

# The Eight Auspicious Signs - Combined Form



There are eight central symbols of Tibetan Buddhism known as the Eight Auspicious Symbols.

It is believed that each of the Tibetan symbols represents one aspect of the Buddha's teachings and when appearing all together their powers are multiplied.

# The Eight Auspicious Signs - Individual Form

## The Protection Parasol



1. The precious parasol symbolizes the wholesome activity of preserving beings from illness, harmful forces, obstacles and so forth in this life.

Depicted by the umbrella denotes royalty and spiritual power and is symbolized as the shadow of protection. The coolness of the shade cast by the umbrella symbolizes protection from the heat of spiritually harmful forces and suffering.

"Image(s) courtesy of Osel Shen Phen Ling at [www.fpmt-osei.org](http://www.fpmt-osei.org)"

# The Golden Fish



2. The fish represent the emancipation of one's consciousness from all suffering and thereby leading to eventual spiritual liberation.

Golden Fishes, depicted by two fishes standing vertically with heads turned to each other, denotes good fortune, fertility and salvation. In Tibetan Buddhism the fishes symbolize happiness and fertility, conjugal unity and fidelity and are often given as a wedding present.



## The Great Treasure Vase



3. The treasure vase symbolizes a long life, wealth and prosperity.

Treasure Vase is depicted by a fat-bellied vessel with a short slim neck and a jewel at the top denoting spiritual and material abundance. The symbolism is the association of storage with the satisfaction of material desires, a source of inexhaustible treasure.

## The White Lotus



4. The lotus symbolizes purity of the body, speech and mind and the blossoming of wholesome deeds in blissful liberation. The fully-opened lotus represents the fully-awakened mind and the flower bud represents Buddha-potential.

The lotus flower denotes mental and spiritual purity and is a poignant reminder of the Buddha's teachings. The growth of the lotus from mud, through water to its final resting place in sunshine, symbolizes the progress of the soul or mind through the mud of materialism, the waters of experience and into the sunshine of enlightenment.

"Image(s) courtesy of Osel Shen Phen Ling at [www.fpmt-osel.org](http://www.fpmt-osel.org)"

## The Right-Turning Conch



5. The conch symbolizes the spread of the teachings of the Dharma and an awakening from the slumber of ignorance.

Conch Shell denotes the fame of the Buddha's teachings. It is used to call the religious assemblies together, as a musical instrument and a holy water container.

# The Endless Knot



6. An auspicious geometric diagram, it symbolizes the unity of wisdom, great compassion and the illusory character of time.

Endless Knot, a closed graphic ornament comprising right angled intertwined lines that overlap without beginning or end, symbolize the infinite wisdom of the Buddha. It depicts continuity as the underpinning of the reality of existence.

## The Banner of Victory



7. The banner stands for the complete victory of the Buddhist doctrine over death, ignorance and all the negativities of this world.



## The Wheel of Dharma



8. Representing the Dharma and Shakyamuni himself, the wheel symbolizes the turning of the wheel of Buddha's doctrine both in teachings and realizations enabling us to experience the joy of wholesome deeds and liberation.

Wheel is one of the most important symbols in Tibetan Buddhism and represents the teachings of the Buddha. The wheel's motion depicts rapid spiritual change brought about by his teachings.