



RADIO KORADI

*presents*

# The Tantric Art in the East

# Introduction



# Topics

- ▣ What is Tantra?
- ▣ Wrathful deities: the motif of death
- ▣ Tantric couples: the sexual motif
- ▣ Deity-Yoga and the mandalas

# What is Tantra?

- ▣ The words Yoga and Tantra
- ▣ Tantra and sutra
  - ▣ tantra: “to weave” or the “warp of a loom”
  - ▣ sutra: “to sew”

What is Tantra?

# Sutras and Tantras



What is Tantra?

# Hindu Tantras: dialogues between Shiva and Shakti



What is Tantra?

## Example of Buddhist Tantra: Kalachakra and Vishvavajra



What is Tantra?

## Example of Buddhist Tantra: Hevajra and Nairatmya



What is Tantra?

Example of Buddhist Tantra: Akshobyaavajra and Sparshavajri



# Wrathful deities

- ▣ The Buddha-dhatu and the psychic aggregates
- ▣ The cultural factor: demons, monsters and wild animals
- ▣ Malign and benign creatures

## Bagalamukhi: one of the aspects of Devi



# Kali: another aspect of Devi



## Wrathful deities

Tara: the one who “removes pride”



## Wrathful deities

Begtse Dharmapala protects the Dharma practitioners.



## Wrathful deities

The 5 skulls in his crown: the end of the 5 kleshas



Wrathful deities

His palace is made of bones and skeletons.



Wrathful deities

Prisoners being taken into the palace



Wrathful deities

Flaming sword with scorpion handle



Wrathful deities

# Offerings to Mahakala



Wrathful deities

## The funeral offerings



Wrathful deities

Fierce guardian dogs attack the inner thieves



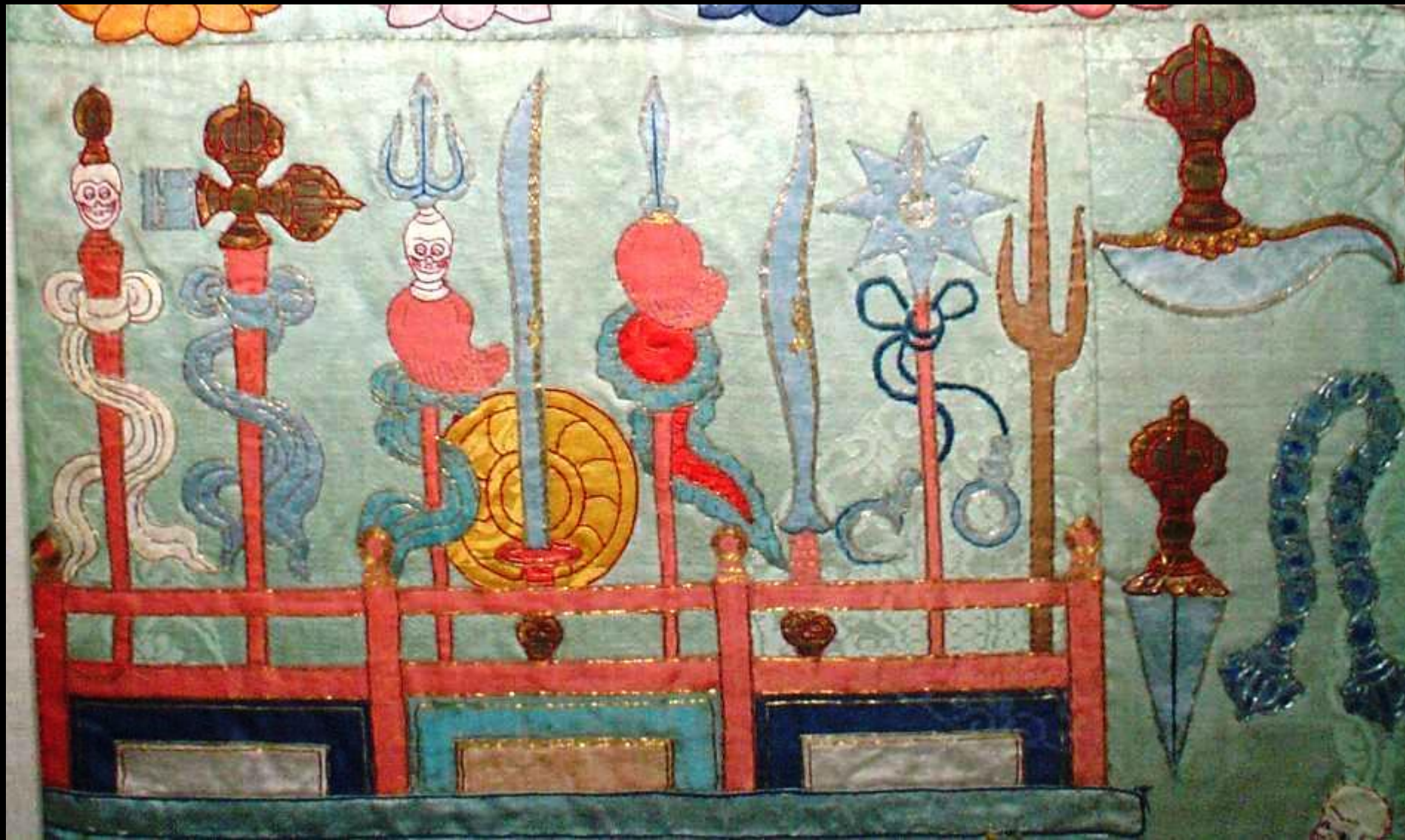
Naga Kanya, daughter of the Nagas, guardians of the waters



