



Sumana Dhamma Gallery

Electronic Exhibition
- The Dhamma Wheel -

May 2020

by

Pirajak T. Suwapatdecha
(Pittaya Wong)

www.meditation101.org



Blooming Bliss Dhamma Wheel

The Dhamma wheel is the symbol of Dhamma at work. With the touch of blooming lotus at the centre comprising of pollens and pedals, the wheel can spin to enable the Dhamma at work as well as the yielding enlightenment in process as symbolised by the blooming lotus. The wheel's rim is supported by the eight ionic columns to denote how strong Buddhism can be Westernised. This Dhamma wheel is simple and perfect in itself representing the nature of Buddhism.



Lanna Dhamma Wheel

Such an authentic reflection of Lanna Buddhism that we can experience and enjoy. Lanna is the Northern civilisation of Thailand, having its unique expression of Buddhism. Lanna Dhamma Wheel is detailed with delicate Lanna architecture which can be found at Buddhist temples and monasteries, especially the temple gate which is usually adorned with concrete decorations. In Lanna style, we can feel the luxury of culture as well as harmony and gentleness.

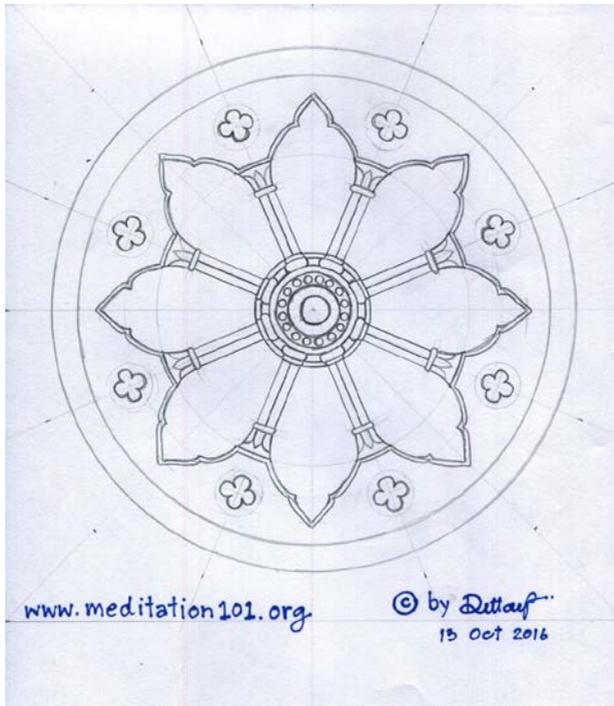
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Siam Lotonic Dhamma Wheel

This is the blend of Thai and Western architecture where the arch is supported by lotus pillars that stem from the lotus pollens in the middle of the wheel. The arch is not traditional in Thailand, but it is common in Western cathedrals. Notwithstanding, the lotus is the symbol of Buddhism but it is crafted to resemble the ionic columns. With this blend, it makes the wheel look like colonial architecture which can be found in many nations of Southeast Asia.

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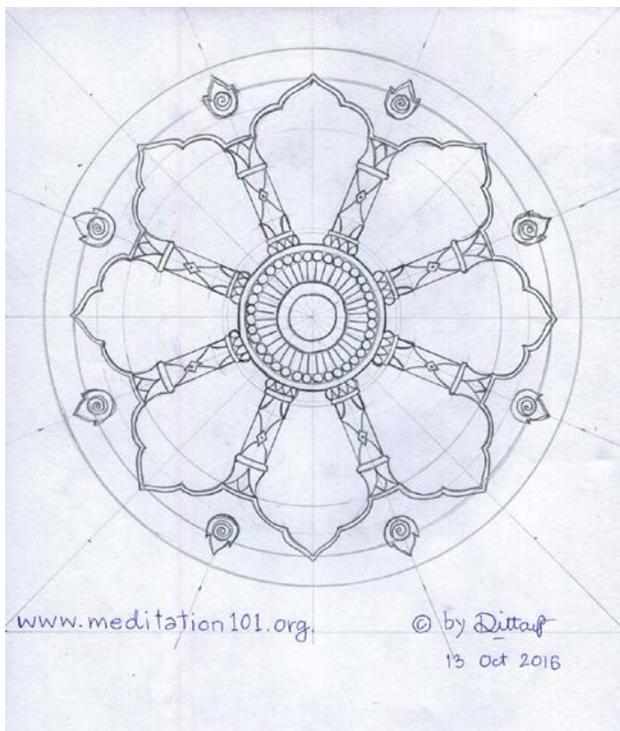
The Wheel of Siam Shrine

