

STORIES FROM HIMALAYAN AMERICANS

यार्केन्ध्रन्त्रीः त्यवार्ये विद्यान्त्रे विद्यान्ते विद्यान्त्रे विद्यान्त्रे विद्यान्त्यान्त्यान्ते विद्यान्ते विद्यान्

ब्रु इया ग्रीया निर्देश वित्या ग्री केंगा व्या केंद्रा निर्दाली निष्य त्रुया विद्या निष्य है स्वर्ध निष्य केंद्रा विद्या केंद्रा केंद्र के

वार्षान्धन्णीः त्यवाः ते व्याद्याः व्याद्याः

Healing practices vary across the world. In times of personal and societal crisis, Tibetan Buddhist practices serve to prevent illness, cultivate healing, and promote long life. Many of the Himalayan Americans featured in this exhibition are using these practices during the COVID-19 pandemic to support the well-being of themselves and their communities.

Well-being is often defined as being happy and healthy. In Tibetan Buddhism, well-being is achieved through interdependent mental and physical balance. Preventing unbalanced states, restoring, and extending mind-body balance requires a range of practices from spiritual to medicinal. The lifelong pursuit of a balanced state of being requires confronting and transforming suffering.

Art helps guide this deeply personal process. Visual aids support healers and practitioners in activities such as meditation, rituals, and mindfulness, as well as inspiring acts of loving kindness and compassion.

Healing Practices: Stories from Himalayan Americans highlights how Tibetan Buddhist practices for well-being have been powerful sources of support for individuals and communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Pairing objects from the Rubin Museum's collection with stories from Himalayan Americans reveals the complexities of what it means to heal and illustrates how people have adopted and adapted these healing practices for today's world.

#HEALINGPRACTICES



वर्ष्ट्रवायांचाःचाःयवाःयवा

बचका खे. खूँच का खुचा चर्में चे. लूना जून में चे. ज्या का की ने का की ने का की ने का की का की का की का की ने की ने का की ने की ने की ने का की ने की ने की ने की ने की ने का की ने क

PREVENTATIVE PRACTICES

How can we actively avoid suffering in our lives? The first step is preventing an unbalanced mind and body.

Environmental and societal factors, as well as personal behaviors, can cause imbalances, allowing illness to manifest in the body and mind. Focusing on eradicating symptoms alone does not necessarily lead to long-term well-being. To counteract threats that cause disease, practitioners try to restore balance. Preventative practices focus on facing obstacles, protecting against threats, living compassionately, minimizing environmental imbalances, and actively maintaining good health. Rituals, inspired by the visual representations in Tibetan Buddhist art, create a shroud of protection and guide people toward behaviors that create mind-body alignment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Himalayan Americans turned to these preventive practices in new ways. Listen to their stories in this space.



नरकर्षामार्देरायेक्।

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FACING OBSTACLES

TSHERIN SHERPA (B. 1968, KATHMANDU; LIVES AND WORKS IN SAN FRANCISCO) UNTITLED

2010 GOUACHE, ACRYLIC, AND GOLD LEAF ON MUSEUM BOARD RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART SC2010.31

It's essential to acknowledge and confront the obstacles to well-being. In Tibetan Buddhism, bodhisattvas can aid practitioners in this personal struggle. Though the bodhisattvas in Tsherin Sherpa's painting wear traditional garb, they do not follow the conventional portrayal of figures who have compassionately delayed their own enlightenment for humankind. Instead, they appear as soldiers prepared for battle, with muscles flexed and fists clenched. Sherpa seems to ask what kinds of obstacles bodhisattvas must overcome in the modern age to end suffering for all.

FEATURED STORY: Educator Chime Dolma connects her experience of the pandemic to this painting. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



यहम्बर्गायायमञ्जूनाया

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PROTECTION FROM THREATS

TARA PROTECTING FROM THE EIGHT FEARS

KHAM PROVINCE, EASTERN TIBET; 19TH CENTURY PIGMENTS ON CLOTH RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART GIFT OF SHELLEY & DONALD RUBIN FOUNDATION F1997.15.1

How can we stay safe in today's world? Many Tibetan Buddhists around the world start their day by reciting the prayer of Tara Who Protects from the Eight Fears. As a powerful female figure in Buddhism, she is dedicated to aiding all sentient beings. She helps practitioners overcome and protect against external and internal threats, which can cause physical and mental illness and prevent spiritual progress. Her assistance in maintaining good health makes this daily practice vital. Tara protects against eight fears, which are presented as external manifestations of internal threats. They are depicted here in the scenes surrounding her: ghosts/demons (doubts or disease), drowning (desire and attachment), fire (anger), false imprisonment (greed), bandits (wrong views), wild elephants (ignorance), snakes (jealousy and envy), and lions (pride).

