

CONTENTS



<i>Acknowledgments</i>	IX
<i>Introduction</i>	XI

THE EIGHT AUSPICIOUS SYMBOLS

<i>The parasol</i>	I
<i>The golden fishes</i>	3
<i>The treasure vase</i>	5
<i>The lotus</i>	6
<i>The right-turning conch shell</i>	7
<i>The endless or glorious knot</i>	9
<i>The victory banner</i>	11
<i>The wheel</i>	12

THE EIGHT AUSPICIOUS SUBSTANCES

<i>The mirror</i>	16
<i>The precious medicine</i>	19
<i>The curds or yogurt</i>	20
<i>The durva grass</i>	21
<i>The bilva fruit</i>	21
<i>The right-turning conch shell</i>	23
<i>The vermilion powder</i>	24
<i>The mustard seed</i>	24

THE FIVE ATTRIBUTES OF SENSORY ENJOYMENT

<i>Sight or form</i>	27
<i>Sound</i>	29
<i>Smell</i>	29
<i>Taste</i>	32
<i>Touch</i>	33

THE CHAKRAVARTIN 36

<i>The Seven Possessions of the Chakravartin or the Seven Precious Jewels</i>	37
<i>The precious wheel</i>	37
<i>The precious jewel</i>	38
<i>The precious queen</i>	40
<i>The precious minister</i>	40
<i>The precious elephant</i>	40
<i>The precious horse</i>	41
<i>The precious general</i>	41

<i>The Seven Secondary Possessions of the Chakravartin or the Seven Auxiliary Jewels</i>	42
<i>The sword</i>	42
<i>The naga skin</i>	43
<i>The royal house</i>	43
<i>The robes</i>	43
<i>The royal gardens</i>	43
<i>The throne</i>	44
<i>The boots</i>	44

<i>The Seven Jewel Insignia of the Chakravartin</i>	46
<i>The unicorn or rhinoceros horn</i>	46
<i>The elephant's tusks</i>	46
<i>The queen's earrings</i>	46
<i>The minister's earrings</i>	46
<i>The general's insignia</i>	46
<i>The triple-eyed gem</i>	46
<i>The coral branch</i>	46

SYMBOLIC EMBLEMS AND OFFERINGS

<i>The three jewels</i>	49
<i>The three victorious creatures of harmony</i>	49
<i>The four friends or harmonious brothers</i>	50
<i>The six symbols of long life</i>	51
<i>The emblem of the three great bodhisattvas</i>	53
<i>The seven water bowl offerings</i>	55
<i>The wheel and deer emblem</i>	56
	58

ANIMALS AND MYTHICAL CREATURES

<i>The elephant</i>	60
<i>The deer</i>	62
<i>The lion and snow-lion</i>	63
<i>The tiger</i>	64
<i>The horse and wind-horse</i>	66
<i>The four supernatural creatures of the four directions</i>	67
<i>The dragon</i>	69
<i>The naga</i>	72
<i>The garuda</i>	74
<i>The water-monster or makara</i>	77
<i>The kirtimukha or face of majesty</i>	78

COSMOLOGICAL SYMBOLS

<i>The sun and moon</i>	80
<i>The five elements of earth, water, fire, air, and space</i>	82
<i>Mount Meru</i>	82
<i>The mandala offering</i>	84

MAIN RITUAL AND TANTRIC IMPLEMENTS

<i>The vajra</i>	87
<i>The bell</i>	92
<i>The crossed-vajra</i>	95
<i>The swastika</i>	97

<i>The ritual dagger</i>	98
<i>The tantric staff or khatvanga</i>	102
<i>The hand-drum or damaru</i>	107
<i>The thighbone trumpet</i>	110
<i>The skull-cup</i>	110
<i>The curved knife</i>	112

WEAPONS

<i>The bow and arrow</i>	115
<i>The arrow-banner or silk arrow</i>	118
<i>The fire-arrow</i>	120
<i>The tiger-skin bow case and leopard-skin quiver</i>	121
<i>The flower bow and flower arrow</i>	121
<i>The sword</i>	123
<i>The shield</i>	124
<i>The scorpion-hilted sword</i>	125
<i>The scorpion</i>	126
<i>The water-knife or wave-bladed knife</i>	127
<i>The razor</i>	128
<i>The dart or shakti dagger</i>	128
<i>The scythe or sickle</i>	129
<i>The plowshare or plow</i>	129
<i>The trident</i>	130
<i>The trident pike or spear</i>	132
<i>The caduceus or serpent-trident</i>	133
<i>The spear</i>	135
<i>The spear-flag</i>	135
<i>The javelin</i>	135
<i>The harpoon</i>	137
<i>The club</i>	137
<i>The transverse club or 'wooden gong'</i>	139
<i>The skull club</i>	140
<i>The skeleton club</i>	141
<i>The corpse club</i>	142
<i>The impaled corpse club</i>	142
<i>The forked stick</i>	143
<i>The axe</i>	144
<i>The hammer</i>	145
<i>The foundry hammer and bellows</i>	145
<i>The iron hook or goad</i>	146
<i>The rope noose or snare</i>	147
<i>The flower hook and flower noose</i>	149
<i>The serpent noose</i>	149
<i>The iron chain</i>	150