Sacred shrines of Thailand normally incorporate the 'peak' shape such as sharp gable supported by pillars adorned with colorful glass mosaics. The sharpness of traditional Thai architecture is available in many components of traditional Thai buildings, especially the Royal palaces and the Buddhist temples. The wheel of Siam Shrine is 'so Thai,' with the perfect match to connote the hierarchy of the Lord Buddha and the monarch as the beings of supremacy.



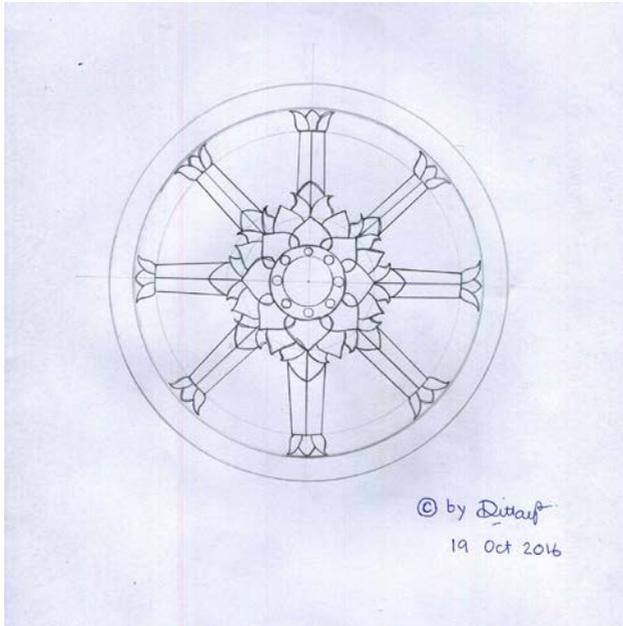
The Lotus Heart Dhamma Wheel

This simple wheel comprises of the Lotus pollen and lotus stems supporting the wheel's rim as partitioned by multi-directional arch. This feature is neither Thai nor Western, but it is the very natural form of lotus flower. Like other Dhamma wheels designed by Pirajak, the Lotus Heart Dhamma Wheel is parted into eight directions symbolizing the Noble Eightfold Path where enlightenment is the core value, and the Lotus pollens remain at the heart of this enlightenment.



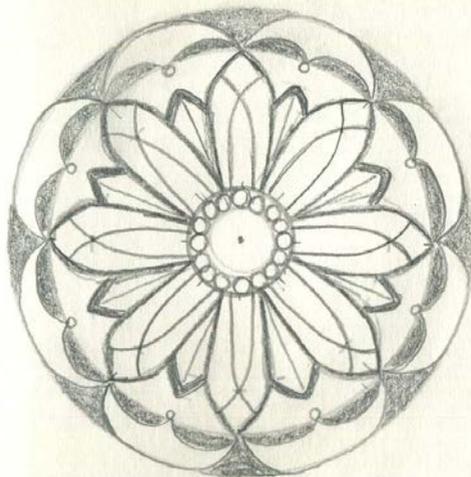
The Classical Royal Dhamma Wheel

The Dhamma wheel is not originally inspired by Thai art and history as it was first originated in the Lord Buddha's teaching when the Dhamma at work was compared to the wheel of an oxcart. As such, the Classical Royal Dhamma Wheel shows how well Thai people adopt Buddhism to their lifestyle, so do the Dhamma wheel in Thai culture. The tiered arch can be found in many Thai Royal palaces as well as the adorned supporting pillars. They are so decorative, and this makes them stand out from the commoners' places.



The Origami Lotus Dhamma Wheel

Pirajak tried to do something different with this Dhamma wheel. We start from the very middle of the wheel which can keep the spinning function while the assembled lotus flower is like the Japanese origami. The lotus petals are differentiated and layered whereas the pillars that support the rim are topped with lotus flowers in a simple form. In term of function, the pillars make the Dhamma wheel looks secured, and the origami lotus in the middle can spin separately from layer to layer.

