

DHARMA DRAWINGS
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Taken at Big Rapids, Michigan

In the 1980s the Heart Center KTC (Karma Thegsum Choling) was not only a dharma center located in Big Rapids, Michigan, but also for a number years very active in the translation and publishing of precious dharma teachings and practice texts. We had at that time for about two and one-half years the good fortune to have with us at the center Sange Wangchuk.

Wangchuk is fluent in seven languages, including Sanskrit and Pali. He had served as Omze (chant master) for one of the four Eminences in the Kagyu Lineage, and was well-known for his singing of the songs of the great Tibetan yogi Milarepa. He also was a brilliant calligrapher and artist, as you will see here. Today he is the cultural minister of Bhutan.

Over the years with us Sange Wangchuk (as part of the work at our dharma center) produced over 400 wonderful drawings, which up to now I have held very close, because I did not want these precious drawings not treated with the proper respect. Recently, however, it occurs to me that many of you might actually benefit from having these sacred images on your computer screen or printed out for your personal use. So here is the deal:

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This is the seed syllable for the Kalachakra initiation, the “Wheel of Time,” the particular empowerment of interest to astrologers, Typically it is a ten-day empowerment. Margaret and I took this empowerment from His Eminence Jangon Kongtrul Rinpoche many years ago.

I have personally colored it in with what I understand from my training are the appropriate colors. It is really beautiful. Please treat this image with respect.



This is Vajradhara, the primordial Buddha, also referred to as the “Dharmakaya Buddha.” He is typically dark blue in color. He holds in his right hand the vajra (thunderbolt) symbolizing the sheer power of compassion with skillful means, and in his left hand the ghanta (bell), producing the clear sound of pure insight, which can be heard everywhere in the universe always clearing ringing.



This is the historical Buddha Shakyamuni, the Buddha of our era, born some 2500 years ago. He holds a begging bowl in his left hand, and is making the earth-touching mudra (gesture) with his right hand. Please treat this image with respect.



This is the Buddha Amitabha, the Buddha of the western direction and setting Sun, related to death, dying, and the bardo states. He has both hands in meditation pose and holds a begging bowl. Please treat this image with respect.



This is Sange Menla, the Medicine Buddha. In his lap his left hand in meditation posture holds a bowl of lapis lazuli, representing the ambrosia of eternal bliss. His right hand is extended palm outward over his right knee in the mudra (gesture) of supreme generosity. In it he holds the aruru, the myrobalan fruit which signifies the very best in medicines. Please treat this image with respect.



This is the bodhisattva Chenresik (Avalokiteshvara in Sanskrit), the bodhisattva of kindness and compassion. The Dalai Lama, leader of the Gelugpa Lineage, and the Karmapa, leader of the Kagyu Lineage, are both said to be emanations of Chenresik. This is the four-armed depiction of this bodhisattva. The Two inner arms are folded in the prayer mudra (gesture) holding the wish-fulfilling gem. In his outer left hand he holds the lotus flower, and in his outer right hand a crystal mala (rosary), upon which he is reciting his mantra of “Om Mani Padme Hum.” Please treat this image with respect.



This is Padmasambhava or Guru Rinpoche, also sometimes referred to as the second Buddha. He is a semi-wrathful deity, which suggests he protects those who need protection. Cradled in his left arm he holds the Khatvanga (vajra-scepter) of compassionate love, and in his right hand he holds a five-prong vajra in the protecting mudra. In his left hand he holds a skull cup filled with the nectar of deathless wisdom. Please treat this image with respect.



