

Key Ideas

- The form of Buddhism practiced in Tibet is Tantric Buddhism, also known as Vajrayana and Esoteric Buddhism.
- Stylistic influences in Tibetan art come from India, Nepal, and China.
- A long and fractious relationship with China exists; China forcibly annexed Tibet as part of its own Communist nation in 1950.
- Tibet primarily produced religious art: paintings (thankas), illustrated texts, and metal sculptures.



Nepal

Unknown artist (Nepal), *Leaf from a Gandavyuha Manuscript*, late 11th-early 12th century, Ink and opaque watercolor on palm leaf, 95.86. Pictured is Sudhana, a young man who sought enlightenment through his travels.



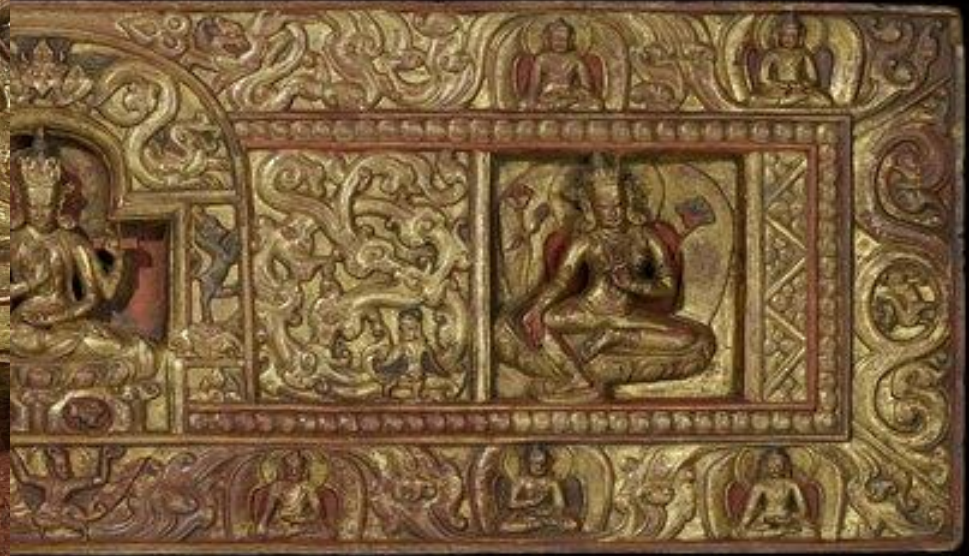
Tibet

Unknown artist, Tibet, *Prajnaparamita Book Cover*, c. 1200, Wood with pigments and gold, 97.47

Avalokiteśvara

Prajnaparamita

Green Tara



She holds a book and a **vajra** in her upper hands.

Tibet

Unknown artist, Tibet, *Book Cover with Virupa and Guru with Amitabhas*, 14th-15th century, Opaque colors and gold on wood, 99.126



Tibet

Unknown artist, Tibet, *Portrait of a Lama*, 13th century
(?), Bronze and copper, 2000.209.7

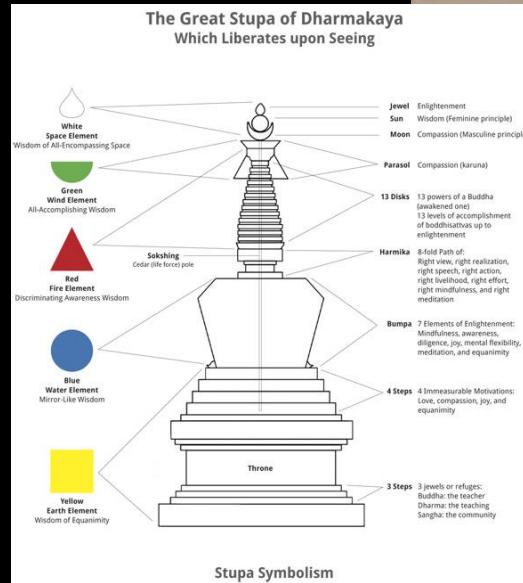


The Dalai Lama is the spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism. The current Dalai Lama is the 14th incarnation.

Tibet

Unknown artist, Tibet, *Chorten*,
13th century, Brass, 2000.31.7

Commemorative **stupas** (Tibet:
chorten) are the oldest symbols of
Buddhism.



Tibet

Unknown artist, Central or Western Tibet, *Amoghasiddhi*, 13th century, Brass with pigment, gilding, and silver inlay, 99.124.1

Amoghasiddhi is one of the five Cosmic Buddhas.



Tibet

Unknown artist, Tibet, *Green Tara*, 14th-15th century, Copper, bronze with turquoise and gold, 99.124.2

“Green Tara is one of the most revered female bodhisattvas, and is worshipped for the ability to overcome obstacles.”