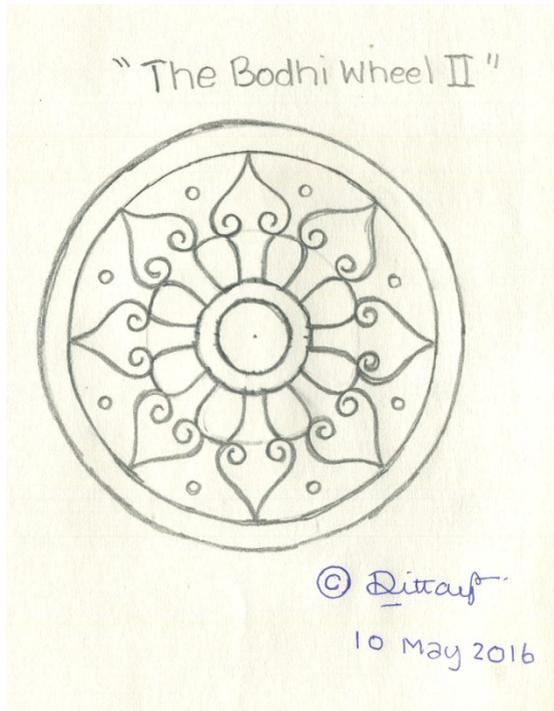


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The Flora Dhamma Wheel

This wheel is so sweet as it is beautified with the blooming flower's symmetrical arrangement. We don't forget to add the pollens at the center of the wheel to make it spin. This is more like a daisy or so. However, at the rim of the wheel, it is encircled with lotus petal enclosures in eight directions. Although this does not resemble a Dhamma wheel like others, it is something unique that distinguishes it from common Dhamma wheels. Isn't all flowers are spinnable wheels by their nature?



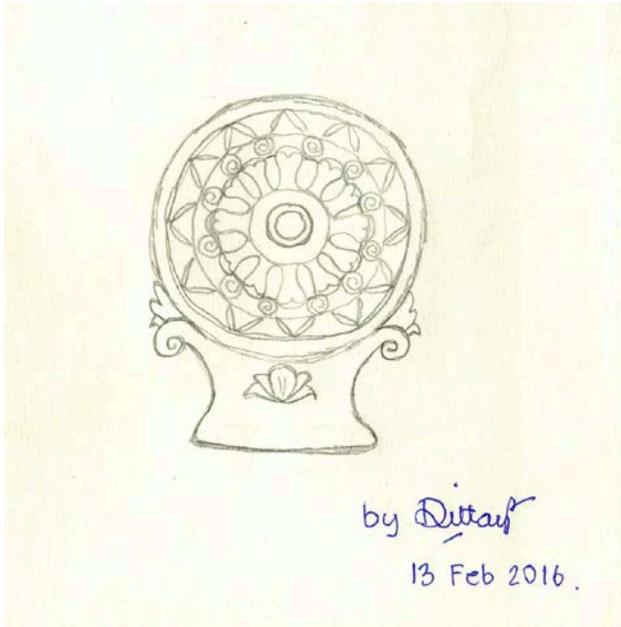
The Bodhi Wheel

The Bodhi tree is the tree of enlightenment, and its leaves provided shade to the Lord Buddha when he meditated until reaching his spiritual achievement. Other than the lotus, we attempt to make the Bodhi leaves fit into the Dhamma wheel. But the Bodhi leaves are shaped to resemble the ionic columns which are Pirajak's favorite. So, there are the encircling and the stems connecting the centre to the rim. It is very meaningful as well as spinnable to make the Dhamma at work.



The Blue Dhamma Wheel

A pen would do it different when comparing to a pencil. The drawing flows with no ruler, eraser, and compass. We do so much of the symmetry and enjoy whatever we feel like going. It seems that this Dhamma wheel will not come true, but it is pretty on paper or screen. The axis provides strength whereas the lotus petals always make it subtle. The rim is almost perfectly rounded without any helping tool. We enjoy how confident the drawing is.



The Twin Dhamma Wheel

This Dhamma wheel is the twin of the Blue Dhamma Wheel. They look alike but different in some details. Pencil renders it with less confidence. However, there is no erasing at all on this drawing. Pirajak has been careful and double or triple the lines that go on with a certain aim. The pattern on the Dhamma wheel draws our interest, and everyone may doubt if someone would be able to make it come true in the 4D art by ways of sculpting and carving.