FEATURED STORY: Women's advocate Sang Mota discusses how Tara helps her overcome fears, especially during the rise of anti-Asian hate in 2020. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



यहेम्बर्गायायार्श्चेताया

श्रुवायुरा

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PROTECTION FROM THREATS

GREEN TARA

TIBET; 15TH CENTURY
SILVER, GILT COPPER ALLOY WITH INLAID SEMI-PRECIOUS
STONES
RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART
C2005.16.45 (HAR 65468)

Green Tara is one of the most popular manifestations of Tara, who is venerated for her protective powers against physical illness. Practitioners ask Green Tara for help when seeking safety, well-being, and intervention in times of suffering. This Green Tara is in a typical pose, with her right leg extended so she can leap to someone's aid when called upon.



र्वे १ दुश्यः स्वर्थः १८-१५ १ दें दें १ दृश्यः स्वर्थः १८-१५ १ दें १ दुश्यः स्वर्थः १ द्वार्थः १ द्वार्यः १ द्वार्थः १ द्वार्यः १ द्वार्यः १ द्वार्यः १ द्वार्यः १ द्वार्यः १ द्वार्यः १ द

C2006.66.178 (HAR 190)



COMPASSION

THOUSAND-ARMED ELEVEN-FACED ALL-SEEING LORD AVALOKITESHVARA SAHASRABHUJA EKADASHAMUKHA

TIBET; 14TH–15TH CENTURY GROUND MINERAL PIGMENT, RAISED GOLD ON COTTON RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART GIFT OF SHELLEY AND DONALD RUBIN C2006.66.178 (HAR 190)

Compassion is essential for living a healthy life. Avalokiteshvara, the "One Who Hears the Cries of the World," embodies compassion and ultimate selflessness, as he vowed never to rest until liberating all beings from suffering. His Great Compassion mantra benefits all sentient beings by purifying negative karma and offering protection, healing, and long life. Avalokiteshvara praised people who care for the sick, because like him, they put the welfare of others above their own. Engaging in positive actions and accumulating good karma is necessary to reach enlightenment, sometimes referred to as liberation.

FEATURED STORY: Registered nurse Pema Dorjee connects the work of doctors and nurses to the compassionate figure in this painting. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



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C2007.138

च्यायान्त्रहेरहेराम्बद्धीः स्वाप्त्रहेरा व्याप्ति विष्या विषया व

COMPASSION

GADE (B. 1971, LHASA; LIVES AND WORKS IN LHASA)

MOTHER AND CHILD

MIXED MEDIA ON CLOTH
THE SHELLEY AND DONALD RUBIN PRIVATE COLLECTION
C2007.138

Practicing selfless acts of compassion to alleviate others' suffering can purify one's own negative karma. Gade captures the essence of a compassionate being in this painting of a mother and child, which exudes the feeling of loving kindness, attentive care, and compassion. These are essential in nurturing well-being, whether in children, adults, or communities.

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र्वेन्द्रवुक्षः वार्डरः क्षात्वया नुक्षः रवकाः १०० रकाः वेका रक्षः वेका रु:श्चेन् श्चुः स्वयः विकाः श्चेनः विद्या C2003.36.3 (HAR 65302)

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMBALANCES

PARNASHAVARI, GODDESS OF NATURAL HEALING

CENTRAL TIBET; 19TH CENTURY PIGMENTS ON CLOTH RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART C2003.36.3 (HAR 65302)

Environmental imbalances not only disrupt ecosystems and cause irreparable damage to our planet but also lead to disease and harm. Rituals and mantras associated with Parnashavari, a manifestation of Tara in the center of this painting, work to prevent or eliminate contagious epidemics.

Empowered by nature, Parnashavari is clothed in medicinal plants and herbs, and she carries a bow, arrow, and battle axe to defeat illness (ignorance). With one leg extended, she is ready to jump into action to help those in need. Many high lamas recommended reciting Parnashavari's mantras during the COVID-19 outbreak.

FEATURED STORY: Community activist Aatish Gurung speaks to the power of healing through nature. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.





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C2009.10.76

ENVIRONMENTAL IMBALANCES

TALISMAN: PROTECTION FROM DISEASE

DOLPO REGION, WESTERN NEPAL; CA. 1975 INK ON PAPER RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART GIFT OF NIK DOUGLAS C2009.10.76

People can become unbalanced from environmental threats such as disease, pollutants, and even the effects of climate change. Tibetan Buddhist practitioners use talismans, objects marked with magic signs and believed to confer supernatural powers of protection on the bearer, to protect against disease and sickness. Personal objects like these can be carried on the body or hidden in households.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMBALANCES

DEMON-BINDING CHARM AGAINST SICKNESS

DOLPO REGION, WESTERN NEPAL; CA. 1975 INK ON PAPER RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART GIFT OF NIK DOUGLAS C2009.10.17

People can become unbalanced from environmental threats such as disease, pollutants, and even the effects of climate change. Tibetan Buddhist practitioners use talismans, objects marked with magic signs and believed to confer supernatural powers of protection on the bearer, to protect against disease and sickness. Personal objects like these can be carried on the body or hidden in households.

