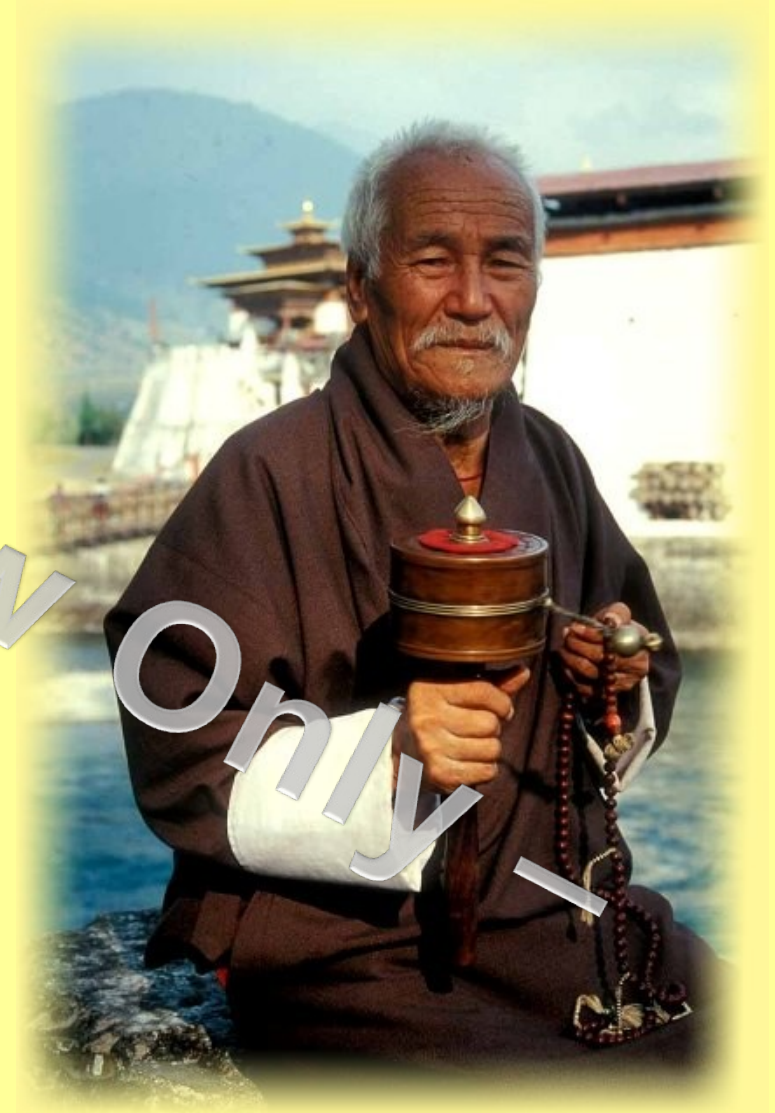




Prayer Wheels

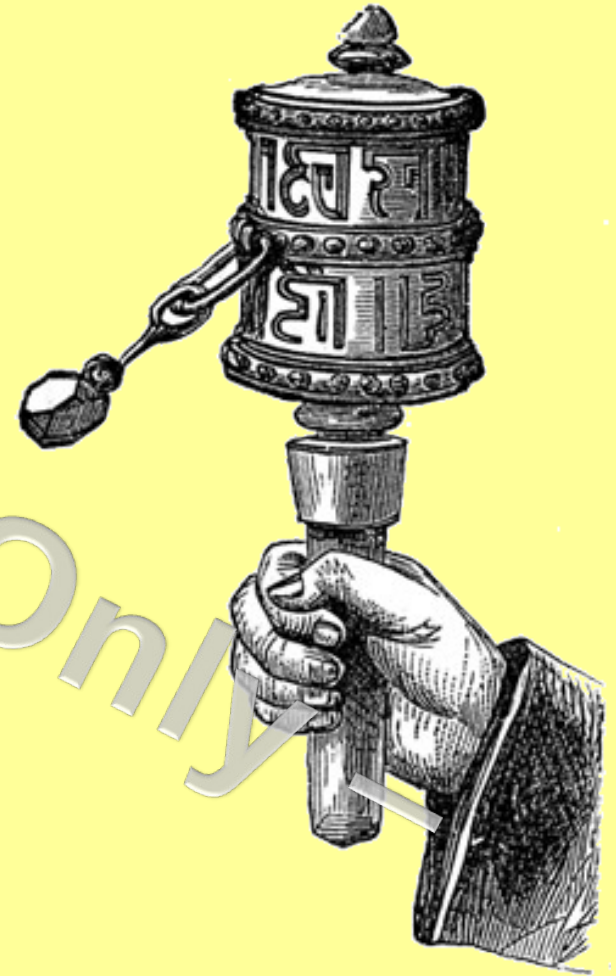




What is a Prayer Wheel?

A prayer wheel is a cylinder with a scroll of paper inside it. Thousands of mantras are written on the scroll.

As the Buddhists walk around the temple, they turn the prayer wheel. By doing this, they release the blessing into the world. As the wheel is turned, a mantra is chanted.





A mantra is a repeated word or phrase. Buddhists like to learn many mantras. Here you can see mantras carved into rock. In Tibet, many Buddhists carve mantras into rocks as a form of meditation.





The prayer wheel is made of a hollow metal cylinder, often beautifully embossed. It is mounted on a red handle and contains a tightly wound scroll printed with a mantra.

According to Tibetan Buddhist belief, spinning a prayer wheel is just as effective as saying the texts aloud.





Prayer wheels come in many sizes: they may be small and attached to a stick, and spun around by hand, medium-sized and set up at monasteries or temples; or very large and continuously spun by a water mill





Prayer wheels at monasteries and temples are located at the gates of the property, and Buddhists spin the wheels before passing through the gates.

