

# जमभाला Jamabhālā

Meaning of JAMBHALA (जमभाला) in English

Noun

- Yawning

<http://shabdkosh.raftaar.in/Meaning-of-JAMBHALA-in-English>

## Jambhala

**Buddhist** - A three-headed god of riches. An aspect of Ratnasambhava. In one form he is shown treading on a man to make him vomit up jewels. He is sometimes depicted holding a bag of gold, a mongoose or a lemon.

<http://www.mythologydictionary.com/jambhala-mythology.html>

## ג'מבאלה

... יבטי שנגנב על ידי נאצים הגיע מהחלל - קפה הפוך - הפורום הדמוקרטי

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((Vaisravana)) נחשב האל הבודהיסטי של הצפון, הידוע גם כג'מבאלה (Jambhala) בטיבט.

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## جامبھالا

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# Jambhala

**Jambhala** (also known as Dzambhala, Dzambala, Zambala or Jambala) is the *God of Wealth* and appropriately a member of the *Jewel Family* (see *Ratnasambhava*). In Hindu mythology, Jambhala known as **Kubera**. Jambhala is also believed to be an emanation of *Avalokitesvara* or **Chenrezig**, the *Bodhisattva* of Compassion. There are five different wealth Jambhala, each has their own practice and mantra to help eliminate poverty and create financial stability.<sup>[1]</sup>

Gyalten Sogdzin Rinpoche said that Jambhala is the protector of all *Lineages* and of all sentient beings from all sickness and difficulties. Jambhala is a *Bodhisattva* of material and spiritual wealth as well as many other things, especially of granting financial stability.

*"Because in this world, there are all kinds of wrathful and negative emotions or bad spirits, and sometimes they will harm you and other sentient beings, Dzambhala must take on such a wrathful and powerful form to protect us from these harmful spirits and negative karma. Especially, Dzambhala helps us minimize or decrease all misfortunes and obstacles and helps us increase all good fortune and happiness."*<sup>[2]</sup>

## 1 Etymology

"**Dzam**" means "*Deity or gathering*". "**Bhah**" means "*gold or wealth*". "**La**" means "*to honor*". "**Dzambhala**" means "*Precious Golden Deity, who gathers or brings the wealth of spirituality or Dharma and material security or accomplishment to our lives*".<sup>[2]</sup>

## 2 The Five Jambhalas

The five Jambhalas are the manifestations of the compassion of **Buddha** and *Bodhisattvas* to guide sentient beings along the path to enlightenment. They have the essence of generosity and represent the activities of increasing benefit. Their aspirations are to help the poor and those suffering from ill-fortune.<sup>[3]</sup>

### 2.1 Green Jambhala

**Green Jambhala** is the chief of the five Jambhalas and is the manifestation of **Buddha Akshobhya**, depicted stand-

ing upon a corpse and holding a **Mongoose** in his left hand and a **Kapala** in his right hand.<sup>[1]</sup>

He is usually shown with his consort and carrying a jewel producing mongoose in his left hand.<sup>[4]</sup> Green Jambhala has bluish green colored body. He sits in the *vajra* position with **Dakini** in front of him. His right leg is pan-handle with right foot is above a snail and lotus flower, while his left leg is kinked. On his left hand is an animal called *Nehulay* (*mongoose*) which spue out jewels from its mouth, his right hand holding *Norbu*. The **Dakini** holding Lotus flower in her hand. The Mantra of Green Jambhala is:<sup>[5]</sup>

*Om Karma Jambhala Ah Svaha*

### 2.2 White Jambhala

**White Jambhala** (or *Dzambhala Gapee* in Tibetan) is the compassionate manifestation of the *Bodhisattva* **Chenrezig** (**Guan Yin**). He can remove the suffering of poverty and sickness, purify non-virtuous karma and karmic obstacles, avert disaster and sickness, and evolve *bodhicitta* mind.<sup>[1][3]</sup>

The Tibetan legend said that a revered high Lama, **Atisha**, was walking alone when he found a man starving and near death. After looking around and unable to find food for the old man, he cut flesh from his own body and offered it to the starving man. But the man refused to eat the his flesh. Being depressed and not knowing how else to help the man nearing death, Lama **Atisha** sat down next to him. At that point there was a blinding bright white light and before **Atisha** appeared **Chenrezig** of Compassion. He told Lama **Atisha** that he was going to manifest himself as the *God of Wealth*, **Jambhala**, and assure that those in poverty would suffer no longer.<sup>[6]</sup>

As the manifestation of *Avalokitesvara* *Bodhisattva*, **White Jambhala** was born from his right eye. He sits on a **snow lion**, although some artists depict him sitting on a **dragon**, and a **mongoose** in his left hand spits out precious diamonds and ornaments.<sup>[1]</sup> **White Jambhala** has white colored body. He also holding a **Wealth Banner** in his left arm and a **Gold Sword** in his right. The Mantra of **White Jambhala** is:<sup>[5]</sup>

