



# The Giant Mani Wheel

To benefit all sentient beings, Guan Yin Bodhisattva manifests as the Prayer Wheel to give us a simple yet effective practice to help us purify our negative karma and bless us with wealth.

According to Tibetan Buddhism, prayer wheels can be filled with any of the holy mantras of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, but the most powerful mantra to use is Guan Yin's mantra, the Six Syllable Mantra (OM MANI PADME HUM).

## **The Story of Thekchen Choling's Giant Mani Wheel**

In the early days of Thekchen Choling Singapore, our teacher, Lama Thubten Namdrol Dorje, wished to spread Buddhism more extensively. However, this proved difficult due to limited temple space, and having only a small temple congregation. Lama decided to turn to Buddhist divination methods to help determine how best to flourish the Dharma. The divination results indicated that the answer was to build a prayer wheel, as spinning the prayer wheel would create the cause for the Wheel of Dharma to turn and Buddhism to flourish.

So in 2001, Thekchen Choling Singapore, which was then located at the foothills of Bukit Timah Hill, built a 3m high prayer wheel at its premises, making it Singapore's first giant prayer wheel. After its construction, the area became energized and revitalized, and saw increasing numbers of devotees at the temple. Thereafter, Thekchen Choling Singapore became known as the "Little Tibet" of Singapore. In time, with a congregation steadily growing in size, Thekchen Choling Singapore rented another space at Pasir Panjang from 2006-2007, and later moved to its current premises at Beatty Lane in 2007.

After moving to Beatty Lane, Thekchen Choling Singapore's prayer wheel was refurbished, and its mantra contents have been renewed with 86 gold-plated mantra blocks inscribed with a total of 218,844,788 mantras inside! The more than 218 million mantras include the Six Syllable Mantra (OM MANI PADME HUM) as well as other mantras such as the Hundred Syllable Vajrasattva mantra. In addition, numerous precious and blessed substances such as pearls, sandalwood and gold are wrapped in five-coloured brocade and placed inside the prayer wheel.

On 1 November 2007, Thekchen Choling Singapore's prayer wheel was officially consecrated and blessed by Lama and the Sangha in an official ceremony.

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## **Benefits of Spinning the Prayer Wheel**

Spinning the prayer wheel benefits anyone who sees, hears, remembers or touches it. Spinning it also eradicates vast negative karma, and you accumulate endless stores of merit and the causes of wisdom. Once a prayer wheel is completed, the place it is at will be transformed into an area of peace, joy and tranquillity. It is said that anywhere with a prayer wheel is the same as the Pure Land of Guan Yin. Any sentient beings, including humans, insects, animals and so on, will all be blessed by the prayer wheel, will not fall into the lower realms and will obtain rebirth as a human, god or in a Pure Land of the Buddhas.

The benefits of spinning the prayer wheel include the following:

- 1) Spinning the prayer wheel constantly liberates all sentient beings from suffering.
- 2) Anyone who touches or sees a prayer wheel will not fall into the lower realms.
- 3) Spinning the prayer wheel will cause all sentient beings in the area to enter the Buddhist path.
- 4) If you spin the prayer wheel on a mountain, the entire area will become blessed with auspiciousness and good conditions.
- 5) If a yogi spins the prayer wheel, he will accomplish his own and others' aims.
- 6) A Dharma cultivator who spins the prayer wheel can purify the negative karma of any broken vows.
- 7) A Vajrayana practitioner who spins the prayer wheel can purify negativities and behold his yidam.
- 8) If a doctor spins the prayer wheel, diseases in his area will be eradicated and beings there will be blessed to become Buddha.
- 9) If a king/ruler spins the prayer wheel, his officials and people will be purified of negative karma.
- 10) If soldiers spin the prayer wheel, they will purify negative karma, remove obstacles and increase their merit.
- 11) If a princess spins the prayer wheel, the country will be blessed with abundant harvests and prosperity.
- 12) If a general spins the prayer wheel, his troops and dependents will be purified of negative karma.
- 13) If soldiers spin the prayer wheel, they will be able to protect lives and purify negative karma.

- 14) If businessmen spin the prayer wheel, their businesses will be successful and their wishes fulfilled.
- 15) If a man spins the prayer wheel, he will be blessed with worldly success and abundance.
- 16) If a woman spins the prayer wheel, she can be reborn as a male should she wish.
- 17) If the poor spin the prayer wheel, they will purify negative karma and achieve wealth.

### **How to Visualize when Spinning the Prayer Wheel**

If a prayer wheel is filled with 100 million mantras, each round you spin it is the equivalent of having recited the 100 million mantras.

As you spin the prayer wheel, you can hold your prayer beads in your left hand and use your right hand to spin the wheel continuously. At the same time, visualize all of your own and others' negative karma in the form of black soot sucked into the base of the prayer wheel, followed by visualizing a rain of precious jewels, gold, parasol and beautiful clothes being emitted from the top of the prayer wheel and raining down upon you. Feel that all unhappy and negative circumstances are immediately dispelled, and feel renewed and joyous!

Reciting the Six Syllable Mantra (OM MANI PADME HUM) with your mouth, spinning the prayer wheel with your hand, and visualizing the mantra disc at your heart will together bless you to always be able to cultivate Dharma and lead you to liberation from suffering. In addition, if a person is about to pass away, just by placing a prayer wheel by his side, he will definitely be reborn in a Pure Land of the Buddha without needing to do any further rituals for him. If a dying person merely thinks of the prayer wheel, it will help him attain rebirth in Amitabha or Guan Yin's Pure Land.

Rejoice in the awe-inspiring power and benefit of the prayer wheel!