

Tibetan Prayer Flags



Prayer flags consist of auspicious mantras syllables and prayers which are wood block printed onto squares of cotton cloth in each of the 5 Buddha colors: red, white, blue, green, and yellow.

Usually the windhorse is at the center with the 4 supernatural creatures at each corner: the dragon, the garuda, the snow lion and the tiger. The horse gallops like the wind carrying the wish-fulfilling jewel. It radiates peace, prosperity, knowledge, success, long life, protection and health. The windhorse symbolizes positive personal power which eliminates all hindrances caused by illness, accidents, malign spirits and astrological auspiciousness, bestowing personal power and good luck. Around the horse are 20-odd mantras—powerful ritual utterances—each dedicated to a particular deity. The idea is that as the wind passes over the surface of the flag, the air becomes purified, sanctified, and sweetened by the mantras. This is beneficial for all beings in the neighborhood.

In addition to the mantras are prayers for long life and good fortune of the person who erects the flags.

Tibetan prayer flags are flown all over the Tibetan cultural world—on high mountain passes, on rooftops, above rapids in mountain streams, bridges, monasteries—everywhere.