



**In Tibet a Stupa is immediately recognised as the embodiment of the Body Speech and Mind of all the Buddhas.**

Tourists or those from other cultures and religions also experience the blessing of a connection with a stupa. First they will look, they will comment, curiosity aroused they will walk around it, and

then they will be drawn to the study and practise of compassion and wisdom.

**In this way a stupa has an inconceivably positive effect on everyone who sees it and also balances the whole environment.**

**Akong Tulku Rinpoche is the founder of ROKPA INTERNATIONAL, a charitable Trust that has been working to benefit Tibet for 16 years. ROKPA raises funds for schools, orphanages, healthcare, medical colleges, environmental projects and projects to protect and preserve Tibetan culture. As a result of this experience Akong Rinpoche and his Trustees feel that to benefit Tibet in the long term it is now necessary to build 108 Stupas to mark historically and culturally important sites that might otherwise be forgotten. Younger Tibetans will recognise their innate power to heal environmental damage and as symbols of a positive relationship between man and nature.**



Akong Rinpoche at the Mani Wall at Simdzi



Through attracting pilgrims and tourists this will generate a source of income for local people and consequently protect the environment and local resources from over exploitation, such as deforestation. The spiritual and cultural heritage of that area of Tibet will be preserved as the life story of that particular saint, all they offered and achieved, will be carved in stone near the Stupa. These sacred sites will also help those who wish to understand and research Tibetan history both inside and outside Tibet, providing accurate records which cannot easily be lost or destroyed.

**Because Stupas generate loving kindness and compassion they will benefit the places where they are built while those who sponsor the Stupas will also benefit by the accumulating a great store of merit.**

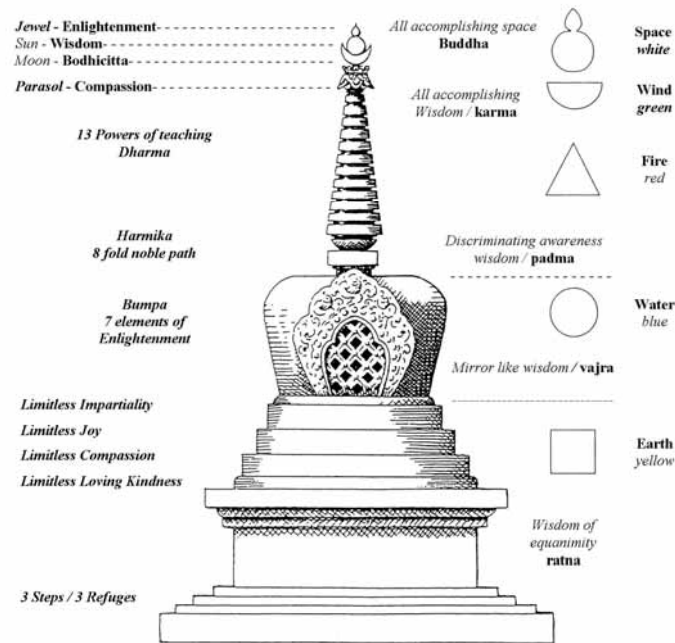
Some Stupas will be memorials to great spiritual teachers recording the history of each Masters' achievements others will record important national and local events for generations to come. Each Stupa will be on average between 3 and 4 storeys high (i.e. between 9 and 13 metres) and will cost £40 - 50 thousand pounds to build, fill consecrate, carve and decorate. We are hoping to begin the project this year and thereafter build a few more each year.

Rangers will be employed to protect local fauna and flora and supervise the sites. By attracting research and tourism the local economy will benefit and be encouraged to use wind powered and solar energy. The greatest challenge facing the world in the new millennium is the overheating of the planet. Tibet's 60,000 square miles of glacier is the largest ice mass outside the two poles and they are shrinking at a rate of 7% a year. Tibetan culture is based on living in harmony with the environment. It has much to offer us and there is an urgent need to preserve it.

Please help us to preserve and protect the Environment, our Global Heritage, the essence of the Buddha's teachings and a culture that is a great force for World Peace.

**This is an immeasurably positive way to provide a transforming and healing energy not only for Tibet but, through the power of interdependence, for the whole world.**





**THE MEANING AND BENEFIT OF BUILDING STUPAS**

**Akong Tulku Rinpoche:** “Everyone involved with building and sponsoring a Stupa gets equal benefit. The merit cannot be lost and even if you put just one brick into the Stupa you get the merit and benefit of building the whole Stupa. You don’t have to believe it will rain, it will come down quite naturally if there are the right conditions. So you don’t have to believe in the Stupa to benefit; it happens quite naturally because of the structure and the content. I hope they will benefit the whole world and especially that it will balance our minds.”

**Lama Yeshe Rinpoche:** “Why are we so unhappy? Because the earth is not happy. What are the symptoms of unhappiness? The way the elements are manifesting in the world, you can see every year every day, how much harm is being done all over the world. The whole purpose of the Stupa is to balance the elements.”



**Preserving & Restoring the Environment, Local Economy, History & tradition of Tibet**

**THE HERITAGE PROJECT**



**When someone has been separated by exile or emigration from their homeland for one or two generations they may change completely. We all adapt to our immediate culture and environment, and in an increasingly materialistic world that often means cultural poverty and spiritual ignorance. After three or four generations we feel a need to rediscover our roots in the same way that an adopted child will one day wish to know their biological parents. Everyone has a physical and spiritual need to connect with their heritage and understand their historical roots.**

**By building these Stupas may the earth be healed,  
the elements be balanced and all  
beings  
discover the cause of  
unchanging happiness.**