

## **Pācittiya #45: Sitting in a Private Location With Women**

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Sāvatti, at Jeta's grove, in Anāthapiṇḍika's park. Furthermore, on this occasion, Venerable Upananda the Sakyan-son, after going to a friend's house, sat one-on-one in private with his wife. Then that man denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that Sir Upananda will sit alone together in private with my wife!" The monks heard of that man, denouncing, criticizing, and castigating. Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that Venerable Upananda the Sakyan-son will sit alone together in private with a woman?" ... "Is it true that you, Upananda, sat alone together in private with a woman?" "It is true, Blessed One." The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... "How is it that you, foolish man, will sit alone together in private with a woman! This is not, foolish man, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

**"If any monk sits one-on-one in private with a woman: a Pācittiya."**

**Any monk:** ...

**Woman:** A female human, not a spirit, not a ghost, not an animal; competent to know well-spoken and ill-spoken, depraved and not-depraved.

**With:** Together.

**One-on-one:** There is just a monk and a woman.

**Private:** Private for the eye, private for the ear.

**Private for the eye:** It is not possible to see an eye being winked or an eyebrow being raised or a head being lifted.

**Private for the ear:** It is not possible to hear natural speech.

**Sits:** When a woman is seated, a monk sits close by or lies down close by: a Pācittiya offense.

When a monk is seated a woman sits close by or lies down close by: a Pācittiya offense.  
Or when both are seated or both are lying down: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as a woman when it is a woman, one sits one-on-one in private: a Pācittiya offense.

In doubt when it is a woman, one sits...: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as not a woman when it is a woman, one sits...: a Pācittiya offense.

One sits one-on-one in private with a female spirit, female ghost, a *paṇḍaka*, a female animal, or a being taking the form of a human female<sup>575</sup>: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as a woman when it is not a woman: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt when it is not a woman: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as not a woman when it is not a woman: non-offense.

**Non-offense[s]:** There is any knowledgeable man as a companion; one stands, one does not sit; one is not intent upon privacy; occupied<sup>576</sup> by something else, one sits; for one who is crazy; and for the first offender.

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<sup>575</sup> In some versions of the canon, these last two items are conflated as a single item – ie, an animal taking the form of a human female. As this divergence of reading does not occur in the previous rule, where an otherwise identical passage occurs, this rendering follows the precedent of the previous rule.

<sup>576</sup> *Vihita*. One might also render this “distracted.”