

The Eight Auspicious Symbols



Right-coiled White Conch

The white conch that coils to the right symbolizes the deep, far-reaching and melodious sound of truthful teachings that awaken us from our ignorance and urge us to work for our own and others' welfare.



Precious Umbrella

The precious umbrella symbolizes the wholesome activity of preserving others from illness and other harmful forces that might appear in their lives. It also represents the protection we receive from right action and wisdom.



Victory Banner

The victory banner commemorates our ability to persevere and triumph over the harmful forces of the mind and body that keep us from realizing our full potential and leading happy and productive lives.



Golden Fish

The golden fish symbolize our ability to negotiate all hardships—to swim in the ocean of life—moving from place to place freely and spontaneously, just as fish swim freely without fear through water.



Dharma Wheel

The wheel symbolizes the continual and revolving revelation of truth in our lives, allowing us to experience daily the joy of compassion for all living things.



Auspicious Drawing

The auspicious drawing symbolizes our intertwined relationship with all aspects of the universe. It also represents the union of wisdom and method, encouraging us to bring our great and wise humanity to bear on our understanding of our place in the environment and our effect on its future.



Lotus Flower

Because the lotus flower is rooted in mud, but blossoms into a pure and radiant white flower, the lotus commemorates our ability to transform difficult circumstances into beneficial results.



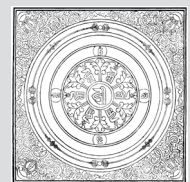
Vase of Treasure

The treasure vase symbolizes the vast collection of wisdom that we have at our disposal as we confront the struggles of our daily lives.

Mandalas are geometric patterns laid out with compasses and chalk lines and then filled in, grain by grain, with sand ground from white marble and colored. The sand is applied with small tubes, funnels and scrapers until the pattern is completed. They're believed to reflect universal principles of harmony and balance and said to prolong life and protect against evil. Visible for centuries only in Buddhist monasteries, the Dalai Lama allowed them to be open to the public in 1988. The mandala is presented as an educational tool for the community and as an offering of peace and harmony.

The mandala will be of Buddha Akshobhya, the Buddha generally associated with purification. His color is blue. The name means immovable or unshakable; his wisdom reflects all things calmly and uncritically as it reveals their true nature. He embodies the perfected state both of our consciousness and of the environment.

See www.uni.edu/mandala to learn more.



Color this mandala used to focus
attention during meditation.

