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| Aksobhya | One of the five Dhyani Buddha’s. His name means ‘imperturbable’ and he is associated with the colour blue. |
| Amoghassiddhi | One of the five Dhyani Buddha’s. His name means ‘unobstructed success’ and he is associated with the colour green. |
| Avalokitsvara | The bodhisattva of compassion. His name means ‘he who heard the cries of the world’. |
| Bodhisattva | Literally ‘Enlightenment being’. In the Mahayana tradition, a being who has postponed entry into nirvana in order to assist others. |
| Buddhahood | A state that Mahayana Buddhists would say is available to everybody. |
| Buddha-nature | Mahayana Buddhism descried every being as having a latent Buddha-nature that needs to be revealed. |
| Celestial Buddhas | Buddhas that occupy realms other than our human realm. |
| Compassion | One of the two principle characteristics of a Buddha or Bodhisattva, the other being Wisdom. |
| Manjusri | The bodhisattva of wisdom. |
| Nichiren Buddhism | A form of Japanese Buddhism that sees the Lotus Sutra as the most authoritative scripture. |
| Pratitya Samutpada/ Pattica samuppada | Often translated as ‘Conditioned Co-production’, ‘Interdependent Origination’. A description of reality, denoting that all phenomena are casually linked. |
| Ratnasambhava | One of the five Dhyani Buddha’s. His name means ‘jewel-born one’ and he is associated with the colour yellow. |
| Samsara | The endless round of birth, death and rebirth and entrapment in Dukkha. |
| Tara | A female enlightened being, venerated by Tibetan Buddhists. |
| Vairocana | One of the give Dhyani Buddha’s. His name means ‘the illuminator’ and he is associated with the colour white. |
| Vishva-vajra | The double thunderbolt, representing the impact of enlightenment a thousand times over. |
| Wisdom | one of the two principle characteristics of a Buddha or Bodhisattva, the other being compassion. |
| Zen | a form of Japanese Mahayana Buddhism that emphasised that nirvana is in the here and now. |