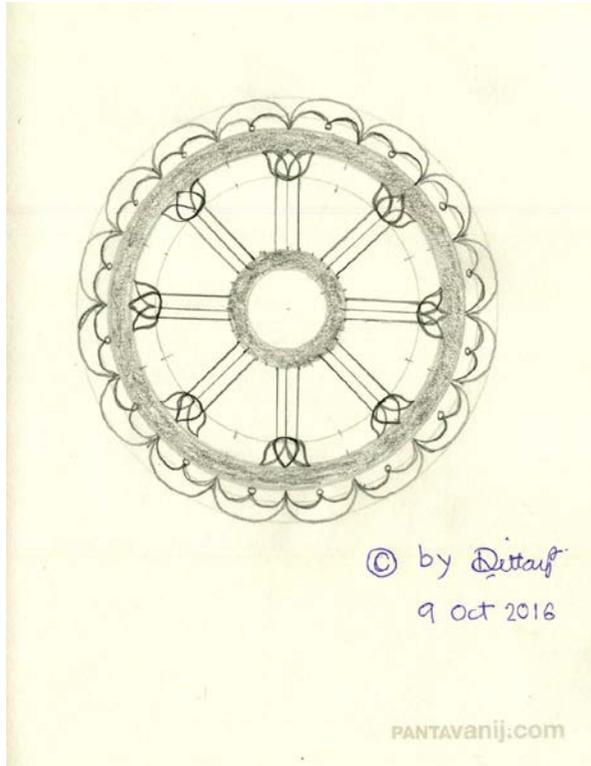
The mermaids' Dhamma Wheel

Firstly, it is questionable if the image at the center is a Dhamma wheel or not. Pirajak was aimless when he tried to draw it. It could be a lotus, a flower, or whatever you can decode. There is no exact answer for this. Since we have to categorise it, Pirajak decided to file this drawing in the category of Dhamma wheel. If one takes it as a lotus flower, it would perfectly fit into the water world of the mermaids. And that's always possible.



The Wheel of Phoenix

The phoenix is a legendary divine bird, and it is known for its might. When the phoenix is assigned to secure the Dhamma, we can dream of it this way where the wheel of Dhamma is spinning clockwise above the soaring phoenix. We do feel the 'respect' that the phoenix has upon the Dhamma wheel. Animals show respect in various manners, and humans also do as well. Likewise, it will be special if a Thai places someone or something above the head. So, this phoenix is like being crowned with the Dhamma wheel.



The Wheel of Lotus

It is such a perfect blend when we do lotus flower with the Dhamma wheel. The lotus flower can be made rounded like the rim and the stems can form the pillars. Sometimes, we do it so decorative, and it is more man-made. When a wheel is simple and closer to nature, we may like it the way it reflects the simplicity in Buddhism. This Wheel of Lotus is more feminine, and it means that women can have their place in the Dhamma as well.



Wheel of the Lotus Discourse

If we question why lotus flowers can fit into the Dhamma wheel so many times in the art work of Pirajak, the artist wishes to denote that there are so many approaches we can do it. Lotus flowers are beautiful and well organised, and their layers arrangement is inspiring. As for the wheel of the lotus discourse, we keep the heart of lotus flower at the heart of the wheel. The biggest lotus flower is there encircled by stems of many smaller lotus flowers supporting the rim. This means that the enlightenment is sprung.



The Sunny Lotus Dhamma Wheel

Lotus flowers love sunshine. When they have sunbath, they bloom beautifully. Similarly, one who learns the Dhamma can become fully awoken. The Sunny Lotus is well harmonised to the Dhamma wheel, and they carry the similar philosophy. It is wonderful that the Dhamma can be conveyed not only through literature, but the work of art as well. Thus, we enjoy the beauty and the meaning. It won't be a surprise if we can appreciate the scent of lotus pollen drawn here.



The Shady Bodhi Wheel

The Bodhi leaves can mean the support toward enlightenment, unlike lotus flowers which are usually interpreted as the enlightenment experience. So, the Bodhi leaves are normally recognised as the blessing whereas the lotus flowers are the bliss. However, the Dhamma wheel which comprises of the pillars form the Bodhi trees grounded in contrast to the stems of lotus flowers. Simply speaking, the Bodhi wheel is more masculine, but comparably meaningful.



