

## Pācittiya #37: Eating at the Wrong Time

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, there was a music festival<sup>556</sup> at Rājagaha. [Some] group-of-seventeen monks went to see the music festival. People saw the group-of-seventeen monks; after bathing, anointing, and feeding them, they gave them food. The group-of-seventeen monks took the food, went to the monastery, and said to the group-of-six monks: “Venerables, take food and eat.” “Venerables, where did you get this food from?” The group-of-seventeen monks reported this matter to the group-of-six monks. “What, venerables? You ate food at the wrong time?” “Yes, venerables.” The group-of-six monks denounced, criticized, and castigated: “How is it that group-of-seventeen monks will eat food at the wrong time?” Then the group-of-six monks reported this matter to the [other] monks. Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: “How is it that group-of-seventeen monks will eat food at the wrong time?” ... “Is it true that you, monks, ate food at the wrong time?” “It is true, Blessed One.” The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... “How is it that you, foolish men, will eat food at the wrong time! This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... and thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

**“If any monk consumes a consumable or eats an edible at the wrong time: a Pācittiya.”**

**Any monk:** ...

**Wrong time:** [From] when midday has passed until dawn is rising<sup>557</sup>.

**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.

One receives [food], [thinking] “I will consume, I will eat”: a Dukkaṭa offense. For each ingestion: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as the wrong time when it is the wrong time, one consumes a consumable or eats an edible: a Pācittiya offense.

In doubt when it is the wrong time, one consumes...: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as the [right] time when it is the wrong time, one consumes...: a Pācittiya offense.

<sup>556</sup> *Giraggasamajja*. This is most likely *girā+agga+samajja* (festival of the supreme song), though it could also be *giri+agga+samajja* (mountaintop festival). It is mentioned elsewhere in the Vinaya as a place of song, dance, music, and performances, thus lending support to the first translation.

<sup>557</sup> *Aruṇuggamanā*. For a detailed analysis of dawn and dawnrise, see the book *When is Dawn and Dawnrise?* by forest monks from the Gelduva lineage.

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.

Perceiving it as the wrong time when it is the [right] time: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt when it is the [right] time: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as the [right] time when it is the [right] time: non-offense.

**Non-offense[s]:** One eats a night-time, seven-day, [or] life-time item when there is a reason; for one who is crazy; and for the first offender.