<i>The chakra or discus</i>	150
<i>The wooden pestle</i>	152
<i>The brazier</i>	153
<i>The mass of fire</i>	153
<i>The fire-wheel and wind-wheel</i>	154
<i>The firebrand</i>	154
<i>The net</i>	154
<i>The weapons of Mara's army</i>	155

THE FIVE MAGICAL WEAPONS OF SHRI DEVI 156

<i>The bag of diseases</i>	156
<i>The bundle of red curses</i>	157
<i>The white and black spotted dice</i>	157
<i>The ball of thread</i>	158
<i>The demon cross-stick</i>	159

WRATHFUL ATTRIBUTES AND OFFERINGS 161

<i>The head of Brahma</i>	161
<i>The severed head</i>	162
<i>The garland of severed heads and skulls</i>	162
<i>The severed arm and leg</i>	164
<i>Intestines or entrails</i>	164
<i>The heart</i>	165
<i>The piece of skull</i>	166
<i>The cemetery shroud</i>	166
<i>The wind-cloth</i>	167
<i>The needle and thread</i>	167
<i>The sorcerer's magical horn</i>	168

HAND EMBLEMS AND RITUAL ATTRIBUTES 169

<i>The lotus</i>	169
<i>The golden wheel or dharmachakra</i>	171
<i>The conch shell</i>	171
<i>The umbrella or parasol</i>	172
<i>The victorious banner</i>	172
<i>The makara banner</i>	173
<i>The wolf, bull, and tiger banner</i>	174
<i>The flag</i>	174
<i>The silk ribbon</i>	175
<i>The triple banderole</i>	176

<i>The jeweled tassel</i>	177
<i>The yak-tail flywhisk</i>	177
<i>Peacock feathers</i>	178
<i>The peacock-feathered fan and mirror</i>	179
<i>The peacock-feathered parasol</i>	180
<i>The book</i>	180
<i>The basket</i>	182
<i>The alms-bowl</i>	182
<i>The monk's staff</i>	184
<i>The possessions of an ordained monk</i>	185
<i>The image of the Buddha</i>	186
<i>The stupa or caitya</i>	186
<i>The rosary</i>	189
<i>The jewel or gem</i>	190
<i>The wish-granting gem</i>	192
<i>The wish-granting tree</i>	193
<i>The crystal</i>	193
<i>The gzi stone</i>	194
<i>The mongoose</i>	196
<i>The golden horsewhip</i>	196
<i>The gold earrings and jeweled crown</i>	197
<i>The celestial palace</i>	197
<i>The incense-burner or censer</i>	197
<i>The mirror</i>	198
<i>The water-pot or flask</i>	198
<i>The ritual vase or flask</i>	199
<i>The long-life vase</i>	201
<i>The treasure vase</i>	202
<i>The treasure box</i>	202
<i>The amulet-box</i>	203
<i>The basin and bowl</i>	203
<i>The lute and vina</i>	204

PLANT ATTRIBUTES 205

<i>The picula fruit</i>	205
<i>The citron</i>	205
<i>The radish</i>	205
<i>The myrobalan fruit</i>	206
<i>The ear of corn</i>	206
<i>The ear of grain</i>	207
<i>The ear of rice</i>	207
<i>The bodhi-tree or tree of enlightenment</i>	207
<i>Divine trees and flowering branches</i>	208
<i>The ashoka tree</i>	208
<i>The naga tree</i>	208

THE REALITY-SOURCE OR DHARMODAYA

209

<i>The wheel of joy</i>	209
<i>The reality-source or dharmodaya</i>	209
<i>The dharmodaya of Vajrayogini</i>	210

TORMAS AND SYMBOLIC OFFERINGS

212

<i>The torma</i>	212
<i>The thread-cross</i>	213
<i>The ransom offering of an arrow and spindle</i>	215
<i>The wrathful offering of the five senses</i>	215
<i>The inner offering</i>	217

HAND GESTURES OR MUDRAS

221

<i>The boon-granting gesture</i>	223
<i>The protection gesture</i>	223
<i>The gesture of giving refuge</i>	224
<i>The earth-touching gesture</i>	224

<i>The wheel of dharma gesture</i>	225
<i>The enlightenment gesture</i>	226
<i>The meditation gesture</i>	226
<i>The palms-folded gesture</i>	227
<i>The humkara gesture or gesture of victory over the three worlds</i>	228
<i>The spirit-subduing gesture</i>	228
<i>The threatening forefinger</i>	229
<i>The mandala gesture</i>	229
<i>The cunda gesture</i>	230

APPENDICES

231

Appendix One – The Legend of the Churning of the Ocean	231
Appendix Two – The Five Buddha Families	234
Appendix Three – The Three Kayas	237
Appendix Four – The Channel Wheel System	239

GLOSSARY

245

