

## **Pācittiya #57: Excessive Bathing**

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, monks were bathing at the hot springs. Furthermore, on this occasion, King Seniya Bimbisāra of Māgadha, [thinking] “I will wash [my] head,” after going to the hot springs, he waited to one side, [thinking] “[I will wait] while the gentlemen bathe.” The monks bathed until it was completely dark. Then King Seniya Bimbisāra of Māgadha, after bathing his head at an improper time, stayed outside the city as the city gate was closed. When it was early morning, he approached the Blessed One without his cosmetics applied; after approaching and paying respects to the Blessed One, he sat to one side. When King Seniya Bimbisāra of Māgadha was seated to one side, the Blessed One said to him, “Great king, why have you arrived in the early morning without your cosmetics applied?” Then King Seniya Bimbisāra of Māgadha reported this matter to the Blessed One. Then the Blessed One instructed, encouraged, energized, and gladdened King Seniya Bimbisāra of Māgadha with a Dhamma talk. Then King Seniya Bimbisāra of Māgadha – instructed, encouraged, energized, and gladdened by the Blessed One's Dhamma talk – having risen from his seat, after paying respects to and venerating the Blessed One, left. Then the Blessed One, on account of this issue, on account of this incident, convoked the community of monks and asked them, “Monks, is it true that even after seeing the king monks bathed without knowing moderation?” “It is true, Blessed One.” The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... “How is it, monks, that these foolish men, even after seeing the king, will bathe without knowing moderation? This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

**“If any monk bathes within half a month [of his previous bath]: a Pācittiya.”**

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

On a [later] occasion, at a time of heat and fever, monks – regretfully – did not bathe. They slept with their bodies covered in sweat. Their robes and furniture were ruined. They reported this matter to the Blessed One... “Monks, I allow [you] to bathe within half a month during a time of heat and fever. And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

**“If any monk bathes within half a month [of his previous bath] except at the [proper] occasion: a Pācittiya. Here the occasion is this: [From when] a month and a half remains of the hot season, [until the end of] the first month of the rainy season, as these two and a half months are an occasion of heat and fever. This is the [proper] occasion here.”**

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

On a [later] occasion, monks were sick. Monks who ask about the sick said to the sick monks, “Venerables, hopefully it is bearable, hopefully one can keep going?” “Venerables,

previously we bathed within half a month, and because of that there was comfort for us; now, however, [thinking] 'It is opposed by the Blessed One,' regretfully, we do not bathe; because of that there is no comfort for us." They reported this matter to the Blessed One... "Monks, I allow a sick monk to bathe within half a month. And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

**"If any monk bathes within half a month [of his previous bath] except at the [proper] occasion: a Pācittiya. Here the occasion is this: [From when] a month and a half remains of the hot season, [until the end of] the first month of the rainy season, as these two and a half months are an occasion of heat and fever; [or] an occasion of illness. This is the [proper] occasion here."**

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

On a [later] occasion, after performing new work, monks – regretfully – did not bathe. They slept with their bodies covered in sweat. Their robe[s] and furniture were ruined. They reported this matter to the Blessed One... "Monks, I allow [you] to bathe within half a month during a time of work. And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

**"If any monk bathes within half a month [of his previous bath] except at the [proper] occasion: a Pācittiya. Here the occasion is this: [From when] a month and a half remains of the hot season, [until the end of] the first month of the rainy season, as these two and a half months are an occasion of heat and fever; an occasion of illness; [or] an occasion of work. This is the [proper] occasion here."**

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

On a [later] occasion, after traveling, monks – regretfully – did not bathe. They slept with their bodies covered in sweat. Their robe[s] and furniture were ruined. They reported this matter to the Blessed One... "Monks, I allow [you] to bathe within half a month during a time of traveling. And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

**"If any monk bathes within half a month [of his previous bath] except at the [proper] occasion: a Pācittiya. Here the occasion is this: [From when] a month and a half remains of the hot season, [until the end of] the first month of the rainy season, as these two and a half months are an occasion of heat and fever; an occasion of illness; an occasion of work; [or] an occasion of traveling. This is the [proper] occasion here."**

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

On a [later] occasion, while making robes in the open air, many monks were beset by a dusty wind, and it rained a little bit. The monks – regretfully – did not bathe. They slept with muddy<sup>602</sup> bodies. Their robe[s] and furniture were ruined. They reported this matter

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<sup>602</sup> *Kilinna*. This can mean either "wet" or "soiled," and the context supports both meanings.

to the Blessed One... “Monks, I allow [you] to bathe within half a month during a time of wind and rain. And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

**“If any monk bathes within half a month [of his previous bath] except at the [proper] occasion: a Pācittiya. Here the occasion is this: [From when] a month and a half remains of the hot season, [until the end of] the first month of the rainy season, as these two and a half months are an occasion of heat and fever; an occasion of illness; an occasion of work; an occasion of traveling; [or] an occasion of wind and rain. This is the [proper] occasion here.”**

**Any monk: ...**

**Within half a month:** Less than half a month.

**Bathes:** One bathes with powder or clay, for each action: a Dukkaṭa. When one has finished bathing: a Pācittiya offense.

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

**Occasion of heat:** [When] a month and a half remains of the hot season.

**Occasion of fever:** The first month of the rainy season.

[Thinking] “These two and a half months are a time of heat and fever,” one may bathe.

**Occasion of illness:** For whom there is no comfort without bathing: [thinking] “An occasion of illness,” one may bathe.

**Occasion of work:** Even when the monk's residence<sup>603</sup> has been swept: [thinking] “An occasion of work,” one may bathe.

**Occasion of travel:** [Thinking] “I will go half a *yojana*,” one may bathe. When going, one may bathe. When one has gone, one may bathe.

**Occasion of wind and rain:** When monks are beset by dusty wind, [or] two or three drops of water have fallen on their body: [thinking] “An occasion of wind and rain,” one may bathe.

Perceiving it as less than half a month when it is less, one bathes, except at the [proper] occasion: a Pācittiya offense.

In doubt when it is less than half a month, one bathes...: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as over half a month when it is less, one bathes...: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as less than half a month when it is over [half a month]: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt when it is over half a month: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as over half a month when it is over: non-offense.

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<sup>603</sup> *Pariveṇa*.

**Non-offense[s]:** When it is the [proper] occasion; one bathes [when it has been] half a month; one bathes [when it has been] over half a month; one bathes when going across [a body of water]; in all outlying countries; when there is misfortune; for one who is crazy; and for the first offender.