

## **Pācittiya #23: Exhorting Nuns at their Residence**

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling among the Sakyans, at Kapilavatthu, in the banyan park. Furthermore, on this occasion, [some] group-of-six monks, after approaching the nuns' residence, exhorted [some] group-of-six nuns. [Other] nuns said to the group-of-six nuns, "Come, Ladies, we will go to the exhortation." "Ladies, what need is there for us to go for an exhortation? The group-of-six gentlemen came and exhorted us right here." The [other] nuns denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that group-of-six monks, after approaching the nuns' residence, will exhort nuns?" Then those nuns reported this matter to the monks. Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that group-of-six monks, after approaching the nuns' residence, will exhort nuns?" ... "Is it true that you, monks, after approaching the nuns' residence, exhorted nuns?" "It is true, Blessed One." The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... "How is it that you, foolish men, after approaching the nuns' residence, will exhort nuns? This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training rule:

**"If any monk, having approached the nuns' residence, exhorts nuns: a Pācittiya."**

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

On a [later] occasion Mahāpajāpati Gotamī was sick. Senior monks approached Mahāpajāpati Gotamī; after approaching, they said to Mahāpajāpati Gotamī: "Gotami, hopefully it is bearable, hopefully one can keep going?" "Sirs, it is not bearable, one can not keep going. Come, Sirs, teach Dhamma." "Sister, [we] are not allowed to teach Dhamma to nuns when [we] have approached the nuns' quarters." Regretfully, they did not teach. Then the Blessed One, after dressing in the morning and taking his bowl and robe, approached Mahāpajāpati Gotamī; after approaching, he sat on the designated seat. When he was seated the Blessed One said to Mahāpajāpati Gotamī: "Gotami, hopefully it is bearable, hopefully one can keep going?" "Previously, Bhante, senior monks came and taught Dhamma to me. Because of that there was comfort for me. Now, however, [thinking] 'It is opposed by the Blessed One', regretfully, they do not teach. Because of that there is no comfort for me." Then the Blessed One, after instructing, encouraging, energizing, and gladdening Mahāpajāpati Gotamī with a Dhamma talk, rose from his seat and left. Then the Blessed One, on account of this issue, on account of this incident, having given a Dhamma talk, announced to the monks: "Monks, I allow [you] to exhort a sick nun after approaching the nuns' residence. And thus, monks, you may recite this training rule:

**"If any monk exhorts nuns after approaching the nuns' residence, except at the [proper] occasion: a Pācittiya. Here the occasion is this: a nun is sick - this is the occasion here."**

**Any monk: ...**

**Nuns' residence:** Where nuns dwell even for one night.

**After approaching:** After going there.

**Nuns:** Ordained in both communities.

**Exhorts:** Exhorts with the eight Rules of Respect: a Pācittiya offense.

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

**Sick:** A nun is not able to go for the exhortation or for affiliation.<sup>502</sup>

Perceiving her as fully ordained when she is fully ordained, after approaching the nuns' residence, except on the [proper] occasion, one exhorts: a Pācittiya offense.

In doubt when she is fully ordained...: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving her as unordained when she is fully ordained...: a Pācittiya offense.

One exhorts with another Dhamma: a Dukkaṭa offense.

One exhorts a nun ordained by one side only: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving her as fully ordained when she is unordained: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt when she is unordained: a Dukkaṭa offense.

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

**Non-offense[s]:** On the [proper] occasion; giving an explanation; giving a line of questioning; being told “Expound, Sir,” one expounds; one asks a question; when asked a question, one speaks; when speaking for the sake of another, nuns hear; to a female trainee; to a female novice; for one who is crazy; for the first offender.

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<sup>502</sup> *Samvāsa*. Lit. “living together.”