र्तेर:धुवाःर्रेश्चेर्श्वेयशया

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMBALANCES PROTECTIVE ASTROLOGICAL CHART

TIBET; LATE 18TH CENTURY OR 19TH CENTURY PIGMENTS ON CLOTH RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART C2006.71.11 (HAR 65764)

Astrology can be used to bring or maintain balance and harmony in one's life. Many Tibetan medicine doctors have a knowledge of astrology and can use it to help their patients. A trained Tibetan astrologer can identify and alert someone to an impending obstacle and advise on daily practices or behavioral changes to counteract such threats. Displaying this chart in the home can help provide protection and guide one's lifestyle choices and activities.

FEATURED STORY: Artist Tsewang Lhamo shares how artmaking and astrology provide emotional support. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



रेंक्स्रिस्य परा हो राया

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ACTIVE BALANCE

VAJRADHARA WITH EIGHTY-FIVE GREAT ADEPTS (MAHASIDDHAS)

WESTERN TIBET; CA. 15TH CENTURY
PIGMENTS ON CLOTH
RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART
GIFT OF SHELLEY & DONALD RUBIN FOUNDATION
F1998.17.3 (HAR 665)

Tibetan yoga is an active series of rhythmic movements that systematically release physical, energetic, and mental blockages to achieve health, happiness, and spiritual benefits. In this painting, an elaborately crowned Vajradhara, primordial guru of tantric lineages, sits in the center surrounded by the eighty-five great tantric adepts known as mahasiddhas. Many adepts are engaged in strenuous yogic poses, exemplifying the importance of this practice in their lives.

FEATURED STORY: Tibetan medicine doctor and yoga instructor Dr. Jetsun Cheme describes how she supports the well-being of women in her community through yoga. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



यक्षेत्र'त्रयोस'क्षेत्र'यर'योश'यर्जेश रु:ब्रेत्र'त्रयोस'क्षेत्र'यर'योश'यर्जेश

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VIDEO, APPROX. 6 MIN. PRODUCED BY THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

Yoga combines slow, meditative movements with rhythmic breathing and mindful awareness that reestablishes the harmonious flow of blood, oxygen, and energy throughout the body.

The principles of yoga align with Tibetan medicine's pursuit of physically balancing all body systems, nourishing the spine, aligning the musculoskeletal system, improving joint mobility, and boosting organ function. Tibetan yoga is part of a deep spiritual tradition that also cultivates a calm, focused mind, which transforms negative emotions into peace and equanimity.

Try a series of yoga movements designed to alleviate stress and cultivate well-being, guided by Tibetan medicine doctor and yoga instructor Dr. Jetsun Cheme.

Please practice safely.

गर्रे रहार ग्री अग भेरा

ह्येर्-ररायान्गातःरयातस्यन्यतेः स्मूचयाः सुः द्वय्यायेदायार हियाः वीयाः सदः स्वायाः स्वेयाः सुराद्या

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HEALING PRACTICES

How do you heal an unbalanced mind-body?

A positive mind and healthy behaviors promote good health while a negative mind and unhealthy behaviors can lead to sickness. Diet, lifestyle choices, and seasonal changes can also disturb balance, leading to disease and disorders. When the body and mind are imbalanced, healing practices can restore equilibrium. A holistic approach to mind-body healing includes both physicians and spiritual teachers. Tibetan medicine, known in Tibetan as Sowa Rigpa (་གལོ་ང་རྡོ་ལ།་ང་ང་), the "science of healing," combines medicinal remedies with mental and spiritual practices. These practices, along with associated figures such as the Medicine Buddha, are seen as remedies to promote healing for individuals and communities. Healers and activists have been essential to the spread of these practices. Throughout this section, hear how these practices have been adapted to provide comfort and relief in today's world.



त्युक्ष क्षेत्रका वार्के वा

মংমাক্রমাস্থরা

C2008.19 (HAR 57001)



MIND-BODY HEALING

MEDICINE BUDDHA, BHAISAJYAGURU

TIBET; 18TH–19TH CENTURY PIGMENTS ON CLOTH RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART GIFT OF RALPH REDFORD C2008.19 (HAR 57001)

In times of pain, sickness, or stress, many Buddhists meditate on and offer prayers to the Medicine Buddha, seen in the center of this painting. This buddha, known as Bhaishajyaguru, the "Guru of Medicine," cures suffering and disease. Tibetan doctors often begin each day making herbal medicines and chanting the Medicine Buddha's mantras to further empower the medicine's benefits.

FEATURED STORY: Community development professional Tshering Yangzom discusses the efforts made by her home country, Bhutan, to support its citizens throughout the globe during the pandemic. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.





Community development professional Tshering Yangzom received a digital image of the Medicine Buddha, which was distributed to citizens from Bhutan at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. As displayed here, she used it as the background of her cell phone to maintain a connection to her home country and to bring safety to herself during the pandemic. You can hear her story in this gallery.

