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SAME TITLE

HISTORICAL PRECEDENCE OF ETHICS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This glossary of terms prepared by a student on the Ministers Course is issued as dictionaries of such terms are not readily available.

Glossary of Pali words that appear in HCO PL 29 December 1966 "HISTORICAL PRECEDENCE OF ETHICS".

SOURCES: 1. Childers, Robert Caesar, "A Dictionary of the Pali Language".
2. Tachibana, Shundo, "The Ethics of Buddhism".

NB: "A Popular Dictionary of Buddhism" by Christina Humphreys, Arco Publications, London, is also available.

abbhāna - rehabilitation of a priest who has undergone penance for an offence by parivāsa.

ārāma - Buddhist monastery or temple.

bhikkhu - monk.

brahmacariya - the chaste or holy life; the duties and practice of a celibate religious student living according to Buddha's precepts. (brahma - supreme; cariya - walking or practicing.)

Buddha - Gotama Siddhartha - the founder of Buddhism. (buddha - enlightened one)

Cullavagga - the fourth of the five books of the Vinaya Pitaka. It covers the rules for dealing with offenses that come before the Sangha, the re-instatement of monks, rules for dealing with questions that arise, and other miscellaneous rules. (culla - eight; vagga - class)

Dhamma - Vinaya - the disciplinary aspect of the Way to Enlightenment developed by and disseminated in the teachings of Buddha. (dhamma - way, teaching, duty; vinaya - discipline)

Dukkata - a class of priestly offenses involving the causation of suffering, and requiring confession and absolution. (dukka - suffering)

Jhānas - the four stages of mystic meditation, whereby the believer's mind is purged of all earthly emotions and detached from the body, which remains in a profound trance. The attainment of the fourth jhāna gives one the power of working miracles.

Manatta - a punishment in which the offender is placed for six days in a position of inferiority to his brother monks.

Manatta - kamma - the Ecclesiastical Act which afflicts Manatta on an offender. (Manatta - see above; kamma - act)

Mulavā - patikassanā - a further period of Parivāsa or Manatta, which is repeated until the monk is found fit to be recalled to the Order. (mula - roots, those conditions which through their presence determine the actual moral quality of an action) The three negative roots are Greed, Hate and Delusion, while the 3 positive roots are greedlessness, hatelessness, and undelusion. (aya - entrance; pati - to protect)

nissāranā - expulsion.

Nissaya - kamma - an Ecclesiastical Act which decrees surveillance of an offender. (nissaya - close to, nearby, dependent upon; kamma - act)

osaranā - restoration of a priest who has been temporarily secluded from his brother monks as penance for an offence.

Pabbā - janiya - kamma - an Ecclesiastical Act which decrees temporary banishment from the Sangha. (pabbajana - banishment; iya - like, of the nature of; Kamma - act)

pacittiya - dhamma - the class of 92 minor priestly offences requiring confession and absolution.

Pacittiyas - the 92 minor priestly offences, requiring confession and absolution, enumerated in the Pacitti (the second of the five books of the Vinaya Pitaka). The first 3 are lying, abusive language, and slander.

Pārājikā - sins involving expulsion from the priesthood, the most heinous of the priestly offences enumerated in the Vinaya Pitaka, and are placed at the head of the list. ("Pārājikā" is also the name of the first of the five books of the Vinaya Pitaka.) The four pārājikā are fornication, theft, taking life (even of an insect) or influencing to suicide, and pretending untra-normal powers. (pārājā - expulsion; ika - that which involves.)

Parivāsa - living apart, being put under restraint.

Parivāsa - kamma - an Ecclesiastical Act sentencing a priest to Parivāsa.

Patikossanā - kamma - An Ecclesiastical Act in which a pacittiya offender is brought before the Sangha to confess and receive reprobation. (pati - protect; kossana - scorn; kamma - act)

Patimokkha - literally, "that which should be binding", the list of offences against the monks' rules in descending order of severity, from the parajikas through the sanghadisesas to the pacittiyas. The list is solemnly read twice a month before the Sangha in every monastery, and individual priests are invited to make confession if they have broken any of the rules read out. (pati - protect)

patisaraniya - kamma - an Ecclesiastical Act of censure whereby a priest who has offended a layman without cause is compelled to ask and obtain his forgiveness.

pavāranā - the annual one-day festival at the end of vassavasa, includes religious processions and giving presents (especially robes) to the priests.

Sangha - the community of monks in a Buddhist monastery.
(Sangha - herd, congregation)

Sanghadisesa - a class of 13 priestly offences next in heinousness to the parajikas. They require suspension and penance but not permanent exclusion, and must be dealt with by sangha - kamma from the earliest stages of suspension to the final stages of reinstatement. (sangha-community of monks
adi - earliest; sesa - latest)

Sangha - kamma - an Ecclesiastical Act decreed by the entire sangha rather than by one priest or a small committee.

Tajjanīya - kamma - An Ecclesiastical Act of censure
(tajjani - the finger of scorn; kamma - act)

Thullaccaya - a grave offense (thulla - large, clumsy, stupid;
accaya - lapse, sin, death)

Tipitaka - the entirety of the Buddhist scriptures. (ti - three; pitaka - basket) including the Vinaya Pitaka ("Basket of Discipline"), the sutta pitaka ("Basket of Discourses"), and the Abhidhamma Pitaka ("Basket of Metaphysics").

Ukkhepaniya - kamma - excommunication of a Buddhist priest for a grave offence, such as concealment of a sin.

Upasampadā - priest's orders, the fullest possible admission to the privileges of the Buddhist priesthood.

Vassavāsa - the 4-month (middle June to middle October) rainy season retreat of Buddhist priest during which they are forbidden to travel but live in temporary huts away from their monasteries where they devote themselves to the spiritual welfare and instruction of the people, who flock to them in great numbers and supply them with daily food and with robes sufficient to last the year.

Vinaya Pitaka - the "Basket of Discipline", the first of the three divisions of the Tipitaka. It consists of five books.
(vinaya - discipline; pitaka - basket)

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