The Spring Lotus Dhamma Wheel

Life is seasonal. We have to go through rise and fall which are somehow unpredictable. And it is the unexpected that surprise us and make us happy or sad. Amidst of uncertainty of life, the wise adhere to the wholesome conducts. Suffering in life may turn us unhappy, but we can still choose to be wholesome. This is like the lotus flowers that go through different seasons. They will bloom beautifully whenever they can. Rain and snow won't be forever. Suffering is like the dirty mud that the lotus flowers stem from. So, when the chance for enlightenment comes, take it!

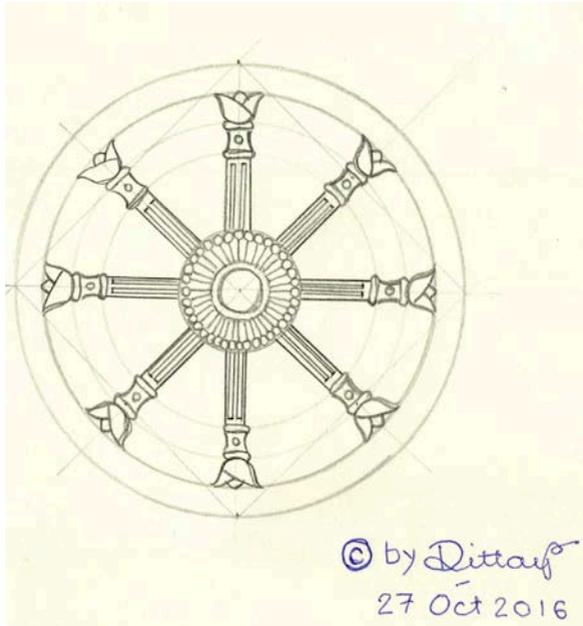
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Dhamma Wheel of the Buddhist Saints

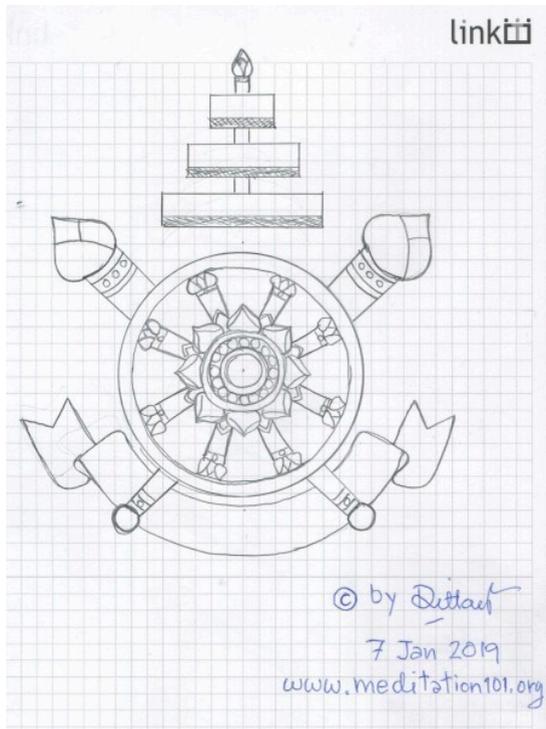
Most people can become saints, but they are unaware of this truth. The Dhamma Wheel of the Buddhist Saints reveals the fact that more and more Westerners are interested in Buddhism, and they are able to prosper in the Dhamma path because of their wisdom-oriented education. This complies to the Buddhist doctrines. So, this Dhamma Wheel is to honor and celebrate this phenomena. It is not alienated but acquainted, and Sainthood is universal not local.

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The Tulip Dhamma Wheel

Flowers are the gifts from nature we can always appreciate. Pirajak made the tulip Dhamma wheel simple and serene. It is not too much decorated or adorned, but it comforts the eyes as well as the mind. There is time when we just want something really simple and down-to-earth, not the luxury but the simplicity. So, the tulip Dhamma wheel is the right answer for this. Dhamma is our nature, and flowers are the beauty of nature, so do the Dhamma.



