



# *Spinning along the* path of



Photo by Henry Li



Photo by Steve Knecht



Photo by Al Perry



Photo by Ralph Marica




# Nirvana



**P**ayer wheels or *Mani* wheels are spiritual devices used by Buddhists to spread blessings and well-being of mankind. Rolls of paper imprinted with the *mantra* - *Om Mani Padme Hum* (hail to the jewel in the lotus) in thousands are placed in a cylindrical container usually made of brass or bronze. The same *mantra* in large and more decorative syllables is carved outside the wheel as well.

There are many types of prayer wheels although hand-held are most common. The large prayer wheels are placed on the gates of the monasteries or around *stupas* and *chortens*. These are also placed where they can be spun by wind or running water. As the prayer wheel rotates (always clockwise) on its axis, it distributes blessings and good *karma* to all those who see it or hear the bell that chimes on every turn. The greater the number of turns and printed *mantras* inside, the more positive are their effects - they help to win merit and obtain a good reincarnation.

Some believe that the six syllables of the *mantra* - *Om Mani Padme Hum* nullify the six negative emotions - pride, greed, jealousy, anger, lust and ignorance. 

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Photos: RainbowPhotoTours.com

