

Nissaggiya Pācittiya #28: Keeping Emergency Cloth Beyond the Allotted Time

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Sāvatti, at Jeta's Grove, in Anāthapiṇḍika's park. Furthermore, on this occasion, a certain minister who was going abroad sent a messenger to the monks, [saying] "Let the Auspicious Ones come; I will give a Rains-residence [gift]³⁷⁵." The monks, [thinking] "A Rains-residence [gift] has been allowed by the Blessed One for those who have emerged from the Rains[-retreat]," regrettably, did not go. Then that minister denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that the Auspicious Ones will not come when a messenger has been sent by me? I will go to the army. It is hard to know life, it is hard to know death." Monks heard of that minister – denouncing, criticizing, and castigating. Then those monks reported this matter to the Blessed One. Then the Blessed One, on account of this precedent, on account of this incident, after giving a Dhamma talk, addressed the monks: "Monks, I allow [you] to receive and set aside robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency."

Furthermore, on this occasion, monks, [thinking] "It is allowed by the Blessed One to receive and set aside a robe [offered] in urgency," after receiving robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency, kept it past the robe-making-time. That robe[-cloth] was left wrapped in bundles on robe-poles. While visiting the [monastery's] sleeping and sitting places, Venerable Ānanda saw the robe[-cloth] left wrapped in bundles on robe-poles. After seeing this, he addressed the monks, "Venerables, why was this robe[-cloth] left wrapped in bundles on robe-poles?" "Venerable, that is our robe[-cloth], [offered] in urgency." "But, Venerables, why was this robe[-cloth] set aside?" Then those monks reported to Venerable Ānanda why it was set aside. Venerable Ānanda denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that monks, after receiving robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency, will keep it past the robe-making-time?" Then Venerable Ānanda, after reprimanding those monks in many ways, reported this matter to the Blessed One... "Is it true, monks, that monks, after receiving robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency, kept it past the robe-making-time?" "It is true, Blessed One." The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... "How is it, monks, that these foolish men, after receiving robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency, will keep it past the robe-making-time? This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

"If robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency is produced for a monk when the tenth day [prior to] the Kattika full moon of the third month [of the Rains-retreat] has not yet arrived, it may be received by a monk who considers it to be [offered] in urgency. After receiving it, it is to be set aside until the robe-making-time. If he sets it aside for longer than that: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya."

Tenth day has not yet arrived: The tenth day [prior to] Pavāraṇā has not yet arrived.

³⁷⁵ While the text merely says "Rains-residence" (*vass'āvāsika*), BoD vol.2 p.151 suggests that this may mean a "gift given during the Rains-residence," rather than a residence itself. Given the focus of this rule – namely, appropriate times to receive gifts of cloth – this makes a fair amount of sense.

Kattika full moon of the third month [of the Rains-retreat]: [The event on] Kattika is called Pavāraṇā.

Robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency: [The donor] wants to go to the army, wants to go abroad, is sick, or is pregnant; or faith has arisen for one who had no faith; or confidence has arisen for one who had no confidence; or if he sends a messenger to the monks [saying] “Let the Auspicious Ones come; I will give a Rains-residence [gift]” – this is called “robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency.”

It may be received by a monk who considers it to be [offered] in urgency. After receiving it, it is to be set aside until the robe-making-time: After preparing it for recognition³⁷⁶, it is to be set aside, [thinking] “This is robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency.”

Robe-making-time: The last month of the Rains when the *kaṭhina* has not been laid out; [or] five months³⁷⁷ when the *kaṭhina* has been laid out.

If he sets it aside for longer than that: When the *kaṭhina* has not been laid out, one keeps it past the last day of the Rains: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya. When the *kaṭhina* has been laid out, one keeps it past the day when the *kaṭhina* is withdrawn: it [requires] relinquishment. And, monks, it is to be relinquished in this way... “Bhante, this robe[-cloth] of mine which was [offered] in urgency was kept past the robe-making-time. It [requires] relinquishment. I relinquish it to the Saṅgha...”

Perceiving it as robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency when it is robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency, one keeps it past the robe-making-time: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.
In doubt when it is robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency...: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.
Perceiving it as robe[-cloth] not [offered] in urgency when it is robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency...: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.

Perceiving it as determined when it is undetermined: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.
Perceiving it as assigned when it is unassigned: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.
Perceiving it as discarded when it is not discarded: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.
Perceiving it as lost when it is not lost: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.
Perceiving it as destroyed when it is not destroyed: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.
Perceiving it as burned when it is not burned: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.
Perceiving it as stolen when it is not stolen: a Nissaggiya Pācittiya.

One uses robe[-cloth] [that requires] relinquishment when one has not relinquished it: a Dukkaṭa offense.
Perceiving robe[-cloth] not [offered] in urgency as robe[-cloth] [offered] in urgency: a Dukkaṭa offense.
In doubt about robe[-cloth] not [offered] in urgency: a Dukkaṭa offense.

³⁷⁶ Such as by labeling or otherwise marking it to indicate its special status.

³⁷⁷ That is, the last month of the Rains as well as the following four months, for a total of five months.

Perceiving robe[-cloth] not [offered] in urgency as robe[-cloth] not [offered] in urgency:
non-offense.

Non-offense[s]: It is determined, assigned, discarded, lost, destroyed, burned, stolen, or taken on trust within the [allotted] time; for one who is crazy; for the first offender.