The Coat of Dhamma

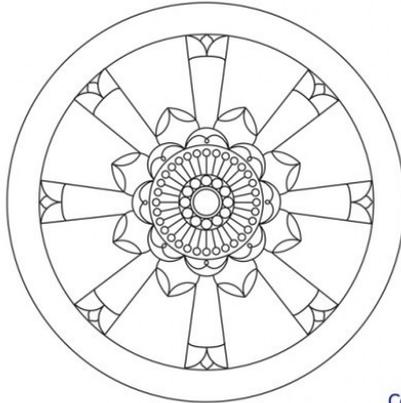
Every civilised society does value nobility. While the monarchy makes possible to the aristocrats to become noble by ways of their wealth and power, the Lord Buddha recognised people from all walks of life to become noble if they can eliminate mental impurity. Thus, the Dhamma wheel empowers the nobility in Buddhism as it is safeguarded by the power of Dhamma symbolised by the lotus clubs. And the three tiers parasol connotes the supremacy of Dhamma which all the Lord Buddhas respect.



The Full Lotus Dhamma Wheel

A lotus flower can mean one thing when it is budding, and it means even greater when it blooms. With such a blooming moment, the Full Lotus Dhamma Wheel denotes its powerful Dhamma at work leading towards enlightenment. Hence, enlightenment can be a beautiful experience as it brings about mental bliss, purity, and power greater than the mundane state of mind. The full Lotus Dhamma Wheel hints that each person is capable of more or less enlightenment similar to different lotus flowers with different blooming moment.

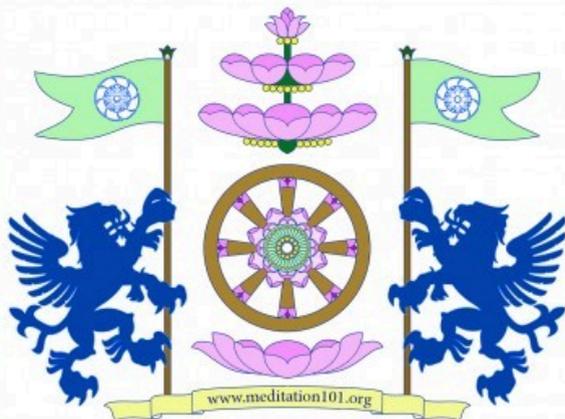
ปัทมาภาธรรมจักร
Pathamabha Dhamma Wheel



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Pathamabha Dhamma Wheel

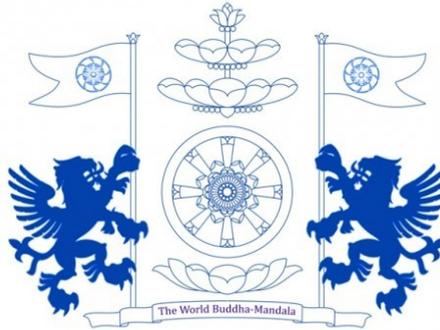
This is the 'simple perfect' Dhamma wheel where lotus flower expresses beauty and gentleness. Pirajak tried to keep up with the symmetry made possible by the computer graphic, but the lines that form the lotus flowers are so smooth that make it look so real. This is the Dhamma that everyone can appreciate, it does not have to be difficult or complicated.



Science makes sense
Meditation makes saints!

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The Dhamma Wheel of Dragon Guardians



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Pathamabha Dhamma Wheel With Dragon Guardians

It is amazing how the Eastern religious icon like the Dhamma wheel can be mixed and matched with the Western dragons. Whilst the Dhamma wheel provides the sense of peace and serenity, the aggressive dragons reflect the powerful symbol of guardianship. Altogether, they convey the meaning that Buddhism can promote peace and harmony with the need for uncompromising security and protection.

