

Pācittiya #89: Making an Oversized Sitting-Cloth

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 sitting-cloth had been allowed for monks by the Blessed One. [Some] group-of-six monks, [thinking] “A sitting-cloth is allowed by the Blessed One,” kept oversized⁶⁹² sitting-cloths. They hung down both the front and back of beds and seats. Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: “How is it that group-of-six monks will keep oversized sitting-cloths?” ... “Is it true that you, monks, kept oversized sitting-cloths?” “It is true, Blessed One.” The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... “How is it that you, foolish men, will keep oversized sitting-cloths? This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

“A sitting-cloth being made by a monk is to be made the [right] size. Here the [right] size is this: Two spans long, one-and-a-half spans wide, using the sugata-span. For one who exceeds that: a Pācittiya that requires cutting [it to the allowed size].”

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

There was a [later] occasion [involving] Venerable Udāyin, who had a large body. After placing [his] sitting-cloth in front of the Blessed One, he stretched it out on all sides and sat. Then the Blessed One said to Venerable Udāyin, “Udāyin, why do you stretch out [your] sitting-cloth on all sides, like an old sword-sheath?”⁶⁹³ “Bhante, it is because the sitting-cloth allowed for monks by the Blessed One is too small.” Then the Blessed One, on account of this matter, on account of this incident, after giving a Dhamma talk, addressed the monks: “Monks, I allow a border one span [wide] for a sitting-cloth. And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

“A sitting-cloth being made by a monk is to be made the [right] size. Here the [right] size is this: Two spans long, one-and-a-half spans wide, with a border one span [wide], using the Sugata-span. For one who exceeds that: a Pācittiya that requires cutting [it to the allowed size].”

Sitting cloth: This refers to [a cloth] with a border.

Being made: One making it or causing it to be made is to have it made the [right] size. Here the [right] size is this: Two spans long, one-and-a-half spans wide, with a border one span [wide], using the Sugata-span. After exceeding that, for the act of making or causing to make: a Dukkaṭa. When it has been obtained: after cutting it, a Pācittiya is to be acknowledged.

Unfinished by oneself, completed by oneself: a Pācittiya offense.

⁶⁹² *Appamāṇika*. Usually rendered “immeasurable,” “boundless,” or “infinite.”

⁶⁹³ *Asikoṭṭha*. Perhaps sword-sheaths at the time were commonly made from flexible or elastic materials.

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One makes it or causes it to be made for the sake of another: a Dukkaṭa offense.

After obtaining [an item] made by another, one uses it: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Non-offense[s]: One makes it the [allowed] size; one makes it smaller; after obtaining [an item] made by another in excess of the [allowed] size, one uses it after cutting it [to the allowed size]; one makes a canopy, ground-sheet, screen, mattress, or pillow; for one who is crazy; for the first offender.