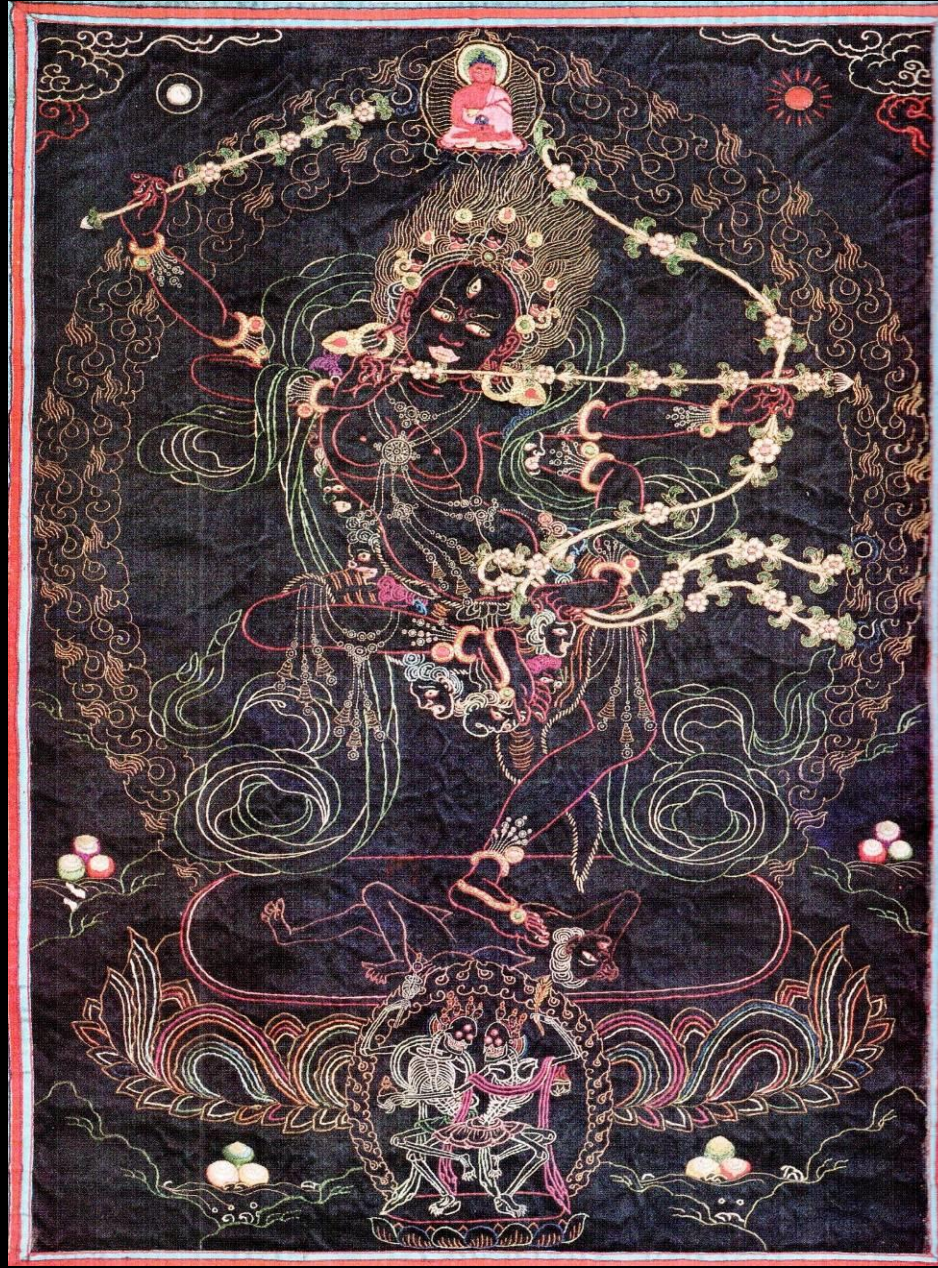
# The Buddhist annihilation: the “empty” nature of the Ego



