Color Symbolism in Buddhism From ReligionFacts

**Color symbolism** is used in a wide variety of fascinating ways in Buddhist art and ritual. In Buddhism, especially in Tibetan Buddhism, each of **five colors** (*pancha-varna*) symbolizes a state of mind, a celestial buddha, a part of the body, a part of the mantra word *Hum*, or a natural element. (Blue and black are sometimes interchangeable.)

It is believed that by meditating on the individual colors, which contain their respective essences and are associated with a particular buddha or bodhisattva, spiritual transformations can be achieved (see the table below).

Following is a table summarizing the meaning of the main color symbols in Buddhism.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/images/symbols/thumbs/blue.gif | http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/images/symbols/thumbs/black.gif | http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/images/symbols/thumbs/white.gif | http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/images/symbols/red.gif | http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/images/symbols/green.gif | http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/images/symbols/thumbs/yellow.gif |
| **Color** | [**Blue**](http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/symbols/blue.htm) | [**Black**](http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/symbols/black.htm) | [**White**](http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/symbols/white.htm) | [**Red**](http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/symbols/red.htm) | [**Green**](http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/symbols/green.htm) | [**Yellow**](http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/symbols/yellow.htm) |
| **General Meanings** | coolness, infinity, ascension, purity, healing | primordial darkness, hate | learning, knowledge, purity, longevity | life force, preservation, the sacred, blood, fire | balance, harmony, vigor, youth, action | rootedness, renunciation, earth |
| **Seen In:** | turquoise, lapis lazuli | black thangkas | White Tara, white elephant | coral, red thangkas | Green Tara | saffron robes of monks |
| **Emotion, Action** | killing, anger | killing, hatred | rest and thinking | subjugation and summoning | exorcism | restraining and nourishing |
| **Transforms:** | anger into mirror-like wisdom | hate into compassion | delusion of ignorance into wisdom of reality | delusion of attachment into the wisdom of discernment | jealousy into the wisdom of accomplishment | pride into wisdom of sameness |
| **Buddha** | Akshobhya | n/a | Vairocana | Amitabha | Amoghasiddhi | Ratna-sambhava |
| **Part of *Hum*Hum** | the dot (drop) on the crescent | n/a | the crescent | syllable 'ha' | vowel 'u' | the head |
| **Body Part** | ears | n/a | eyes | tongue | head | nose |
| **Element** | air | air | water | fire | n/a | earth |

Colour meanings according to Spirit and Destiny magazine and Silk Mandala

Red – strength, high energy, passion, fire

Pink – love, intuition, the feminine

Orange – creativity, transformation, self-awareness, intuition

Yellow – learning, wisdom, laughter and happiness, power and lightness, joy

Green – physical healing, psychic ability, love of nature and caring

Blue – emotional healing, inner peace and meditation

Purple – all things spiritual

White – spiritual focus, purity, unity

Black – mystery, deep thinking and individuality, secrets and darkness

Grey and brown – either cold or warm – boredom and sadness, or vitality and

Cheerfulness

Symbolic meanings of various symbols according to Pintrest:

Animals – intellectual aspects of being

Birds – spirituality, air and transformation

Butterflies – transformation

Circles – eternity and no beginning or end

Cross – balance; life’s difficulties and opposites coming together

Eyes – ability to see and the intellectual

Flowers – spring, beauty, life

Hearts – love

Lightening – energy and change

Rainbows – return to happiness and goodness

Squares – firmness, stability and balance