युक्ष क्षेत्रका वार्के वा

यरयासुयासुन्स्तिरे मुर्गियावर्षिम्।

র্বির্শীর্ঝাল্রহিংঝাদ্রেমা বুঝার্বঝা? ব্যাপ্রিকা ব্যাপ্রিকা ব্যাপ্রিকা বিশ্বীর্বার্কিনির্বার্গীর্বিলার্কাশা C2006.66.420 (HAR 868)

यदर्श्वार्थित्वर्यः क्ष्यः न्योत्वर्यः क्ष्यः न्योत्वर्यः क्ष्यः व्यव्याः क्ष्यः व्यव्याः क्ष्यः व्यव्याः क्ष्यः व्यव्याः क्ष्यः व्यव्याः व्यव्यः व्यव्याः व्यव्याः व्यव्यः व्

यान्यासुन्। ष्यारेतिनेतुर्धियानेत्यायाध्यते स्वर्थान्य । स्वीप्यते प्रमेशायाने स्वर्थान्य । स्वीप्यत्य । स्विप भीषान्तुर्वादि । ष्यारेति स्वर्थाने स्वर्थाने स्वर्थाने स्वर्थाने स्वर्थाने स्वर्थाने स्वर्थाने स्वर्थाने । स्वर्थाने स्वर्ये स्वर्थाने स्वर्ये स्वर्थाने



MIND-BODY HEALING

MANDALA OF MEDICINE BUDDHA

CENTRAL TIBET; 19TH CENTURY
PIGMENTS ON CLOTH
RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART
GIFT OF SHELLEY AND DONALD RUBIN
C2006.66.420 (HAR 868)

Buddhists use artistic aids such as mandalas to promote mind and body healing. Advanced practitioners employ the mandala of the Medicine Buddha for visualization practices and recitation of mantras. They are said to be showered with a healing light from the Medicine Buddha that drives out bad karma and sickness, which are visualized as black sludge and smoke.

FEATURED STORY: New York City-based Himalayan community Buddhist teacher Geshe Tashi Dorje shares the role of the Medicine Buddha mantra and talks about his practice with his community. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



र्वरङ्ग्रम्। याषुःर्वयाः प्रमान्यवादाः विश्वर्था (११२८-१२०२)

র্বিন্। বৃষ্ণাম্বাষ্ণাগ্রে মুষ্ণান্ত্রীষা মুষ্ণীরাষ্ট্রাস্ক্রামার্ক্ররাব্রামার্ক্ররাব্রান্ত C2010.5

याषार्धियाः विष्ठान्त्रः सर्वेदि संस्थिताः योषाः स्त्रुद्धः यो स्त्रुद्धः स्त्रुयाः याद्यद्धः स्त्रुयाः याद्यद याद्यद्धः याद्यप्त्रायाः स्वर्धः स्त्रेद्धः स्त्रुद्धः याद्यदः स्त्रुयाः स्त्रेद्धः स्त्रुयाः याद्यदः स्त्रुद यायायाः स्त्रियाः स्त्रियाः स्त्रियाः स्त्रियाः स्त्रुद्धः स्त्रुद्धः स्त्रुद्धः स्त्रुद्धः स्त्रुद्धः स्त्रुद यायायाः स्त्रुद्धः स्त

मह्रम्भुत्। वेद्रण्णे मर्के प्रदेश्वर्षायते क्षुत्रप्राप्ते क्षुत्रम्य प्रदेशका विष्य क्षित्र विषय क्षित्र क्ष विषय क्षेत्र हत्र स्वर्षेत्र सित्रे सह्तर हे का प्राह्मे प्रदेश द्वर्ष प्रदेश प्रदेश क्षेत्र क्षेत्र



TIBETAN MEDICINE

PORTRAIT OF TIBETAN (MEDICAL) MASTER YUTOK YONTEN GONPO (1126–1202)

TIBET; 19TH CENTURY PIGMENTS ON CLOTH RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART C2010.5

Yonten Gonpo the Younger, pictured here, compiled the Four Tantra texts, which explain the essence of Tibetan medical theory and practice. These theories are often presented via paintings like the two medical thangkas in this section.

FEATURED STORY: Tibetan medicine doctor Dr. Dickyi Yangzom connects her admiration of Yutok Yonten Gonpo, founder of Tibetan medicine, to her experiences treating patients. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



र्ने नुसूत्रा

न्ययास्याम् रिन्धायक्ष्यविष्याचा १००० सर्वे स्वाविष्टक्षेत्रा रे वर्क्षयान्याम् रिन्धायक्ष्यचा

र्चन्सून्वेन्वर्भःन्धन्णुःक्ष्यभःभेन्वर्भः विवाधिन। र्चन्णुःसून्यः इस्यभःणुभःन्यः यहनान्धन्यान्धन्यान्यः विवाधिन। र्वन्यः विवाधिन। र्वन्यः विवाधिन। र्वन्यः विवाधिन। र्वन्यः विवाधिन। यहन्यः विवाधिन। सून्यः यहन्यः स्वाधिन। स्वाधिनः यहन्यः सून्यः स्वाधिन। स्वाधिनः यहन्यः सून्यः स्वाधिन। स्वाधिनः यहन्यः सून्यः स्वाधिन। स्वाधिनः यहन्यः सून्यः स्वाधिनः स्वाधिनः स्वाधिन। स्वाधिनः स्व