*Om Padma Krodha Arya Jambhala Hridaya  
Hum Phat*

When cultivating the "*Dragon-riding White Jambhala Practice*", the practitioners can also pray that he will

lead them to hidden treasures. In the olden days, Tibetan Tantric masters placed their precious teachings in caves. These teachings were sealed in the four elements of “earth, water, fire and wind”. One needs to employ very special methods to retrieve these Dharma treasures. One must also know the location of the caves where these ancestry masters had practiced in seclusion. The practitioners may pray to the “Dragon-riding White Jambhala” so that he will bring them to these caves where the treasures were hidden.<sup>[7]</sup>

### 2.3 Yellow Jambhala



Partly gilded Tibetan bronze statue of Vaisravana Jambhala sitting on a snow lion and holding a mongoose in his left hand. 18th century

See also: Vaisravana

The **Yellow Jambhala** is considered the most popular and powerful of the Wealth Gods.<sup>[6]</sup> He is the emanation of Buddha Ratnasambhava. He can remove poverty within the six realms, increasing virtues, life span and wisdom.<sup>[3]</sup>

He is also said as an emanation of Vaisravana, one of the “Four Great World-protecting Heavenly Kings”. He is the guardian of light in Buddhism, a great charitable deity who grants fortune and protection. Lord Vaisravana lives in the northern region under the Four Heavens, at the northern crystal palace on the fourth level of Mount Sumeru. His servants are either *yaksas* or *bhaisajya-yaksas*. According to the commentary on Lotus Sutra, this heavenly king is extremely knowledgeable as his perpetual protection of the Buddhas has enabled him to receive many teachings.<sup>[7]</sup>

Yellow Jambhala has yellow colored body, he sits in the *vajra* position with his right leg is panhandle, his right foot is above a snail and lotus flower, and his left leg is kinked. He has one face and two arms. His left hand holding a mongoose named *Nehulay* which spews forth precious jewels from its mouth, while his right hand holding gems shaped fruit and leaf of lotus.<sup>[5]</sup> An ordinary image

of Lord Vaisravana is one that holds a precious pagoda in the left, which pours out various treasures. In Tibetan Tantric images, the precious pagoda is replaced by the treasure-emitting mongoose.<sup>[7]</sup> Yellow Jambhala sits on a lotus, sun disk and moon disk.<sup>[1]</sup> His mantra is:<sup>[5]</sup>

*Om Jambhala Jalendraye Svaha*

### 2.4 Red Jambhala



*Ganapati, Maha Rakta*

See also: Ganesha and Ganesha in world religions

**Red Jambhala** is depicted practising together with his consort, the heavenly mother of wealth that is in-charge of wealth in the human realm. In ancient time, this deity was practised mainly by Kings and royalty. His practice is most suitable to people in high power, or pray for high power, for it can attract people, wealth and fame. One will enjoy wealth in abundance and shall be well respected and supported by people.<sup>[3]</sup> There is also the Red Jambhala magnetizing method that can bless the practitioner with marital bliss and a harmonious family.<sup>[7]</sup>

Red Jambhala is the manifestation of Vajrasattva. He has two faces and four arms and holds a treasury mongoose on his left hand. His Tibetan name is *Dzambhala Mapo*.<sup>[1]</sup> Red Jambhala has red colored body, sits in the *vajra* po-



sition with **Dakini** in front of him. His right leg is panhandle with right foot is above a snail and lotus flower, his left leg is kinked. He holding an animal known as *Nehulay* (mongoose) in his left hand, his right hand holding *Khorlo* (Cakra), the **Dakini** holding *Kapala* containing *Nectar* in her left hand and *Norbu Mebar* in her right hand. The Mantra of Red Jambhala is:<sup>[5]</sup>

*Om Jambhala Jalendraye Dhanam Medehi  
Hrih Dakini Jambhala Sambhara Svaha*

Some people believe he is the **Hindu** God of Wealth **Ganesha**,<sup>[4]</sup> the Red Ganapati,<sup>[1]</sup> and has the head of an elephant.<sup>[6]</sup> After the rise of **Tantric Buddhism**, **Ganesha** became a Tantric wealth deity and is known as the “Lord of Provisions in Tibetan Tantrism”. According to legend, Red Jambhala was in charge of the heavenly treasury that belonged to Lord **Mahesvara**’s son. Due to his extreme compassion, Red Jambhala had unfailingly answered the prayers of many worshippers. Enraged by Red Jambhala’s indiscriminate charity to both the good and evil, **Dharma guardian Mahakala** decapitated him. It was only after the wealth deity repents that Mahakala plants an elephant’s head on his neck and receives him as a retainer.<sup>[7]</sup>

## 2.5 Black Jambhala

The **Black Jambhala** is also known as the Hindu God of Wealth, **Kubera**.<sup>[6]</sup> Originated in ancient India, he manifested from the waters of the river and gave the transmission of generating wealth to a King whose kingdom was undergoing extreme financial difficulties during that time. He also benefits the poor and those in solitary retreat that has virtuous mind.<sup>[3]</sup>