## Diverse Tantric weapons



# Devi Kurukulla: combines gentleness with strength



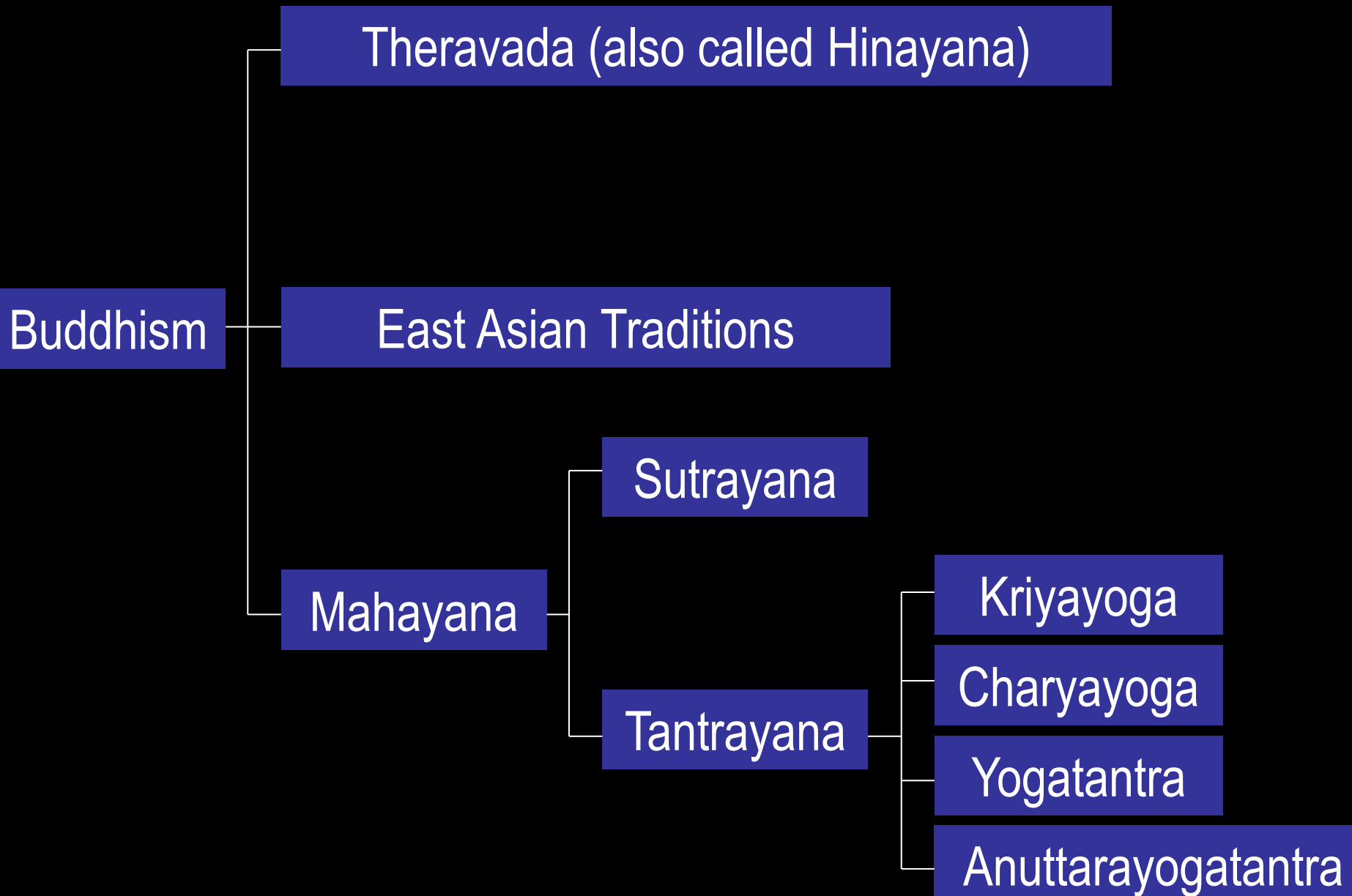
# Chitipati: a couple of skeletons in an erotic dance



# Tantric couples

- The two extremes of misunderstanding

# Several branches of Buddhism



# Dalai Lama's explanation of Tantric couples



# Dalai Lama's explanation of Tantric couples



“In Tibetan Buddhism, especially if you look at the iconography of the deities with their consorts, you can see a lot of very explicit sexual symbolism which often gives the wrong impression.”

# Dalai Lama's explanation of Tantric couples



“Actually, in this case the sexual organ is utilized, but the energy movement which is taking place is, in the end, fully controlled. The energy should never be let out. This energy must be controlled and eventually returned to other parts of the body.”