TIBETAN MEDICINE

HUA KHAR (ACTIVE 1990s, QINGHAI PROVINCE, CHINA)

COURSE OF THE LIFESPAN PRINCIPLE

CHENTSA, AMDO REGION, NORTHEASTERN TIBET (JIANZHA, QINGHAI PROVINCE, CHINA); 1995–1996
PIGMENTS ON CLOTH
RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART
GIFT OF SHELLEY AND DONALD RUBIN PRIVATE COLLECTION C2014.9.12

Tibetan medicine is an essential healing practice. Tibetan medicine doctors use holistic diagnostic techniques that consider age, personality, diet, behavior, season, and environment. They counsel patients toward well-being by prescribing herbal medicines, advising on lifestyle choices like food and yogic exercise, and suggesting spiritual practices and rituals. These paintings are part of a series of seventy-nine that illustrate the principles of Tibetan medical theory and act as guides for physicians and healthcare workers. Detailing the basis of both health and disease, these two visualize topics related to life span cycles and dietary restrictions.

FEATURED STORY: Tibetan medicine doctor Dr. Kunga Wangdue describes the role of diet when recovering from disease. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



र्चेन्ड्रुब्

न्ययास्य रिन्धायक्ष्यविष्या १००० सक्ष्मिन्विरक्षेत्रा रे न्यास्यास्य रिन्धायक्ष्यविष्यास्य १००० सक्ष्मिन्विरक्षेत्रा रे

र्चन्सूबिन्दिन्त्रीः न्धन्त्रीः दुस्याः दुस्याः विवाधिव। र्चन्त्रीः सूब्यः स्स्याः ग्रीकावन्त्राः निस्याः विवाधिव। र्चन्त्रीः सूब्यः स्स्याः ग्रीकावन्त्राः विवाधिव। र्वन्त्रीः स्वाधिव। विवाधिव। विवाधि



TIBETAN MEDICINE

HUA KHAR (ACTIVE 1990s, QINGHAI PROVINCE, CHINA)

KNOWLEDGE OF DIETETICS—DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

CHENTSA, AMDO REGION, NORTHEASTERN TIBET (JIANZHA, QINGHAI PROVINCE, CHINA); 1995–1996
PIGMENTS ON CLOTH
RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART
GIFT OF SHELLEY AND DONALD RUBIN PRIVATE COLLECTION C2014.9.22

Tibetan medicine is an essential healing practice. Tibetan medicine doctors use holistic diagnostic techniques that consider age, personality, diet, behavior, season, and environment. They counsel patients toward well-being by prescribing herbal medicines, advising on lifestyle choices like food and yogic exercise, and suggesting spiritual practices and rituals. These paintings are part of a series of seventy-nine that illustrate the principles of Tibetan medical theory and act as guides for physicians and healthcare workers. Detailing the basis of both health and disease, these two visualize topics related to life span cycles and dietary restrictions.

FEATURED STORY: Tibetan medicine doctor Dr. Kunga Wangdue describes the role of diet when recovering from disease. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



विन् भी ख्रुवाया मुवान वित् न्वाया निव् क्षुवाय विष्य क्षुवाय वित् भी ख्रुवाय वित् भी ख्रुवाय क्षित् वित् क्षुवाय क्ष्य क्ष्य

Tibetan medicine doctors Dr. Kunga Wangdue and Dr. Dekyi Yangzom helped patients during the pandemic through a variety of medications and techniques seen here. These practices include a variety of herbal remedies in pill form and cupping instruments that are applied to the skin to help reduce pain and inflammation. For some patients diagnosed with COVID-19, these practices helped provide a little relief from their symptoms. You can hear these doctors' stories in this gallery.

यर्नेद्रश्चर्यंद्रयाय्याय्यायः विवर्तेष्यः विवर्षेष्यः विवर्तेष्यः विवर्तेषयः विवर्ययः विवर्तेषयः विवर्तेषयः विवर्तेषयः वि

র্বিন্। বৃষ্ণাম্বাষাণ্ড বাষ্ট্যমান্ত্রহাষা মৃষ্ট্রমান্ত্র্রাষাষ্ট্রমান্ত্রা C2004.26.1 (HAR 65375)

७वें रःष्याः संक्षेत्रं स्वान्तर्द्धं नवर्द्धं नवर्द्धः सर्वे सर्वे स्वान्त्रं स्वान्त्यः स्वान्त्रं स्वान्त्रं स्वान्त्रं स्वान्त्रं स्वान्त्यं स्वान्त्

महिराक्नुन्। बिनायह्मायानमान्तरके रेन्या स्ट्रिया स्ट्रिया स्ट्रिया विषय स्ट्रिया विषय स्ट्रिया विषय स्ट्रिया व सु: स्ट्रिया पर्देश के दाया बन्या बन्य स्ट्रिया स्ट्रिया प्रदेश स्ट्रिया विषय स्ट्रिय



