the seventh grandfather's generation.

⁶⁹⁷ *Āmisa*. Lit. "meat."

⁶⁹⁸ *Antaraghara*. This can mean either "within a house" or "between houses." In this case it appears that both are relevant.

Nun: Ordained by both Saṅghas.

Among houses: A street, an alley, a crossroads, a house.

Consumable: Five [kinds of] food – setting aside night-time, seven-day, and life-time items, the rest is called “consumable.”

Edible: Five [kinds of] food – grain, *kummāsa*, roasted grain-meal, fish, meat.

[Thinking] “I will consume, I will eat” one receives: a Dukkaṭa offense. For each ingestion: a Pāṭidesanīya offense.

Perceiving her as unrelated when she is unrelated, one consumes or eats a consumable or edible after receiving it from the hand of an unrelated nun who has entered among houses: a Pāṭidesanīya offense.

In doubt when she is unrelated...: a Pāṭidesanīya offense.

Perceiving her as related when she is unrelated...: a Pāṭidesanīya offense.

One receives a night-time, seven-day, [or] life-time item for the sake of food: a Dukkaṭa offense.

For each ingestion: a Dukkaṭa offense.

One receives a consumable or edible from the hand of a one-side-ordained nun, [thinking] “I will consume, I will eat”: a Dukkaṭa offense.

For each ingestion: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving her as unrelated when she is related: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt when she is related: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving her as related when she is related: non-offense.

Non-offense[s]: From a relative; she causes to give, she does not give; she gives by depositing it nearby; within a monastery; at a nun's residence; at a sectarian's residence; while walking back; she gives after taking [the food] out of the village; she gives a night-time, seven-day, [or] life-time item, [saying/thinking] “Eat this when there is a reason”; from a female trainee; from a female novice; for one who is crazy; for the first offender.