pli-tv-bi-vb-pc55 — Being stingy with families

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Text

Theravāda Collection on Monastic Law

The Nuns' Analysis

The chapter on offenses entailing confession

The subchapter on monasteries

Being stingy with families

Origin story

At one time when the Buddha was staying at Sāvatthī in Anāthapiṇḍika's Monastery, a certain nun there was walking for almsfood along a street. She then went to a certain family where she sat down on the prepared seat. The people there gave her a meal and said, "Venerable, other nuns may come too." Then that nun thought, "What can I do so that other nuns don't come?" And she went up to other nuns and said, "Venerables, in such-and-such a place there are malicious dogs, a fierce ox, and it's muddy. Don't go there."

Another nun, too, went to that family while walking for almsfood along that street. She sat down on the prepared seat and the people there gave her a meal. They then asked her, "Venerable, why don't the nuns come here?"

And she told them what had happened.

People complained and criticized her, "How can a nun keep a family to herself?" … "Is it true, monks, that a nun acted like this?"

"It's true, sir."

The Buddha rebuked her … "How could a nun act like this? This will affect people's confidence …" … "And, monks, the nuns should recite this training rule like this:

Final ruling

'If a nun keeps a family to herself, she commits an offense entailing confession.'"

Definitions

A: whoever … Nun: … The nun who has been given the full ordination in unanimity by both Sanghas through a legal procedure consisting of one motion and three announcements that is irreversible and fit to stand—this sort of nun is meant in this case. A family: there

are four kinds of families: the aristocratic family, the brahmin family, the merchant family, the worker family. Keeps for herself: if she thinks, “What can I do so that other nuns don’t come?” and she then speaks disparagingly about that family to the nuns, she commits an offense entailing confession. If she speaks disparagingly about that family to the nuns, she commits an offense entailing confession.

Non-offenses

There is no offense: if she is not keeping a family to herself, but describes the drawbacks as they are; if she is insane; if she is the first offender.

The fifth training rule is finished.