

THE SNOW LION

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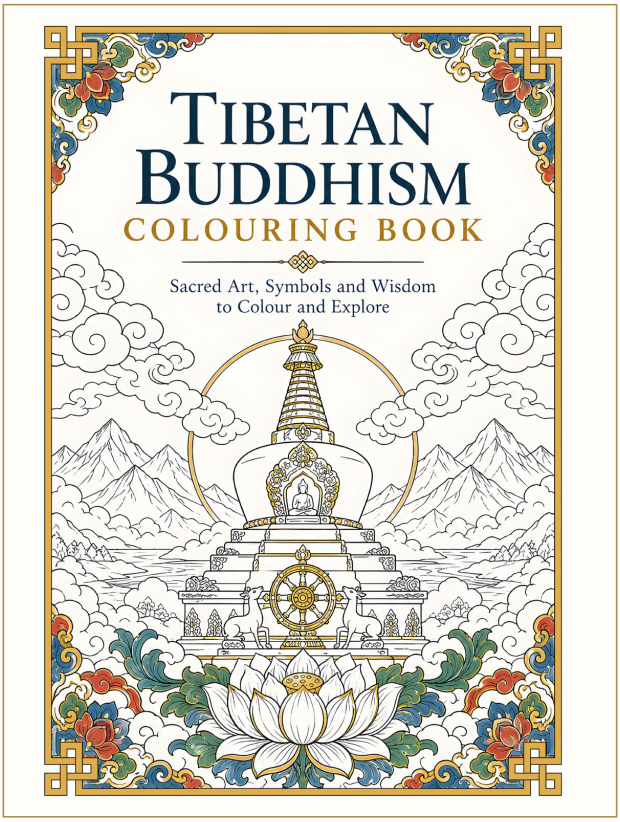
Pronunciation Gang Senggé

The Snow Lion is a mythical animal closely associated with Tibet's high mountains. Its white body contrasts with a flowing turquoise or blue-green mane and tail. A red mouth and tongue often add vivid accents. Its energetic posture conveys strength, joy and fearlessness, rather than the behaviour of an ordinary lion.

In Buddhist symbolism, the lion evokes the fearless proclamation of the Dharma. The Buddha's teaching is compared to a lion's roar because of its confidence and authority. Snow lions also appear as guardians and as supporters beneath the thrones of teachers and awakened figures. Their colouring and lively movement make them distinctive features of Tibetan art. The Snow Lion is a symbolic creature, rather than a Buddha, bodhisattva or meditation deity.

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