He is the manifestation of **Amoghasiddhi Buddha** by the request of **Buddha Shakyamuni** to turn the wheel of **Dharma** to benefit sentient beings who are suffering from poverty. He will enable all endeavors to be perfectly accomplished and purify all bad luck and obstacles, prevent theft, bad debts and loss of wealth.<sup>[3]</sup> Jambhala has black colored body. He depicted in a standing position over a human body, symbolizes to subdue human’s ego and eliminate human’s greed. His right hand holding Gems Pot and his left hand holding an animal named *Nehulay* (mongoose) which spue out jewels from its mouth. Black Jambhala also wears a snake necklace on his body. The Mantra of Black Jambhala is:<sup>[5]</sup>

*Om Jambhala Jalendraye Bashu Dharini  
Svaha*

## 3 The practice

In **Tantrism**, Jambhala practice is an expedient and worldly cultivation-method. Tantric cultivation is divided

into “Generation Stage” and “Completion Stage”; *Generation Stage* is the foundation while *Completion Stage* consists of practices pertaining to the holy truth and the transcendental methods. Jambhala practice is a fundamental cultivation-method.<sup>[7]</sup>

The basis of Five Jambhalas practices is **Bodhicitta**. Practitioners should generate the altruistic *intention of compassion* (**Bodhicitta**), and practice generosity. The practice can remove poverty within the **six realms** and increase one’s merits, wisdom and lifespan. All their material and spiritual needs will be met.<sup>[3]</sup>

The *puja* of Five Jambhalas summons immense positive wealth energies upon the participants. The **Buddhists** believe that wealth results from one’s past actions, but this *puja* itself also plays a significant role in changing the course of one’s financial situation. **Gaden Shartse** said:<sup>[3]</sup>

*“With a sincere motivation to accumulate merit, purify our negative karma, as well as make prayers for all sentient beings to be freed from all poverty and all sufferings, without doubt - one will certainly receive the vast blessings and protection of the wealth deities.”*

Some people claim that cultivating the Jambhala practice will increase one’s greed. Although the spiritual practitioner has the desire to gain great fortune, his body, mind and speech are nonetheless gradually purified in the process of practicing the Tantric method.<sup>[7]</sup>

### 3.1 Reciting mantras

Chanting the mantra of every Jambhala is believed to be more beneficial, if the chanter has received oral transmissions from a teacher who holds the teaching Lineage.<sup>[5]</sup>

### 3.2 Pouring water over statues

The legend said that while **Sakyamuni Buddha** was teaching the **Maha Prajna-Paramita Sutra**, the jealous **Devadatta** threw rocks at the **Buddha**. But instead, the rocks hit **White** and **Yellow Jambhalas** on their heads and hit **Black Jambhala** on the stomach.<sup>[1]</sup> **Buddha** then came over to **Jambhala** and blessed him; from his hand came a white, nectar-like substance of wisdom and compassion and love, and touched **Jambhala**’s head. **Jambhala** feel very blissful, happy, calm, and cleaned his impurities and obstructions, and his wounds. **Jambhala** immediately bowed down to **Buddha** and thanked him.<sup>[4]</sup>

**Sakyamuni Buddha** said to him, “As I have healed you and I poured this holy nectar onto you, in the future anyone of my students or student’s students who invokes your power and pours water onto your head - bestow on them wealth, give them the two types of wealth, material wealth and spiritual wealth, more importantly spiritual wealth.”

After that, Jambhala folded his hands and said, “I will do as you have said and I promise that I will do that.”<sup>[4]</sup>

That story has become the basis for the practitioners of *Jambhala Puja* to pour water over their statues or to place their statues under the falling water of six-step waterfalls.<sup>[1]</sup>

## 4 See also

- Kubera
- Cai Shen

## 5 References

- [1] Nepalese and Tibetan Arts Blog. Access date= June 3rd, 2013. Five Jambala (Dzambhala) and Mantra.
- [2] His Holiness Gyalten Sogdzin Rinpoche. Access date= June 3rd, 2013. A Dharma Teaching by His Holiness Rimay Gyalten Sogdzin Rinpoche. Section 17. The Teachings for the Dzambhala Empowerment.
- [3] Gaden Shartse Dro-Phen Ling (འདུན་ཤར་ཤེས་རྒྱལ་ལོང་ལྷན་ཁག་གི་འཇུག་པོ་). Access date= June 3rd, 2013. Five Dzambalas Wealth-Congregating & Fortune Blessing Puja ལྷན་ཁག་གི་འཇུག་པོ་ལྷན་ཁག་གི་འཇུག་པོ་.
- [4] Red Zambala. February 14th, 2013. Access date= June 3rd, 2013. Red Zambala.
- [5] Tharpa Ling Jakarta – Indonesia Tibetan Tantric Buddhism. February 4th, 2013. Access date= April 3rd, 2013. Jambhala, The Bodhisattva of Wealth.
- [6] John W. Sheridan. June 29th, 2011. Access date= June 3rd, 2013. The Five Jambhala Wealth Gods.
- [7] Singapore True Buddha School Yuan Xi Tang. Access date= April 3rd, 2013. The Jambhala Practice of Tantric Buddhism.

## 6 External links

- Vaisravana and 5 Jambhala

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