

TIBETAN PRAYER FLAGS

2018-19 Tour and Presentation by Monks of the Labrang Tashi Kyil Monastery in Dehra Dun, India



Prayer flags consist of auspicious mantra syllables and prayers, which are printed with wood blocks onto squares of cotton cloth in each of the five Buddha colors: blue, white, red, green, and yellow.

Usually the windhorse is at the center with the four supernatural creatures at each corner: the dragon, the garuda, the snow lion, and the tiger.

Windhorse gallops like the wind carrying the wish-fulfilling jewel. It radiates peace, prosperity, knowledge, success, long life, protection and health. Windhorse symbolizes positive personal power, which eliminates all hindrances caused by illness, accidents, malignant spirits and astrological auspiciousness, bestowing personal power and good luck.

Around the windhorse are 20 mantras, powerful ritual utterances, each dedicated to a particular deity. The idea is that as the wind passes over the surface of the flag, the air becomes purified, sanctified, and sweetened by the mantras. This is beneficial for all beings in the neighborhood.



TBMCC – Bloomington, IN – Photo by M. LaMantia



In addition to the mantras, prayers for long-life and good fortune are offered for the person who erects the flags.

Tibetan prayer flags are flown in many parts of the world and all over the Tibetan cultural world—on high mountain passes, rooftops, above rapids in mountain streams, bridges, monasteries—everywhere!