

Buddha



Tibetan: Sang gyay
(Pronounced SONG GYAY)

Sanskrit: Buddha

Fully Awakened One

The Tibetan word for Buddha is *sang gyay* (pronounced "song gyay"). When we look at the etymology for this word, we see that it is closely related to the word for enlightenment. *Sang* means "awakened" (as from the sleep of ignorance) or "purified" (as in purified of all obscurations). *Gyay* means "expanded, blossomed, fully developed." So the two syllables combine to mean "one such as Shakyamuni Buddha, who has purified all the obscurations (*sang*) and who has developed fully all the qualities of enlightenment (*gyay*).

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