

Pācittiya #18: Using a Bed or Seat with Detachable Legs in an Unplanked Loft

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Sāvatti, at Jeta's Grove, in Anāthapiṇḍaka's park. Furthermore, on this occasion, two monks were living in a communal dwelling with a high ceiling⁴⁷⁹. One dwelled below, one dwelled above. The loft-dwelling monk sat forcibly on a bed with detachable feet. The bed-foot fell off and dropped on the floor-dwelling monk's head. The monk let out a cry of distress. Monks, having ran up, said to that monk, "For what reason, Venerable, did you let out a cry of distress?" Then that monk reported this matter to the [other] monks. Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that a monk will sit forcibly on a bed with detachable feet in a communal dwelling with a high ceiling?" Then those monks, having reprimanded that monk in various ways, reported this matter to the Blessed One... "Is it true, monk, that you sat forcibly on a bed with detachable feet in a communal dwelling with a high ceiling?" "It is true, Blessed One." The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... "How is it that you, foolish man, will sit forcibly on a bed with detachable feet in a communal dwelling with a high ceiling? This is not, foolish man, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training rule:

"If any monk, sits or reclines on a bed or seat with detachable feet in a communal dwelling with a high ceiling: a Pācittiya."

Any monk: ...

Communal: A dwelling given [or] left behind for the community.

Hut with a high ceiling: Does not rub against the head of an average person.

Bed with detachable feet: It stands after attaching the foot.

Seat with detachable feet: It stands after attaching the foot.

Sits: One sits on that: a Pācittiya offense.

Reclines: One reclines on that: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving a communal [dwelling] as communal, one sits or reclines on a bed or seat with detachable feet in a communal dwelling with a high ceiling: a Pācittiya offense.

In doubt about a communal [dwelling]...: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving a communal [dwelling] as personal...: a Pācittiya offense.

⁴⁷⁹ *Uparivehāsakuṭi*. Lit. "above-airy-hut". I.e, a dwelling with an open space above; BMC takes this to mean an unplanked loft. This makes a fair amount of sense, since the story indicates one monk living above the other monk.

Perceiving a personal [dwelling] as communal: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt about a personal [dwelling]: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving a personal [dwelling] as personal, belonging to another: a Dukkaṭa offense.

A personal [dwelling] belonging to oneself: Non-offense.

Non-offense[s]: In a hut without a high ceiling; where [the ceiling] rubs against the head; when the lower area is unused; it is filled with planks⁴⁸⁰; a pin is provided⁴⁸¹; standing on it, he takes [down] or puts up [an item]; for one who is crazy; and for the first offender.

⁴⁸⁰ I.e., so that detachable feet will not fall on the other monk. This supports the idea that this rule refers to an unplanked loft.

⁴⁸¹ To affix the detachable feet to the furniture's frame.