



The Friends of the Pagoda Association
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INFORMATION SHEET ELEVEN

THE NEPAL PEACE PAGODA SOUTH BANK PARKLANDS BRISBANE

THE PAGODA'S ICONOGRAPHY (VI) THE LOKEWESAAR GODDESS

The Lokewesaar Goddess is one of the features of the Pagoda that was located at the Pagoda's Second Level during World Expo '88, and is now located at the Pagoda's First Level, in its own customized enclosure.

An icon important to Tibetan Buddhism and Buddhism all over the world, the Lokewesaar Goddess, or, known as 'Avalokiteshvara' in Hindu, is known as the Goddess of Compassion, and is perhaps one of the most important stories in Buddhism after the Buddha himself.

The tale relates that Avalokiteshvara was on her way to becoming a Buddha in her own right, however, in order to help the common and lost, decided to become a Bodhisattva instead – a person who is dedicated to help the needy and lost in their path to salvation.

As a result of her immense compassion for the common people, she was reborn with 42 arms and nine heads, representing her supernatural ability to intercede and save the lost wherever they may be.

You will also notice that Avalokiteshvara wears a most delicate goat-skin shawl and pantaloons, where fine engravings of lotus flowers overlay her pantaloons, and the eight auspicious symbols of Buddhism, including the Dharma 'Knowledge' Wheel, are also finely engraved on her shawl.

She also makes auspicious gestures and holds auspicious implements with her front eight arms, which, from right to left, hold, a lotus flower, bow & arrow, an urn, a pearl between her front two central arms, an open facing palm, a bell, and rosary beads.

A popular icon for Buddhists of all nations, Avalokiteshvara is known as 'Kannon' by Japanese Buddhists, 'Guanyin' by Chinese Buddhists, and 'Chenreitzeg' by Tibetan Buddhists. The Dalai Lama is known to be her present incarnation.