The World Holy Tipitaka Emblem

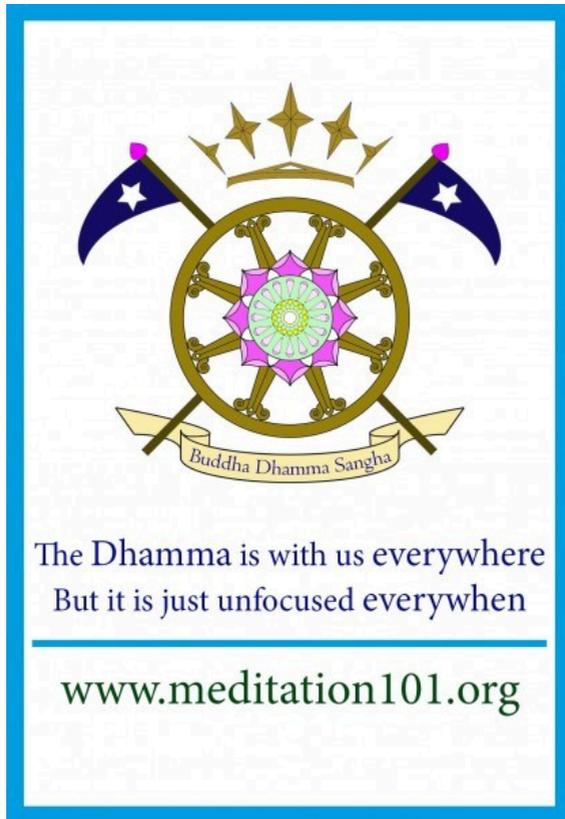


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The Parasoled Dhamma Wheel

The parasol is the symbol of governing supremacy in Buddhist culture. Normally, the parasol is used to provide shade only to someone important like king, queen, royalties, and chair person of the ceremony. In Thai culture, the parasol with more tiers means more importance. Thus, the Dhamma wheel under the three tiers parasol means the important Dhamma whereas the lotus clubs express the sense of elegance and gentleness altogether with the Pegasus which is the symbol of divine protection and admiration.

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Blooming Lotus Dhamma Wheel

Blooming lotus is the symbol of enlightenment whereas the Dhamma wheel is the symbol of delivering and teaching of truths going on. Thus, the emblem shows the teaching of truths discovered from enlightenment at work. When the fully blooming lotus is used, it connotes the full enlightenment as well as full sainthood. Moreover, the starry crown reflects the Lord Buddha's nobleness and earning of admiration from humans and deities from His teaching.

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The Radiating Suriya Dhamma Wheel

Suriya means the sun which is the king of planets. As the sun is used to symbolise the Dhamma Wheel, it shows the 'energy' from spreading the Dhamma which is so powerful, yet peaceful. The sun ray radiates to all directions, and this is like the Dhamma which spreads in the same manner. The flags with the images of precious discus denote the support from sovereign nations and kingdoms. The swan on the top represents serenity and non-violence of Buddhist devout.

The Starry Dhamma Wheel



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7 Sept 2019

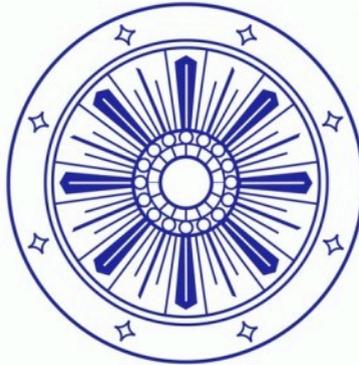
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The Starry Dhamma Wheel

Dhamma is practical for people regardless of their age. Children can also practice Dhamma by applying the easy doctrine to understand whereas adults have more readiness to study Dhamma seriously. The stars which appear on the Dhamma wheel can reflect how entertaining the studying of Dhamma can be for people of different age and gender. Even the children can enjoy Dhamma in the form of songs and jataka tales. With Dhamma in their hearts, they become vibrant like the stars of Dhamma wheel at work!

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The Suriya Dhamma Wheel



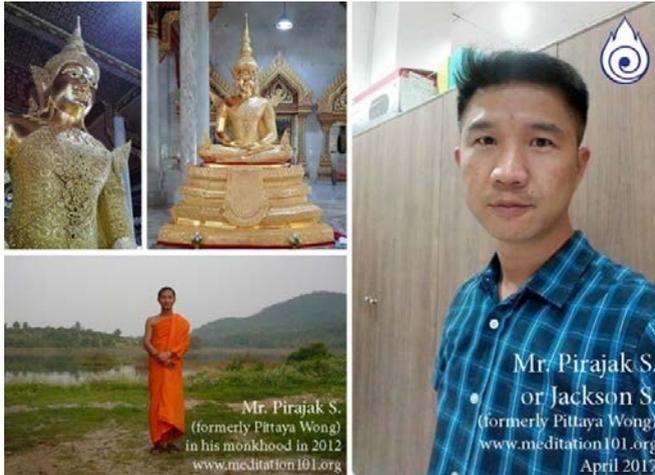
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The Blossom Sun Dhamma Wheel

The sun is a powerful symbol, and it shows how mighty the Dhamma can be. However, with the lotus pollens in the middle, the sun becomes more meaningful as the lotus pollens symbolise the core value or heart of Buddhist teaching which is purity and delicacy of mind achievable through the practices of moral discipline, meditation, and wisdom. Once, the state of mental purity and delicacy is achieved, they can be spread out powerfully and righteously from oneself.