HEALERS AND ACTIVISTS

THE FIFTH DALAI LAMA, NGAWANG LOPSANG GYATSO (1617–1682)

TIBET; 17TH CENTURY GILT COPPER ALLOY RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART C2004.26.1 (HAR 65375)

The Fifth Dalai Lama, Ngawang Lopsang Gyatso, is one of many past healers and activists revered for their pioneering contributions to the practice of Tibetan medicine. He helped institute major healing rituals in Tibet and supported spreading the knowledge of Tibetan medicine practices by founding a medical college and publishing Buddhist medical tantras for wider distribution. In his teachings, the Fifth Dalai Lama relayed the interdependence of mental and physical healing in the holistic approach to well-being.

FEATURED STORY: Independent researcher Nawang Gurung discusses how he amplified the voices of healing professionals in Queens, New York, at the beginning of the pandemic. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



विचायह्रवाःसःस्वाःन्चर्याः सुरायवाकाः ग्रीका वेद्वः र्यावाकाः विचायह्रवाः स्वाकाः विचायह्रवाः स्वाकाः विचायह्य यावाववः याः स्वाकाः साववर्याः सुरायविष्यं भी का विद्यायाः याववर्षः स्वाकाः ग्रीः विवक्षः सुरायद्वाः स्वाकाः सु विचायह्याः साववाः स्वाकाः स्वावकाः सुरायहाः विचकाः विचकाः स्वावकाः स्वावकाः स्वावकाः स्वावकाः सुरायहाः स्वावका

न्ध्रेव धेवा वर्गो वें रावो वा ह्या क्रुन् क्षेत्र देव ने नवा श्रुष्ट श्रेव के वा श्री वा वा वर्ष वा श्री वा वा

Independent researcher Nawang Gurung took to the streets of New York City to document the experience of frontline workers from Himalayan American communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Listen to some of those stories in their own words here. For a summary of their stories in English, click into the description area of the track listing.

वार्श्यन्धन्यः न्द्राय्याः वर्ष्याः वर्षाः वर्षा

র্বন্য বৃষ্ণামন্ত্রপাপ বৃহ্নি স্কু'ব্দানা প্র'ব্দান্ত্র্যুক্তর বিশ্বান্ত্র্যুক্ত বিশ্বান্ত্র বিশ্বান্ত্র্যুক্ত বিশ্বান্ত্র্যুক্ত বিশ্বান্ত্র বিশ্বান বিশ্বান্ত বিশ্বান

त्यः यार्थाय मुन्यते वर्षेवः पते स्त्रीतः न्यंवः प्रायत् स्वायः विद्वः याव्यः विद्यः याव्यः विद्यः याव्यः विद्य वरः यार्थ्यः स्त्रेवः विवाः येव। स्त्रेवः प्रत्यः प्रत्युः याव्यः यात्रेवः याव्यः यात्रेवः याव्यः यात्रेवः याव्यः य्यः याव्यः य

HEALERS AND ACTIVISTS

PADMASAMBHAVA

TIBET; 15TH CENTURY
SILVER AND GILT COPPER ALLOY WITH INLAYS OF TURQUOISE
AND CORAL
RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART
C2005.16.36 (HAR 65459)

Padmasambhava, who flourished during the eighth century, is the precious master and founder of Vajrayana Buddhism in Tibet, a form of Buddhism that emphasizes esoteric practices that lead to achieving enlightenment within one lifetime. Padmasambhava offered a wish-fulfilling healing prayer known as Sampha Lhundrupma, in which he is personified as a reincarnation of the Medicine Buddha, the divine physician who cures all illness.



वर्यतेः र्श्वेन्द्रम् द्रिय्द्रम् स्थ्याचे वर्षः द्र्यत्रः स्थ्याचे वर्षः वर्

HEALERS AND ACTIVISTS TANGTONG GYELPO (1361–1485)

TIBET; 19TH CENTURY GROUND MINERAL PIGMENT ON COTTON RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART C2006.66.478 (HAR 940)

Both Buddhist teachers and physicians are healers who aim to free individuals from suffering. Gurus help people overcome negative states of the mind and earn positive karma while physicians offer medical remedies and lifestyle advice to help people overcome physical and mental ailments. Tangtong Gyelpo served in both these roles. He invented medicines in pill form that cure epidemic diseases. Tibetan medicine doctors still prescribe these precious pills today.

