

[illegible]

[illegible]

**Wakubus** རྒྱལ་བུ་ཀུན་ལ་ in Buddhism

The Tibetan languages have their own native writing system which has been in use for well over a thousand years. During the 7th Century AD, the first script for Tibetan was written based on the Devanagari model in Sanskrit grammar. The new alphabet was used to write Tibetan translations of Buddhist texts.

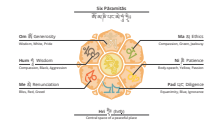
The Tibetan writing system is popularly known as an alphabet in English-language sources, and in Tibetan it is simply called ལྷན་ཅི་ལྷན་ཅི་ (lhan che lhan che) meaning 'letter-sound letter-sound'. The alphabet consists of 28 consonant letters ལྷན་ཅི་ (lhan che) and 4 vowel letters ལྷན་ཅི་ (lhan che), making 32 letters in total.

Wood block printing, introduced from China, was used in Tibet from an early date and is still used in a few monasteries. The most unusual genre of Tibetan literature is that of ལྷན་ཅི་ (lhan che) or 'secreted texts' - especially the work of ancient masters which have been hidden in remote caves.

མཁའ་འགྲུ་མཁའ་འགྲུ་ om mani padme hum

In English, the mantra is variously transliterated, depending on the schools of Buddhism as well as individual teachers. Most script consider manpadme to be one compound word rather than two simple words. Sanskrit writing does not have capital letters and this means capitalization of transliterated mantras varies from all caps, to initial caps, to no caps.

The all caps rendering is typical of older scholarly works, and Tibetan Sathana texts. The precise meaning and significance of the words remain much discussed by Buddhist scholars. The literal meaning has been expressed as 'grace to the jewel in the lotus'. Padma is the Sanskrit for the Indian lotus and more for 'jewel' as in a type of spiritual jewel solely referred to in Buddhism. The first word, om, is a sacred syllable in various Indian traditions, and hum represents the spirit of enlightenment.



The recitation of the Sanskrit mantra bringing the practitioner to the mind of the name of the Buddhist texts, includes a declaration of the manner in which a person is reborn in Sathana: in the jewel lotus. The complete mantra in Tibetan is མཁའ་འགྲུ་མཁའ་འགྲུ་མཁའ་འགྲུ་ (om mani padme hum). The མཁའ་འགྲུ་ (om) is not always vocalized audibly and may be recited internally or silently through concentration.