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About Artist



Mr. Pirajak Suwapatdecha (Jackson) is formerly "Pittaya Wong or Pittaya Tisuthiwongse." He is a Thai Buddhist. He was born at Bangkok Christian Hospital on 6th December 1975. In his younger years, he had been educated at reputable Catholic Schools since grade 1 to grade 12 (Assumption College, Thonburi and Assumption Commercial College, Bangkok, respectively). However, his parents had cultivated Buddhism deeply into his heart by teaching him how to recite the Buddhist chanting and make merits at Buddhist temples. As a result, Pirajak had joined his family to make merits at Wat Paknam Temple in Bangkok, the origin of Dhammakaya Meditation tradition, since his childhood.

After Pirajak completed grade 12 in Thailand, he furthered his education in the U.S.A. and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Economics at the University of Washington, Seattle in 1998. Thereafter, Pirajak applied to become a fulltime staff of branches of Dhammakaya Temple in the U.S.A. with a strong

determination to pursue a spiritual life. A couple of years later, Pirajak started to develop mental disorder from schizophrenia which caused him to return to Thailand for periodic psychiatric treatment. However, as a schizophrenia patient, Pirajak was able to continue his post graduate education in Thailand and earned a Master's Degree in Translation Art & Science from Thammasat University, a prominent university in Bangkok, with the GPA of 3.76 and a published academic thesis, but he finally returned his Master's Degree diploma to his scholarship provider to prevent possible disputes.

In term of working life, since 1995, Pirajak had worked for Dhammakaya Temple / Foundation for many years, either as a volunteer or fulltime staff, but he decided to resign his membership and discipleship in 2012 in order to run his own projects by collaborating with meditation masters of Wat Paknam Temple and other branches of Wat Paknam such as Wat Luang Phor Sodh Dhammakayaram and Suan Kaew Meditation Center in Rajaburi Province, Thailand. As such, Pirajak formally applied to become a registered member of Wat Paknam Alumni [Disciple] Association and became an active devout of Wat Paknam as well as other branches of Wat Paknam as the aforesaid. (Dhammakaya Temple/Foundation are not officially recognized as a branch of Wat Paknam in Bangkok).

For more than a decade of Pirajak's suffering from schizophrenia symptom, he told his psychiatrist that his 'good side' and 'bad side' kept arguing and competing each other. Pirajak has endured until the 'good side' finally 'prevails'. Hence, with such overcoming and good knowledge and understanding in Buddhism, Pirajak started to discover and develop many incredible and supramundane expressions on Buddhist teachings and understandings such as the Equation of Time, Time Machine Theorem, Dhammotronics, Dhammonomics, Pirajak's Translation & Interpretation Theorem, Pittaya's Evolutionary Theory, quotes, articles, commentaries, publications, translations, interpretations,

inventions, symbolic drawings, and innovations which are made available on www.meditation101.org.

Soon after Pittaya earned his Master's Degree in 2012, he entered an ordination to become a Buddhist monk at Wat Paknam in Bangkok given the monastic name 'Dhammavidhu,' having His Holiness Somdet Phramaharatchamangkhalachan (Chuang Varapunyo), Pali Scholar Level 9, the former acting Supreme Patriarch of Thailand and the abbot of Wat Paknam Temple, as his preceptor. Pirajak spent around six months in monkhood, and he returned home in Bangkok to take care of his aging parents. Although Pirajak lives as a secular, he accepts the Gold Tara ethics and prefers continuing his celibacy practice throughout his life, since he was born until the present, similar to what a Buddhist monk would do with a belief that sexual relationship is 'unclean.'

From his experience in the monkhood and Dhamma practicing & learning, he authored books and articles related to Buddhism as well as translating several books and articles on Dhammakaya Meditation from Thai to English with the aim to share Buddhist teachings and Dhammakaya Meditation to English speakers all over the world in order to promote peace and harmony among humankind as a non-profit activity.

For myself, I aim towards selfly cultivation.
For others, I aim towards selfless devotion.

- Pirajak T. S.

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