वर्ञ्चरर्ग्यार्थाना हे पर्वत क्षेत्र प्राप्त प्राप्त प्रमु

र्वेत्। त्रायवयातः ম্পান্ত্রীমা रःस्वेषःश्चःस्यात्रज्ञेसःस्वापरा ने'भे'र्रे'र्रे'र्रेभर्'रुष्ट्रेय्वेय्वेय्येय्याः

F1996.32.5 (HAR 542)

हे नर्डु कर्र्स्से प्रान्त्र निर्मे के प्राप्त कर में कर हैं स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त कर से का स्वाप्त कर से का स्वाप क्रेराया बुर्या प्रति वर्षा इस्र राष्ट्रीय हैं पर्दुव क्केंया द्या माराया यार्थिया चायरी पर्या विषय पर दिने साम याडेया हु त्वतुषायते हे यर्ड्य क्रेंया द्या राष्ट्रीय के प्रत्ये प्रत् बुसायार्सेवासाग्री नगातारता तस्र स्मूचसावार्सेताचातरे वसातास्व स्वातुसानित है । वर्ष्व स्रूचिया र्गारः श्रीशः श्रेश्रशः उदः ग्रादः यः र्रेवाश्रः सर्वीदः सर्दः प्रविदः सर्थः प्रदः व्यवदः वाद्वेशः ग्रादः र्देदः हुं पर्दुदः हुं यः दुवः हुं यः द्वापः यःगर्रेयःचःवरेवर्यःयः ५८: द्वीतः द्वावरः वुःवरः ५ स्रेग्न्यः वर्ययः श्वीः ५व८: बुःसेः ५ में श्वा

यहमामुद्दा अर्देते क्षेर् के देवाया चतुर्वा कारा देशी अरावी द्वी चति चते का विकास के वार्ष द्वी वार्ष का अर्केवा वी का विरायान्गातर्यात्रस्त्रपतिः स्रवशायाः है वर्ड् बार्ड्स्य न्यारायाः वर्षियावायान्य प्रतायाः वर्षायाः स्वर्षायाः वर्षायाः वर्षायः व यालबर्र्स्याला लिया. ह्या. लायां ह्याला बार्य (OR याचे राय ह्या या बर्स्स्याला



SWIFT HEALING

WHITE TARA WITH LONG LIFE DEITIES

TIBET; 19TH CENTURY
PIGMENTS ON CLOTH
RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART
GIFT OF SHELLEY & DONALD RUBIN FOUNDATION
F1996.32.5 (HAR 542)

People in need of quick pain relief or protection from a life-threatening illness can ask White Tara, a heroine who brings swift healing, for help. An embodiment of compassion and wisdom who promotes longevity and frees all sentient beings from untimely death, White Tara is especially powerful against health problems, accidents, sadness, and loss of a lust for life. Because she is committed to helping all sentient beings, no special permissions or initiations are required to receive her healing, which can be requested for oneself or others.

FEATURED STORY: Boston-based Himalayan community Buddhist teacher Geshe Tenley outlines how his meditation practice to White Tara helps him navigate crisis. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.





क्रें नश्चेर नते था वा ये वा

कें श्रेंग रेटर् गहेंदरवते वनश्लेश र्षेट्रश

त्रीत्र वित्र प्राप्त निर्मा के स्वर्ग के स्व

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LONGEVITY PRACTICES

Are there methods for extending life?

This is humankind's universal quest. Now imagine if the goal is to extend life not only for this lifetime, but also for those yet to come. These are known as long-life practices in Tibetan Buddhism. Practitioners do daily rituals and prayers in homes and monasteries to extend life and avoid untimely death for themselves and on behalf of others. When practiced as a group, these rituals can increase a sense of community by helping people let go of self-centered thoughts and actions and supporting the practice of humility—all essential pursuits that lead to well-being.

Longevity rituals and practices seek to extend the health and life of practitioners, so they have more time to achieve the ultimate goal of liberation from the obstacles to enlightenment. The stories from Himalayan Americans in this section demonstrate how people engage in daily practices to pursue long, healthy lives, in times of joy and crisis, and for themselves and others.



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LONG-LIFE PRACTICES

WHITE TARA

TIBET; 15TH CENTURY BRASS RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART C2005.16.34 (HAR 65457)

Tibetan Buddhist practitioners call on the three long-life deities—White Tara, Ushnishavijaya, and Buddha Amitayus— to help remove obstacles that may cause an untimely death. Improving one's longevity requires a mix of spiritual practices and meritearning actions that must be practiced throughout one's lifetime. These can include receiving powerful teachings from teachers and the recitation of prayers, as well as acts of charity, caring for the sick, and saving the lives of animals and people.

FEATURED STORY: New York City-based Himalayan community Buddhist teacher Khenpo Pema Wangdak provides insight on how depictions of Buddhist figures impact one's mental state and wellbeing. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



क्रं.श्च्या इस.श्च्या

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LONG-LIFE PRACTICES

USHNISHAVIJAYA

Tibet; 15th century
Gilt copper alloy with inlays of semiprecious stones and pigments
Rubin Museum of Art
C2005.16.22 (HAR 65445)

Tibetan Buddhist practitioners call on the three long-life deities—White Tara, Ushnishavijaya, and Buddha Amitayus— to help remove obstacles that may cause an untimely death. Improving one's longevity requires a mix of spiritual practices and meritearning actions that must be practiced throughout one's lifetime. These can include receiving powerful teachings from teachers and the recitation of prayers, as well as acts of charity, caring for the sick, and saving the lives of animals and people.

