

Pācittiya #49: Staying With an Army for More Than Three Nights

On this occasion the Buddha, the Blessed One, was dwelling at Sāvatti, at Jeta's grove, in Anāthapiṇḍika's park. Furthermore, on this occasion, group-of-six monks, after going to an army when there was something to be done, stayed with the army for more than three nights. People denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that Sakyan-son contemplatives will stay with an army? It is not a gain for us, it is bad fortune for us, we who stay with the army for the sake of a livelihood, in service of our wives and children!" Monks heard of those people, denouncing, criticizing, and castigating. Those monks who were of few wishes... denounced, criticized, and castigated: "How is it that group-of-six monks will stay with an army for more than three nights?" ... "Is it true that you, monks, stayed with an army for more than three nights?" "It is true, Blessed One." The Buddha, the Blessed One, reprimanded... "How is it that you, foolish men, will stay with an army for more than three nights? This is not, foolish men, for the faith of the faithless... And thus, monks, you may recite this training-rule:

"There might be some reason for a monk to go to an army; that monk may stay with the army for two or three nights. If he stays longer than that: a Pācittiya."

There might be some reason for a monk to go to an army: There might be a reason, there might be something to be done.

That monk may stay with the army for two or three nights: One may stay for two or three nights.

If he stays longer than that: On the fourth day, when the sun was disappeared, one stays with the army: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as exceeding when it is exceeding three nights, one stays with an army: a Pācittiya offense.

In doubt when it is exceeding three nights, one stays with an army: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as less when it is exceeding three nights, one stays with an army: a Pācittiya offense.

Perceiving it as exceeding when it is less than three nights: a Dukkaṭa offense.

In doubt when it is less than three nights: a Dukkaṭa offense.

Perceiving it as less when it is less than three nights: non-offense.

Non-offense[s]: One stays two or three nights; one stays less than two or three nights; after staying two nights and leaving before dawn of the third night, one stays again; one who is sick stays; one stays with something to be done for one who is sick; the army is besieged by an opposing army; one is hindered by anything whatsoever; when there are misfortunes; for one who is crazy; and for the first offender.