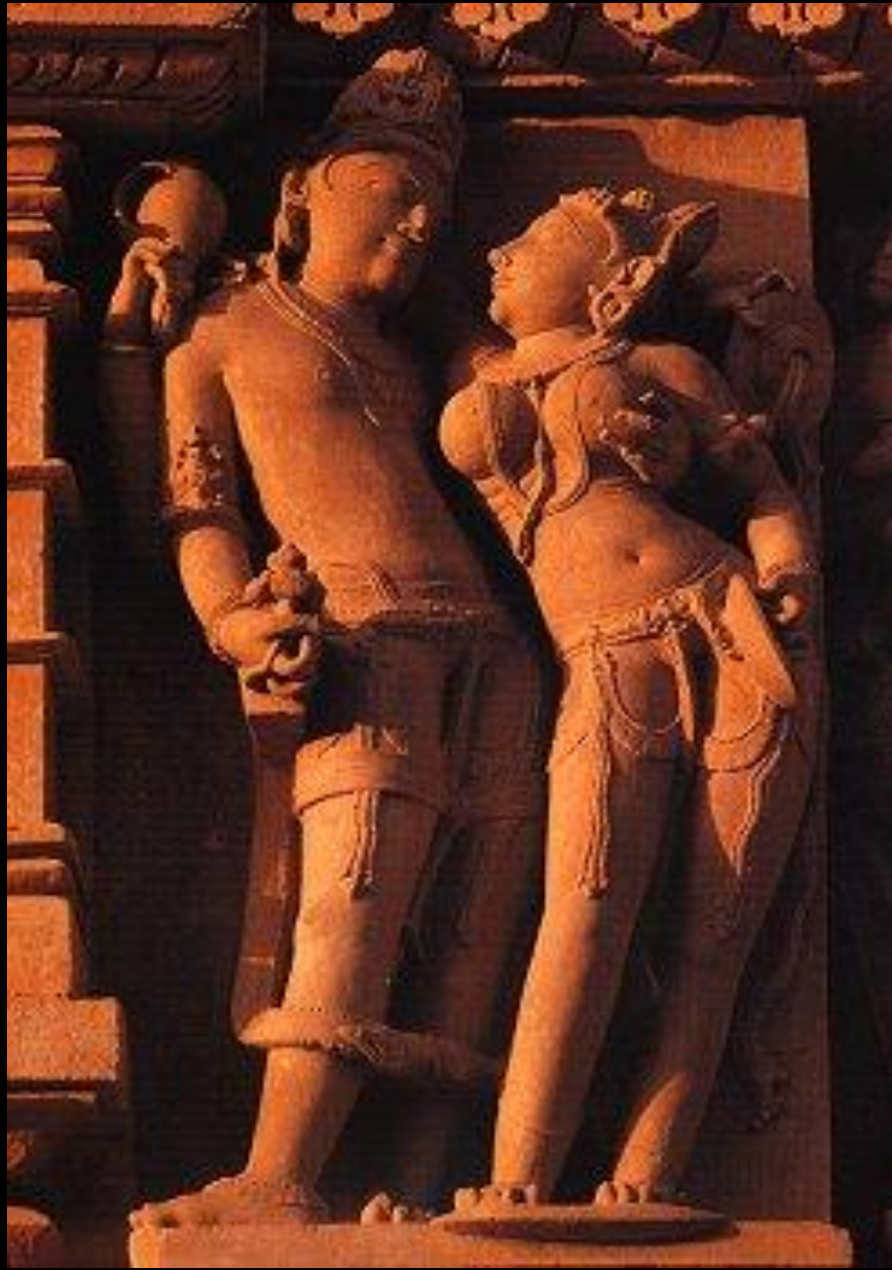
# Dalai Lama's explanation of Tantric couples



“It is crucial to have the ability to protect oneself from the fault of emission. It is not just a purely ordinary sexual act.”

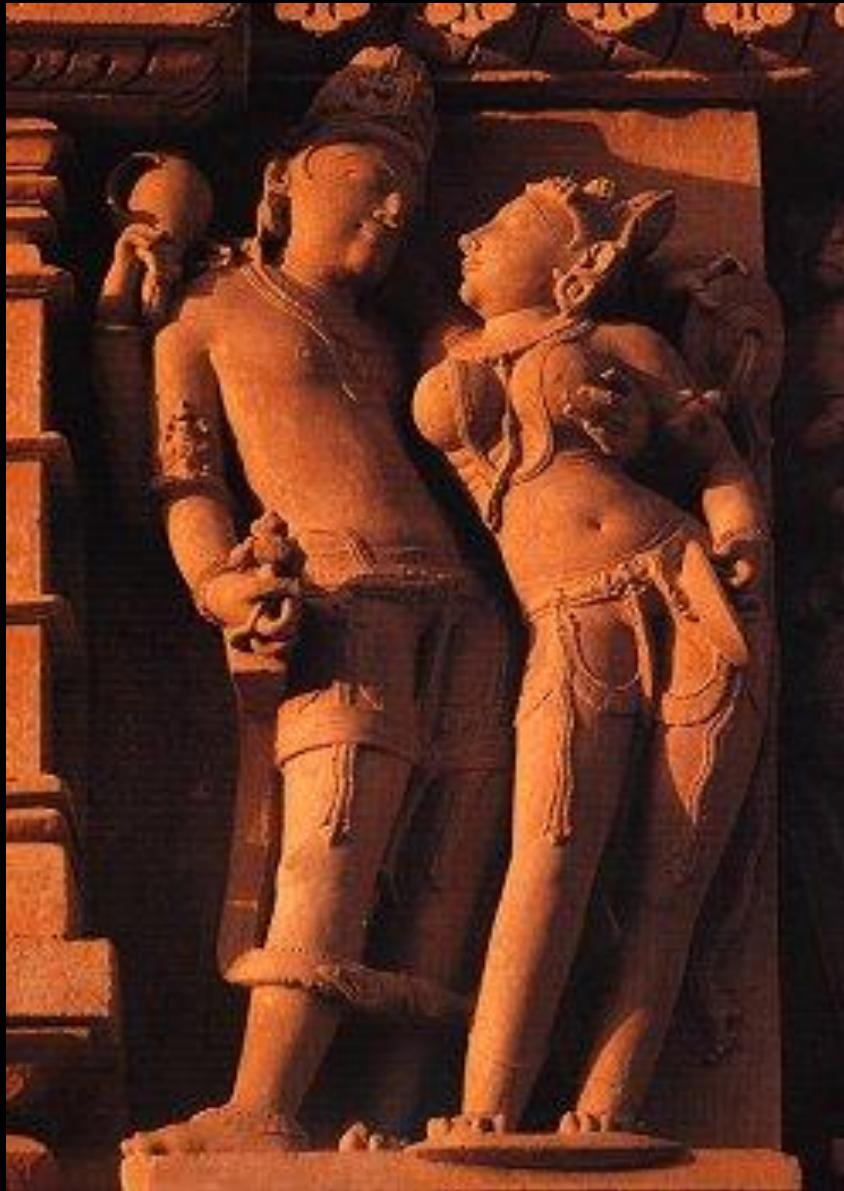
## Tantric couples

Explanation given by an Indian scholar, Dr. Surendra Sahai



## Tantric couples

Explanation given by an Indian scholar, Dr. Surendra Sahai



“The ultimate aim of Tantra Yoga is the attainment of spiritual bliss through sexual asanas and retention of semen. Coitus (Maithuna) is not an act of mere carnal pleasure but an act of liberation for the Soul.”

