



The Friends of the Pagoda Association
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<http://www.foundationexpo88.org/friendsofthepagoda/>

INFORMATION SHEET FIFTEEN THE NEPAL PEACE PAGODA SOUTH BANK PARKLANDS BRISBANE

THE PAGODA'S ICONOGRAPHY (VIII) THE POND, AND BUDDHIST MEMORIAL STONE

The Pond is a new feature for the Pagoda since the opening of South Bank Parklands in 1992, and is significant for several reasons.

Note that the pond travels in clockwise spiral direction. This is auspicious to Buddhists, as a clockwise direction indicates progress.

Water is also an auspicious symbol to the Hindus, as water represents life.

And, the pond gently reflects the light from the Pagoda during the evening, providing a wonderful gentle dapple of interest.

THE BUDDHIST MEMORIAL STONE

The Buddhist Memorial Stone, otherwise known as a 'stupa' in Sanskrit, is a common feature at all Buddhist Pagodas and Temples, where relics and/or ashes of the Buddha are kept, and is found at the Pagoda's rear right.

The square base of the Memorial Stone represents the earth, and the domed top represents the heavens, all together representing the Universe.

You will also note that the top of the stupa is guarded by four Buddhas facing each point of the compass, the Buddha of the North, the Buddha of the South, the Buddha of the West, and the Buddha of the East. Each of these Buddhas have their own auspicious colours and symbolic references.

The stupa is also where the noble eight fold path of Buddhism is celebrated, where the adjective 'right' infers correct, noble, or, proper:

Right view
Right intention
Right speech

Right action
Right livelihood
Right effort
Right mindfulness
Right concentration

It is auspicious to recite prayers whilst walking in a clockwise direction around the stupa.

Also finally, note the cornerstones of the base of the stupa, what types of creature can you see here? Are they the same creatures that are found at the Pagoda's entrance/exit left/right foundation pillar base? And what of the creatures at the Pagoda's exterior second level corners? Describe these creatures as well.