

Pācittiya #29: Eating a Meal Arranged by a Nun

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Rājagaha, at the Bamboo Grove, at the Squirrel's Feeding Ground. Furthermore, on this occasion, the nun Thullanandā was a frequent visitor of a certain family, where she was constantly supplied with food. On account of this, [some] senior monks were invited by the head of the household⁵¹¹. Then the nun Thullanandā, after dressing in the morning and taking her robe and bowl, approached that family; after approaching, she said to the head of the household, “Housemaster, why was this abundant variety of food prepared?” “Sister, [some] senior monks were invited by me.” “But who, housemaster, are those seniors?” “Sir Sāriputta, Sir Mahāmoggallāna, Sir Mahākaccāna, Sir Mahākoṭṭhita, Sir Mahākappina, Sir Mahācunda, Sir Anuruddha, Sir Revata, Sir Upāli, Sir Ānanda, Sir Rāhula.” “But why, housemaster, when there are great saints⁵¹², did you invite underlings⁵¹³?”

“Who, Sister, are those great saints?” “Sir Devadatta, Sir Kokālika, Sir Kaṭamodakatissaka, Sir Khaṇḍadeviyāputta, Sir Samuddadatta.” Then the nun Thullanandā's line of talk was interrupted; the senior monks entered. “Truly great saints have been invited by you, housemaster!” “Just now, Sister, you made them out to be underlings; then as great saints.” He expelled [her] from the house and cut off [her] constant supply of food. Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: “How is it that Devadatta will knowingly eat almsfood arranged⁵¹⁴ by a nun?” ... “Is it true that you, Devadatta, knowingly ate almsfood arranged by a nun?” “It is true, Blessed One.” The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... “How is it that you, foolish man, will knowingly eat almsfood arranged by a nun? This is not, foolish man, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training rule:

“If any monk knowingly eats almsfood arranged by a nun: a Pācittiya.”

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

On a [later] occasion a certain monk who had gone forth from Rājagaha went to a family of relatives. [Thinking,] “At last the Auspicious One has come,” people carefully prepared a meal. A nun who was a frequent visitor of that family said to those people, “Sir, give food to the gentleman.” Then that monk, [thinking] “It is opposed by the Blessed One to knowingly eat almsfood arranged by a nun” – regretfully – did not accept [it]. Unable to go for alms, he was deprived of a meal. Then that monk, after going to a monastery, reported this matter to the monks. The monks reported this matter to the Blessed One. Then the Blessed One, on account of this issue, on account of this incident, after giving a Dhamma talk, announced to the monks: “Monks, I allow [you] to knowingly eat almsfood

⁵¹¹ *Gahapati*. Rendered here as “head of the household”, it literally means “house-master” (and is rendered as such below).

⁵¹² *Mahānāga*.

⁵¹³ *Cetaka*.

⁵¹⁴ *Paripācīta*. From *paripāceti* (“causes to cook”).

arranged by a nun when it was previously initiated by a layperson. And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

“If any monk knowingly eats almsfood arranged by a nun, except when it was previously initiated by a layperson: a Pācittiya.”

Any monk: ...

Knows: He knows himself, or others inform him of it, or she informs him.

Nun: {*as in previous rule*}

Arranges: Before the desire to give, the desire to act, [she says] “The gentleman is a reciter, very learned, knows the discourses, upholds the discipline, speaks the Dhamma; give to the gentleman, prepare for the gentleman” – this is called “arranges”.

Almsfood: Any of the [five] kinds of food⁵¹⁵.

Except when it was previously initiated by a layperson: Having set aside when it was previously initiated by a layperson.

Initiated by a layperson: They are relatives, or they are inviters, or they usually prepare.⁵¹⁶

Except when it was previously initiated by a layperson, [thinking] “I will eat”, one receives [food]: a Dukkaṭa offense. For each ingestion: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as arranged when it is arranged, one eats, except when it was previously initiated by a layperson: a Pācittiya offense.

In doubt when it is arranged, one eats...: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as not arranged when it is arranged, one eats...: non-offense.

One eats [a meal] arranged by a one-side-ordained nun, except when it was previously initiated by a layperson: a Dukkaṭa offense.

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

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

Perceiving it as not arranged when it is not arranged: non-offense.

Non-offense[s]: When it was previously initiated by a layperson; a female trainee arranges; a female novice arranges; having set aside the five edibles, everything [else] is a non-offense; for one who is crazy; for the first offender.

⁵¹⁵ *Bhojana*. This probably refers to *Bhojanīya* (see Pc35) – grain, fish, and meat.

⁵¹⁶ Presumably this means “...or they usually prepare food for the monk(s).”