

## **Pācittiya #44: Sitting Alone Together With a Woman in a Private, Concealed Place**

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 on a private, concealed seat with his wife. Then that man denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that Sir Upananda will sit on a private, concealed seat 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 intruding on a private, concealed seat with a woman?" ... "Is it true that you, Upananda, sat on a private, concealed seat with a woman?" "It is true, Blessed One." The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... "How is it that you, foolish man, will sit on a private, concealed seat 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 on a private, concealed seat with a woman: a Pācittiya."**

**Any monk:** ...

**Woman:** A female human, not a spirit, not a ghost, not an animal; even a girl born that day, just so with an older one.

**With:** Together.

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

**Private for the eye:** It is not possible to see an eye being winked<sup>571</sup> or an eyebrow being raised or a head being lifted.

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

**Concealed:** The seat is concealed by a wall, a panel, a hanging, a screen, a tree, a pillar, or a structure<sup>572</sup>, or by anything whatsoever.

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

When a monk is seated a woman sits close by or reclines close by: a Pācittiya offense.  
Both are seated or both are reclining: a Pācittiya offense.

<sup>571</sup> *Nikhaṇḍyamāna*. See Pc30.

<sup>572</sup> *Kotṭhaliyā*. This word appears only in this stock phrase and its meaning is conjectural. Alternate readings from other editions (*koṭṭhaliyā*, *kotṭhaliyakā*) offer no assistance.

Perceiving it as a woman when it is a woman, one sits on a private, secluded seat: 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 on a private, secluded seat with a female spirit, female ghost, a *paṇḍaka*, a female animal, or a being taking the form of a human female<sup>573</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>574</sup> by something else, one sits; for one who is crazy; and for the first offender.

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<sup>573</sup> These last two items may be a single item – ie, an animal taking the form of a human female.

<sup>574</sup> *Vihita*. One might also render this “distracted.”