

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE *THERAVĀDA BHIKKHU* AND *BHIKKHUṆĪ PĀRĀJIKĀ VINAYA* RULES

Ven. Madipola Wimalajothi\*

PGIHS, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Buddhist Studies, Bhikshu University of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura

\*mwimalajothi@busl.ac.lk

The rules and regulations imposed by an institution or society decide its longevity. Thus, Buddhist *Vinaya* helps the well-being of *Bhikkhus* and *Bhikkhuṇīs*. The *Vinaya Piṭaka* includes the *Vinaya* rules for both *Bhikkhus* and *Bhikkhuṇīs*. Some differences can be observed among the *Bhikkhu* and *Bhikkhuṇī Vinaya* rules. Therefore, the present study mainly focuses on the *Pārājikā Vinaya* rules of *Bhikkhu* and *Bhikkhuṇī* according to *Theravāda* Buddhism. The *Pārājikā* is the most serious offences which brings expulsion of the guilty from the Buddhist *Saṅgha*. If a monk or nun falls into a *Pārājikā* offence, he or she is no longer in communion with others. The *Bhikkhūs* have only four *Pārājikā* but *Bhikkhuṇīs* have eight of them. When studying those offences comparatively, it is evident that there are some facts in offences related to *Bhikkhuṇīs* which have been repeated. The first four *Pārājikā* rules are the same for both *Bhikkhūs* and *Bhikkhuṇīs*. In addition to these four, other four *Pārājikā* rules are made only for *Bhikkhuṇīs*. The first four rules are prohibitions regarding sexual behavior, stealing, killing a human being and boasting of a superior human state, which occur among both monks and nuns. Among the last four, the fifth and eighth rules are directly related to sexual desires. The sixth is related with hiding faults and the seventh refers to following a *Bhikkhu* who has been suspended by the *Saṅgha* Community. When analyzing the first four *Pārājikā* rules for both *Bhikkhus* and *Bhikkhuṇīs*, it is evident that, they show some systematic nature in them. However, the additional four *Pārājikā* imposed only for *Bhikkhuṇīs* do not show such nature. The fifth rule related to *Bhikkhuṇīs* has been equaled to the '*Kāyasansagga Saṅghādhisesa*' rule of *Bhikkhūs*. The sixth *Pārājikā* has been refused in early Buddhist teachings. The seventh *Pārājikā* which refers to following a suspended *Bhikkhu* in *Sāsana* is a *Pārājikā* for *Bhikkhuṇīs* but it is a *Saṅghādhisesa* offence for *Bhikkhūs*. The eight *Pārājikā* for *Bhikkhuṇīs* emerge due to lust. However, although there are some *Vinaya* rules for *Bhikkhūs* related to this rule, it is a *Pārājikā* offence for *Bhikkhuṇīs*. As the contemporary Indian society was based on Brahmin teachings, women lost their rights. However, the rise of Buddhism provided some liberation for women. In such a condition, after the establishment of *Bhikkhuṇī Sāsana*, there was a progress in women but the traditional attitudes of society towards women affected the *Bhikkhuṇī Sāsana*.

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