## Tantric couples

# The missionary Padmasambhava and his wife Yeshe Tsogyel



# The missionary Padmasambhava and his wife Yeshe Tsogyel



“Train your energy flows until you gain self-control. Unite male and female energies. Practice to perfection the skill of retaining your seed-essence; without energy control your sexual activity is fornication.

## The missionary Padmasambhava and his wife Yeshe Tsogyel



“Properly execute the exercises of ‘drawing up’ and ‘saturating’. And with the nails of your imagination apply a hermetic seal. If seed-essence is lost in actuality, the karma of slaying a Buddha is incurred. At all costs gain self-control.”

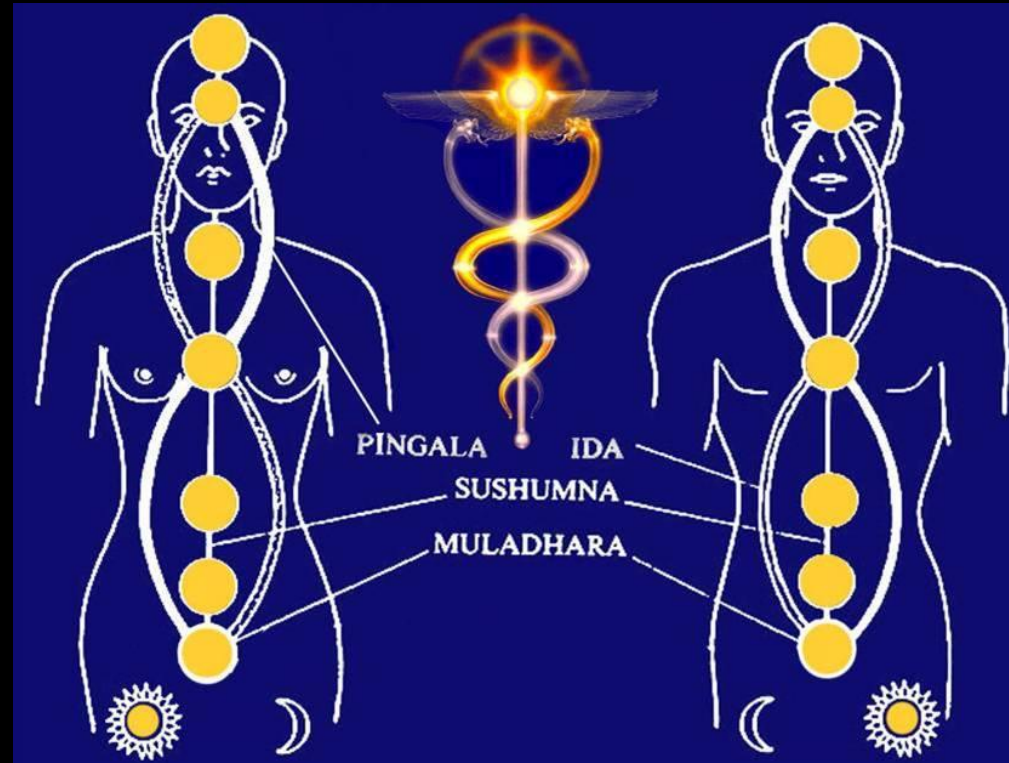
(Yeshe Tsogyel)

In the Sutras: “one has to bath in sacred places”

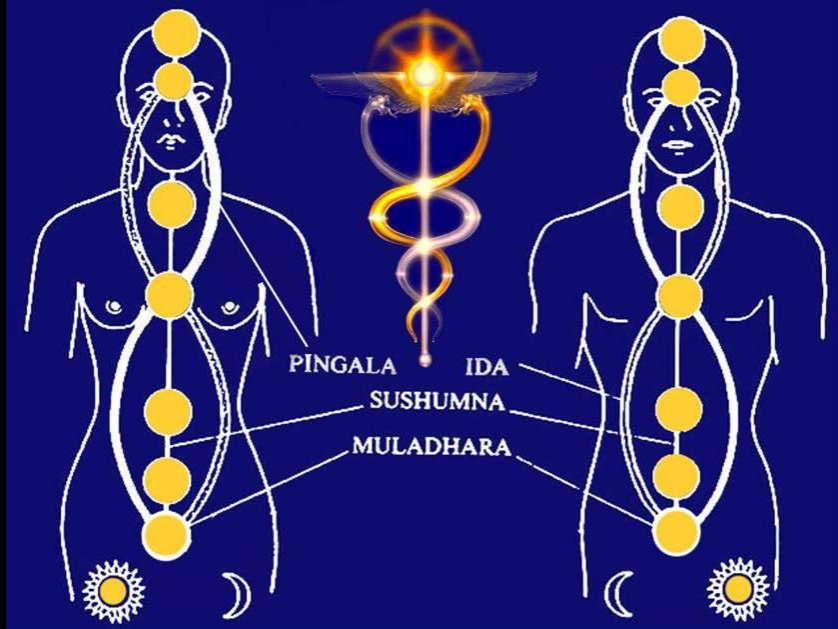


## Tantric couples

In the Tantras: “all knowledge is in the body”

