

## *Chenrezig (Avalokiteshvara)*

Chenrezig is the Bodhisattva of Compassion. A bodhisattva is an enlightened being who has decided to delay becoming a fully enlightened Buddha to save all sentient beings. He appears in many different forms.. Compassion understands that human beings, animals, and the earth itself are all interconnected. Love and compassion reveal the presence of Chenrezig

His mantra is

*Om Mani Padme Hum*

### **BRIEF DISCRIPTION OF THE MANDALA OF AVALOKITESHVARA**

Chenrezig has two forms: a white deity with either four arms or with 1,000 arms; the extra arms symbolize his ability to help many beings at the same time.

Every part of the Mandala has meaning: The central deity Avaloketishvara represents freedom from attachment. The lotus is the mind of renunciation. A Vajra Fence protects the palace from negative conditions. The edge of the Mandala is circled with flames that burn away delusion and the darkneses of ignorance.

The Mandala shows a method of bringing peace and harmony in our world, through practices of the mind of Great Compassion and the Wisdom of Emptiness. Inspired by the Mandala, you, too, can practice these virtues and bring about a positive change in the world. Just viewing the Mandala will create a positive impression on your mind-stream. For a moment it is in touch with the potential for perfect Enlightenment that exists within the minds of all beings.

At the end of the ritual, the Mandala will be dismantled and the sand powders of the Mandala will be thrown into a clean river or a sea to remind us of the impermanence of the world and to purify the environment.