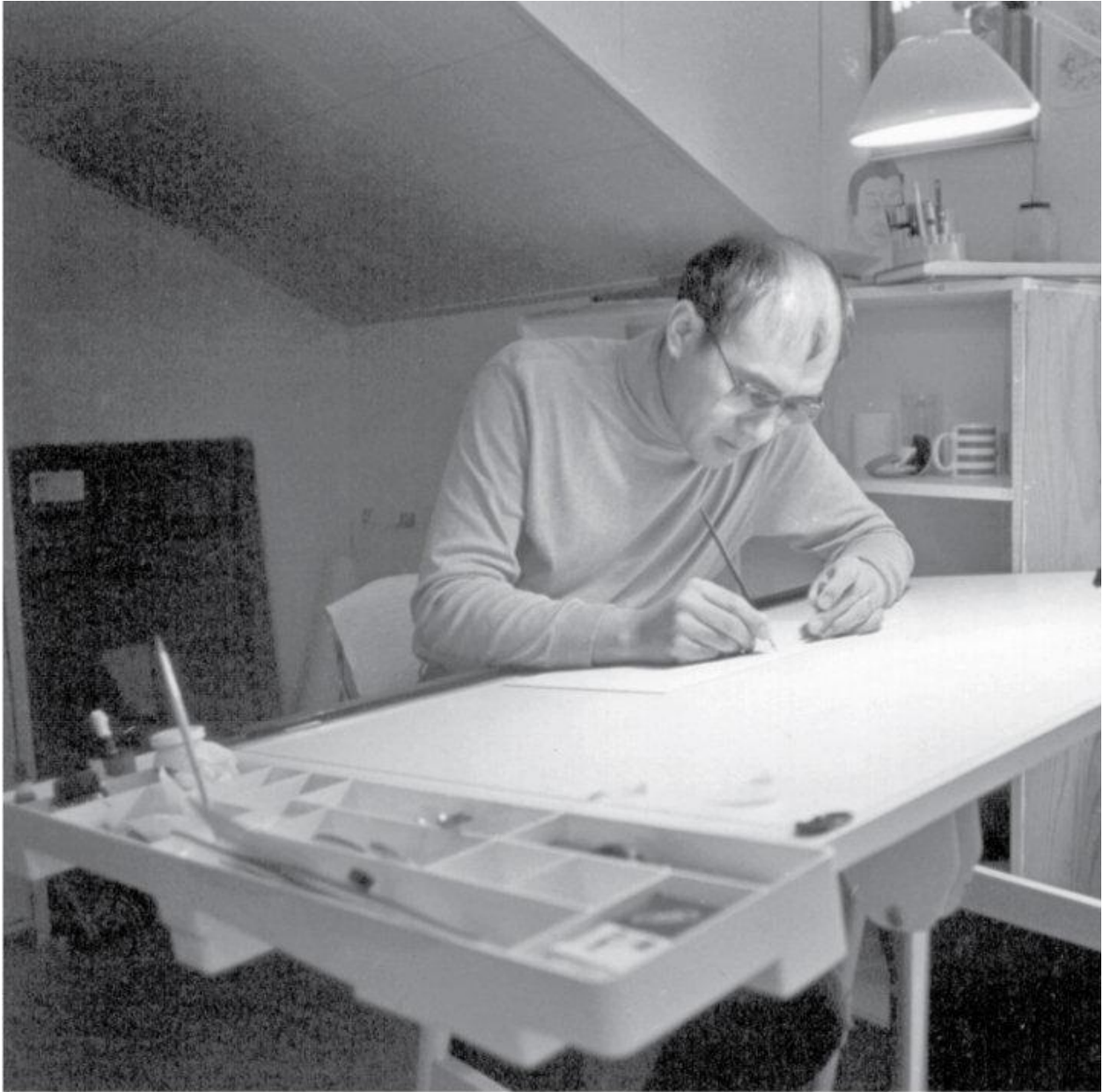
This is White Tara, known for long life, compassion, healing, and a peaceful serenity. Her right hand is in the gift-bestowing mudra, and her left hand holds a branch of the white utpala. She has the seven eyes of knowledge and is referred to as the Mother of All Buddhas.



This is Green Tara. Her right foot is extended as if she is about to rise. Her left hand, which is in the mudra of granting refuge, holds the stem of a blue water lily (utpala) above her left shoulder. The practice of Green Tara helps us to overcome anxiety and fear, eliminates suffering and brings happiness.



This is the bodhisattva Vajrasattva, connected to mental and psychological purification. In his right hand he holds a vajra (thunderbolt) representing skillful means and in his left the ghanta (bell) representing wisdom. Please treat this image with respect.



Here is a photo of calligrapher, illustrator, linguist, and chant master Sange Wangchuk using pen and ink to create these wonderful dharma illustrations. During his stay with us we introduced him to Adobe Illustrator and he learned to create these images virtually.