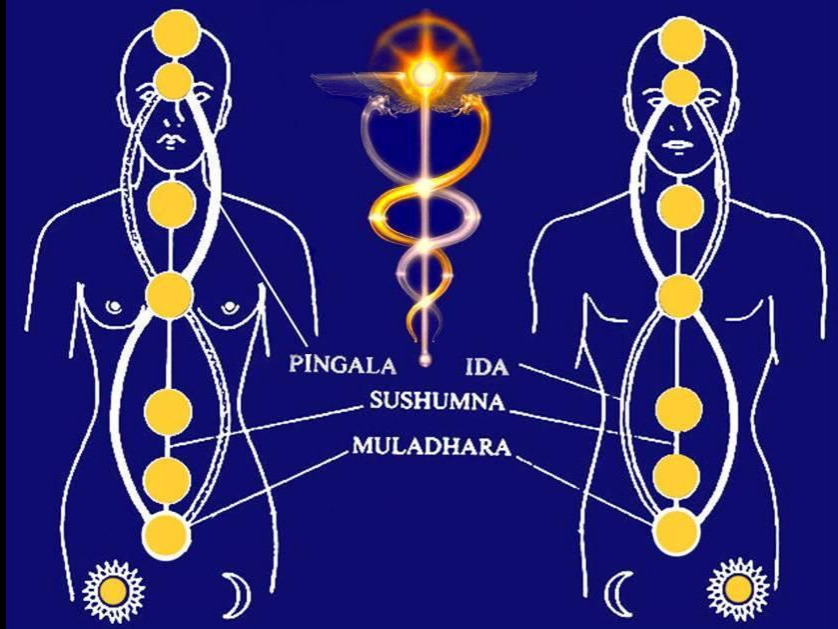


In the Tantras: “all knowledge is in the body”



“All knowledge is in the body... all sacred bathing spots are in the body. The (channel of) Ida is the (river) Ganges and the (channel of) Pingala is the (river) Yamuna. In the center of Ida and Pingala is the (channel of) Sushumna, the (river) Saraswati. The union of the three is known as the king of bathing places.

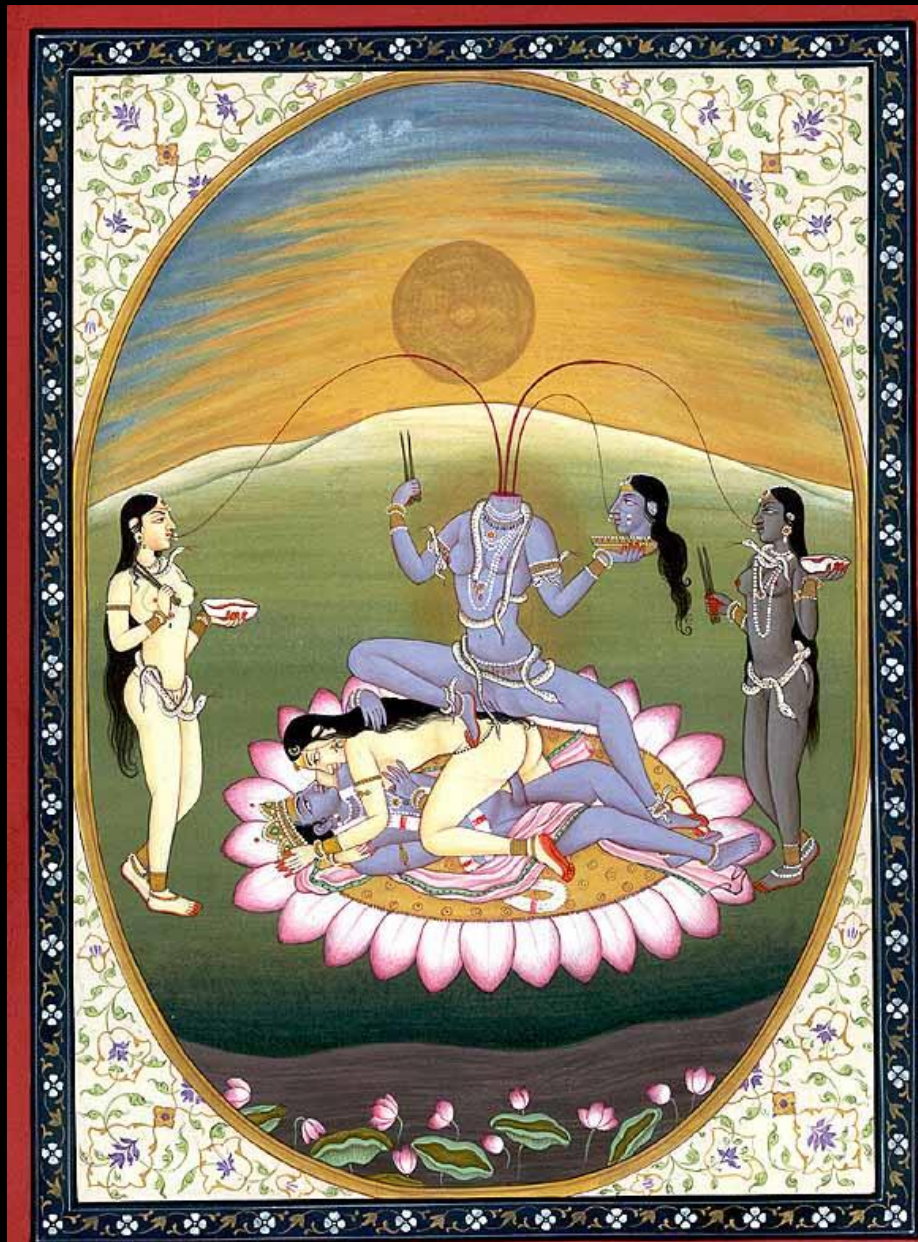
In the Tantras: “all knowledge is in the body”