FEATURED STORY: New York City-based Himalayan community Buddhist teacher Khenpo Pema Wangdak provides insight on how depictions of Buddhist figures impact one's mental state and wellbeing. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



र्हः स्याम् विष्या । (१८३५-१४२३) स्याम् विष्याम् । (१८३५-१४२३)

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LONG-LIFE PRACTICES

SCHOOL OF ZANABAZAR (1635–1723)

BUDDHA AMITAYUS

MONGOLIA; LATE 17TH–18TH CENTURY GILT COPPER ALLOY RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART C2005.18.1 (HAR 65421)

Tibetan Buddhist practitioners call on the three long-life deities—White Tara, Ushnishavijaya, and Buddha Amitayus— to help remove obstacles that may cause an untimely death. Improving one's longevity requires a mix of spiritual practices and meritearning actions that must be practiced throughout one's lifetime. These can include receiving powerful teachings from teachers and the recitation of prayers, as well as acts of charity, caring for the sick, and saving the lives of animals and people.

FEATURED STORY: New York City-based Himalayan community Buddhist teacher Khenpo Pema Wangdak provides insight on how depictions of Buddhist figures impact one's mental state and wellbeing. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.





रेसालर्गे दर्द्भेरायसा

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RITUAL AND PRAYER

KARMA PHUNTSOK (B. 1952, LHASA; LIVES AND WORKS IN KYOGLE, AUSTRALIA)

DORJE AND DILBU

2008
ACRYLIC ON LINEN
THE SHELLEY AND DONALD RUBIN PRIVATE COLLECTION
C2013.127

Rituals and prayers have always been an important part of the Buddhist pursuit of individual and societal well-being. The *dorje* (vajra) and *dilbu* (bell) are some of the most important ritual objects used within Vajrayana Tantric practice. Though they embody multiple concepts, at the purest level of understanding, the vajra represents compassion—the method—and the bell represents the perfection of wisdom or the realization of emptiness. Together compassion and wisdom are the way to enlightenment because they embody the union of all dualities.

रेसालर्गे दर्रेह्मस्यस्य

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RITUAL AND PRAYER

SOTSE (B. 1977, LHASA; LIVES AND WORKS IN LHASA)

LIGHT

2004
ACRYLIC ON COTTON
THE SHELLEY AND DONALD RUBIN PRIVATE COLLECTION
C2010.151

In religious practices, people light candles to purify homes or sacred spaces, symbolizing how enlightenment defeats darkness, fear, and ignorance. Prayers and rituals can bring comfort and peace to individuals and communities in times of discomfort and extreme stress, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

रेसायम् दर्से्र्रायसा

द्वेरन

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RITUAL AND PRAYER PRAYER BEADS

TIBET; 19TH CENTURY
TURQUOISE, BONE AND SLIVER
RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART
GIFT OF ANNE BRECKENRIDGE DORSEY
C2012.6.13

Meditation is an integral part of rituals and prayers, and although all major Buddhist traditions have different methods, the aim is to achieve wisdom by purifying and awakening the mind. Prayer beads, or *malas*, are one of the most well-known Tibetan ritual items. Comprised of 108 beads, they help focus one's awareness and concentration during meditation and prayer.

FEATURED STORY: Queens, New York, residents Sonam C. (age 9) and Dawa L. (age 12) describe meditating in a children's class during the pandemic. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.



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Queens, New York, residents Sonam C. (age 9) and Dawa L. (age 12) participated in a children's meditation group during the height of lockdown in the pandemic. Recycled denim meditation cushions, like this one, were provided to them to support their practice. You can hear more about their experience in this gallery.

מדינון

२००५ ई'र्ट्य। भे'भे'५५'र्ने र्वे य५५५ स्थ्रेन स्थ्रेन स्थ्या स्थ्या C2008.176

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LIBERATION

TENZIN NORBU LAMA (B. 1971, DOPLO, NEPAL; LIVES AND WORKS IN DOPLO AND KATHMANDU)

LIBERATION

2008
STONE GROUND PIGMENTS ON CLOTH
THE SHELLEY AND DONALD RUBIN PRIVATE COLLECTION
C2008.176

Liberation has many meanings, including freeing oneself or another from a restrictive state. Preventative, healing, and longevity practices are part of a large spectrum of Tibetan Buddhist activities that lead to the ultimate awakening: liberation from all sufferings of the body and mind.

This painting by Tenzin Norbu Lama exudes the feeling of liberation as humans ascend to the clouds at the top of a mountain. They transform into purified light symbolizing the dharma wisdom that they have achieved.

FEATURED STORY: Educator Pema Tashi details how adopting a daily practice provides her comfort and connection to faraway Tibet. Prefer to read this story? Scan the QR code.





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WHAT DOES HEALING MEAN TO YOU?

2022 VIDEO, APPROX. 10 MIN. PRODUCED BY THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART