

Appendix 2

Sino-Tibetan Dhyani-Buddhas

As mentioned within the text, a "central Penteade" of Dhyani Buddhas "presides over all of Creation, is seen as prior to all Manifestation, always present in the eternal "here and now", and encompassing all spheres of the myriad Beings. The Bardo Thödol, the Tibetan Book of the Dead, makes explicit reference to their various realms, which the Soul of the physically dead person is seen to transmigrate in successive stages. In general, beyond their all-encompassing qualities, they are especially symbols for Space, Color, Direction and Spiritual Quality.

They may be seen in form of two graphic arrangements, which do not necessarily correspond to their popular ascriptions. An example of variance is the "Limitless Eternal Light" of Amithaba, which is popularly revered in adoration as situated in the North. In Tibetan Vajrayana, it is placed in the West, and thus also the other popular "directions" and their attributes are changed. The best view, therefore, is to envision the realms of the Dhyani Buddhas in flux and motion, as also Space and Time is in eternal movement.

In Tibetan, the circles are called wheels, so that their movement and interconnected flux is inherent in their meaning, just as the Rotae of the Tarot.

Vairocana, in the centre, as primal Buddha, adds his Blue as an impulse to the upper realm of the Devas, and is associated with the Blue color of human development. Amitabha, whose sphere transcends the Deva Heaven, enjoins it to the two realms of Action and Struggle, of Man and the Asuras (born of envy), whose colors are Red and Blue. Ratnasambhava, whose sphere transcends the two realms of Action and Fear, enjoins the worlds of Man and Animals, whose colors are Blue and Green. Amoghasiddhi, whose sphere transcends the realms of Struggle and of Unsatisfied Desires, enjoins the worlds of the lower Beings, called the Asuras (born of envy) and Pretas (born of passion), whose colors are Red and Yellow. Aksobhyasiddhi, whose sphere transcends the realm of Pain and whose cause is hatred, enjoins this sphere (color Red-Brown-Dark) with the two spheres of Fear (Animal) and Unsatisfied Desires (Preta passion-world), whose colors are Green and Yellow.