Whoever bathes there is released from all evil. Folk subject to Tamas wander to this sacred place and that sacred place... They do not realize the sacred place within the body. How then can they be liberated? Whoever knows the ‘upper semen’ (who causes it to rise), he is a deva.”

(Jnanasankalini Tantra)

# Devi Chinnamasta: Ida, Pingala and Sushumna



# Deity-Yoga and the mandalas

- Due to this practice, the Tantric path is known as Tantra-Yoga.
- Yoga: union
  - Deity-Yoga: union or integration with a personal deity

## The 4 purifications

1. Seeing one's body as the body of the deity
2. Seeing oneself in the environment of the mandala of the deity
3. Perceiving pleasure as spiritual bliss arising from the deity
4. Always acting by taking into account the longing to benefit the others

# The personal deity: Ishta-Devata, the Real Being's archetype



# The ritual of initiation: preparatory ceremony



## The ritual of initiation: consecration



# The 5 Dhyani-Buddhas or Jinas



Vairochana

Amitabha

Ratnasambhava

Amoghasiddhi

Akshobhya

# Avalokiteshvara: compassion, love



Deity-Yoga and the mandalas

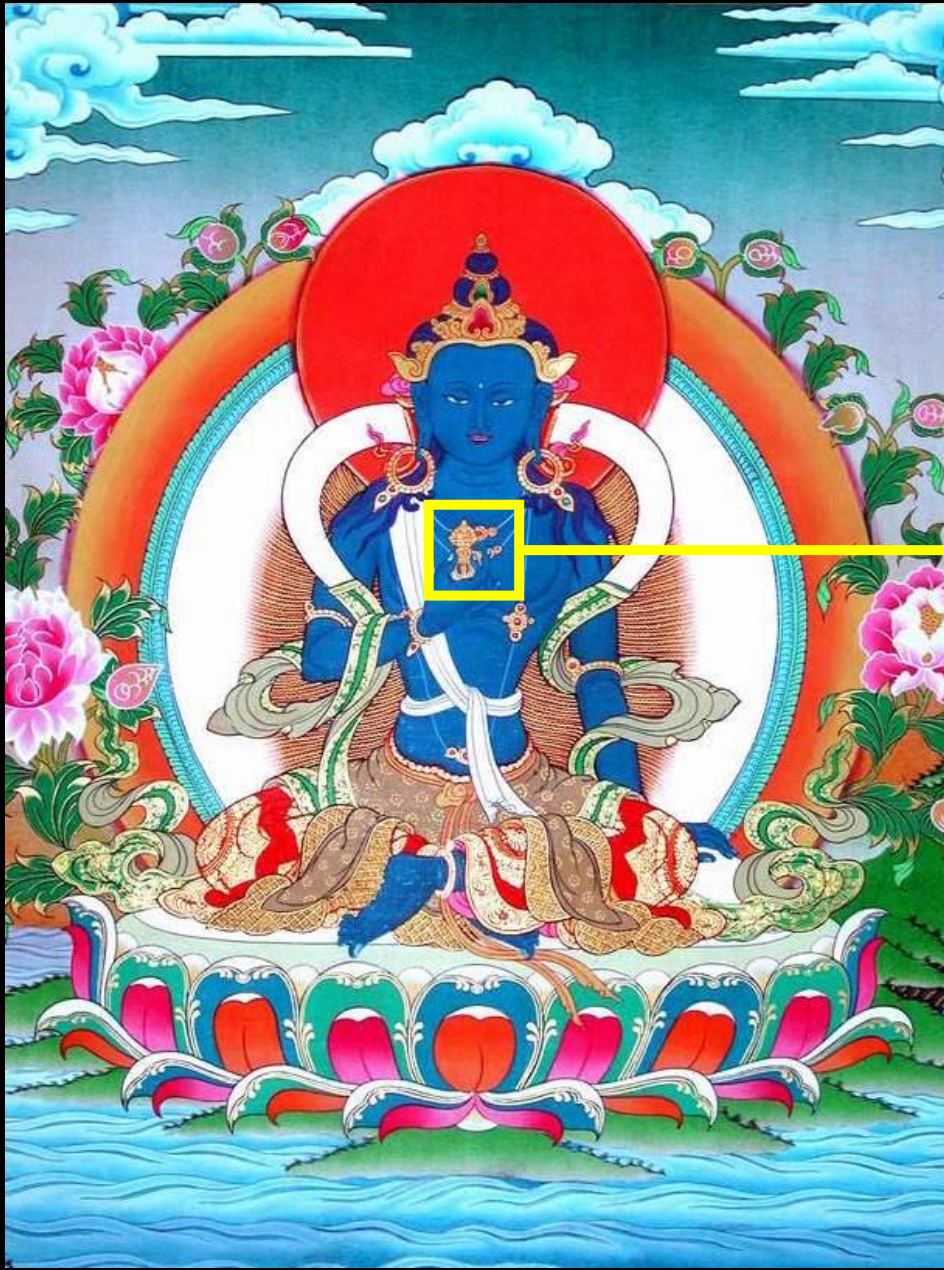
Manjushri: wisdom, knowledge, intelligence



