

Pācittiya #19: Excessively Thatching and Plastering a New Dwelling

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Kosambi, at Ghosita's Park. Furthermore, on this occasion, Venerable Channa's attendant, a prime minister, was having a dwelling built for Venerable Channa. Then Venerable Channa had the completed dwelling thatched repeatedly and plastered repeatedly. Overburdened, the dwelling collapsed. Then Venerable Channa, collecting grass and wood, damaged the barley-field of a certain brahmin. Then that brahmin denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that the Auspicious Ones will damage my barley field!" Monks heard of that brahmin denouncing, criticizing, and castigating. Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that Venerable Channa will have a completed dwelling thatched repeatedly and plastered repeatedly - the overburdened dwelling collapsed!" Then those monks, having reprimanded Venerable Channa in various ways, reported this matter to the Blessed One... "Is it true that you, Channa, had a completed dwelling thatched repeatedly and plastered repeatedly, [and that] the overburdened dwelling collapsed?" "It is true, Blessed One." The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... "How is it that you, foolish man, will have a completed dwelling thatched repeatedly and plastered repeatedly - the overburdened dwelling collapsed! This is not, foolish man, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training rule:

"When a monk is having a large dwelling built: an application⁴⁸² of two or three layers⁴⁸³, up to the door-frame for the purpose of fixing the bolt [and/or] for surrounding the windows, may be ordered⁴⁸⁴ by one standing in a place of little greenery. If more than that is ordered, even [by] one standing on a place of little greenery: a Pācittiya."

Large: This refers to a dwelling with a sponsor⁴⁸⁵.

Dwelling: Mortared, or plastered, or mortared and plastered.

Having [it] built: Building or causing to build.

Up to the door-frame: An arm's-reach around the lintel-junction.

For the purpose of fixing the bolt: For stabilizing the door.

⁴⁸² *Pariyāya*. Lit. "going around." Process, method, procedure, etc.

⁴⁸³ *Chadana*. Lit. "covering."

⁴⁸⁴ *Adhiṭṭhātābbaṃ*. Lit. "to be determined". The meaning here appears to be closer to "ordered" or "directed".

⁴⁸⁵ *Sāmika*. Lit. "master".

For surrounding the windows: For surrounding the shutters – white coloring, black coloring, prepared with red/ocher, garland-work, creeper-work, leviathan-teeth⁴⁸⁶, [and/or] curtains⁴⁸⁷.

An application of two or three layers may be ordered by one standing in a place of little greenery: Greenery: Grain, vegetables. If one orders while standing in greenery: a Dukkaṭa offense. For one having it covered by one application, after ordering two applications [or] after ordering a third application, one is to depart. For one having it covered by one technique, after ordering two techniques [or] after ordering a third technique, one is to depart.

If more than that is ordered, even [by] one standing on a place of little greenery: For one having it covered with tile, a Pācittiya offense for each tile. For one having it covered with stone, a Pācittiya offense for each stone. For one having it covered with lime⁴⁸⁸, a Pācittiya offense for each lump. For one having it covered with grass, a Pācittiya offense for each blade. For one having it covered with leaf, a Pācittiya offense for each leaf.

Perceiving it as exceeding when it is an application exceeding two or three layers, one orders: a Pācittiya offense.

In doubt when it is an application exceeding two or three layers, one orders: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as less when it is an application exceeding two or three layers, one orders: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as exceeding when it is an application of less than two or three layers: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt when it is an application of less than two or three layers: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as less when it is an application of less than two or three layers: non-offense.

Non-offense[s]: An application of two or three layers; an application of less than two or three layers; in a cave; in a cavern; in a grass hut; for the sake of another; with one's own wealth; everything other than a residence-house is a non-offense; for one who is crazy; for the first offender.

⁴⁸⁶ *Makara-dantaka*. Lit. “with sea monster teeth”. CPD suggests “design in the shape of a flower”.

⁴⁸⁷ *Pañcapaṭika*. Lit. “five cloths”.

⁴⁸⁸ I.e., cement or whitewash made from limestone.