# Vajrapani: power, strength



# Vajrapani: power, strength



# Tara: activity, productive work, conscious action



# Yamantaka: the wrathful aspect of Manjushri



## Deity-Yoga and the mandalas

Deities are shown with multiple arms and heads.



Tantra-Yoga makes intense use of conscious imagination.



## Sacred dances of India: Odissi and Bharatanatyam



Deity-Yoga and the mandalas

# The Tsam dance of Tibet, Mongolia and Bhutan



# The Charya Nritya of Nepal: the 5 Dhyani-Buddhas



Mandala: heavenly mansion, temple where the deity dwells



# Tridimensional model of the Kalachakra mandala



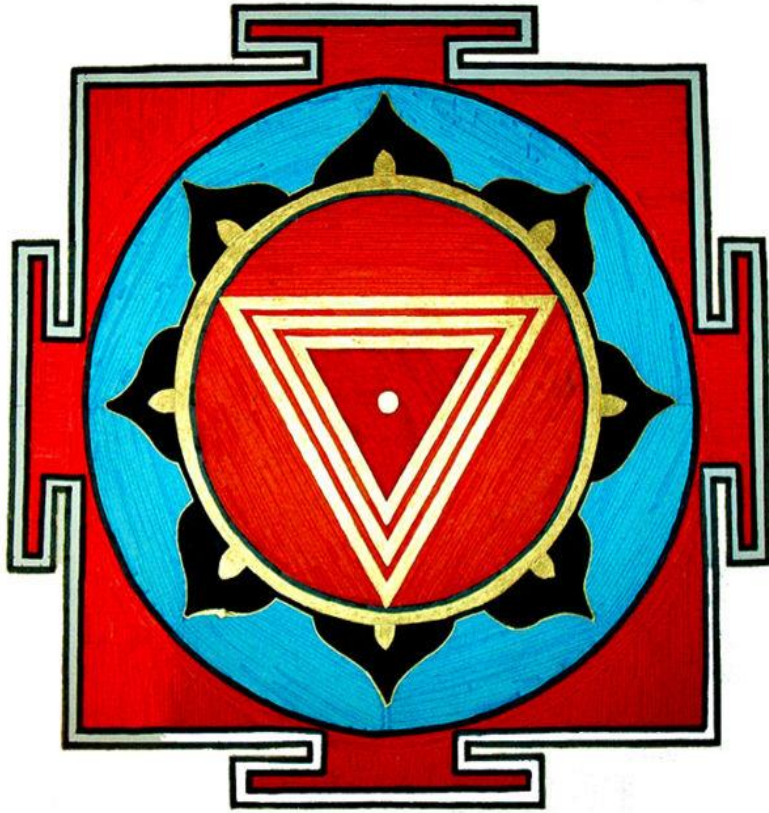
# Visualization of the temple in the superior worlds



Yantra: diagram of the flower in which the deity dwells



# The yantras of Kali and Bagalamukhi



## The third purification: enjoy pleasures in a serene way



# The fourth purification: the longing to serve humankind



## The fourth purification: the longing to serve humankind



“Whatever joy there is in this world, all comes from desiring others to be happy. And whatever suffering there is in this world, all comes from desiring myself to be happy.”

(Shantideva, “The Way of the Bodhisattva”)

# Thousand-armed Avalokiteshvara: path of the Bodhisattva



## Thousand-armed Avalokiteshvara: path of the Bodhisattva



“The more we care for the happiness of the others, the greater is our own sense of well-being. Cultivating a close, warmhearted feeling for others automatically puts the mind at ease. It helps remove whatever fears or insecurities we may have and gives us the strength to cope with any obstacles we encounter.” (Dalai Lama)

# Deity-Yoga: image, values and identity of the Being



## Deity-Yoga: image, values and identity of the Being



“Man has been educated to deny his true identity, values and image. The exterior image of a man and the diverse circumstances that surround him are the exact result of his interior image and of his psychological processes.

## Deity-Yoga: image, values and identity of the Being



Image, values and identity must be changed radically. This is integral revolution. We need the identity of the Being, values of the Being, and the image of the Being.”

(Samael Aun Weor, “The Revolution of Dialectics”)

# Koradi: At the service of the Being



## *The Tantric Art in the East*

“By whatever thing the world is bound, by that the bond is unfastened.”

(Hevajra Tantra)