

# BODIES OF THE BUDDHA

## THREE METHODS OF CATEGORIZING BODIES OF THE BUDDHA

I. TWO BODIES OF THE BUDDHA				
<b>1. OWN-BENEFIT TRUTH BODY</b> <b><i>DHARMAKAYA</i></b> (mainly benefits the Buddha)	↗	<b>WISDOM TRUTH BODY / <i>JNANAKAYA</i></b> (Omniscient Mental Consciousness of the Buddha)	↗	<b>OMNISCIENT CONSCIOUSNESS REALIZING THATNESS (ULTIMATE TRUTH)</b>
	↘	<b>NATURE BODY / <i>SVABHAVAKAYA</i></b>	↘	<b>OMNISCIENT CONSCIOUSNESS REALIZING CONVENTIONAL TRUTH</b>
			↗	<b>NATURE BODY OF NATURAL PURITY</b> (Emptiness of the Omniscient Mental Consciousness)
			↘	<b>NATURE BODY FREE FROM PERIPHERAL DEFILEMENTS</b> (Cessations in Continuum of the Buddha)
<b>2. OTHERS-BENEFIT FORM BODY</b>  <b><i>RUPAKAYA</i></b> Mainly Benefits Sentient Beings	↗	<b>ENJOYMENT BODY / <i>SAMBOGHAKAYA</i></b> (Arya Buddha Resides only in the highest Pure Realm; is perceived only by Arya Bodhisattvas, is adorned with the 32 major & 80 minor marks; teaches only Mahayana; and dwells until the end of Samsara.		
	↘	<b>EMANATION BODY / <i>NIRMANAKAYA</i></b>	↗	<b>ARTISAN EMANATION BODY / <i>SILPA NIRMANAKAYA</i></b> (emanations of Artists or Objects of Art)
			→	<b>BIRTH EMANATION BODY / <i>JANMA NIRMANAKAYA</i></b> (emanations of Humans or Animals)
			↘	<b>SUPREME EMANATION BODY / <i>UTTAMA NIRMANAKAYA</i></b> (emanation of Wheel Turning Buddha, adorned with the 32 major and 80 minor signs, who engages in the 12 Deeds)

CHART 04 – BODIES of the BUDDHA: Three Categorizations

## II. THREE BODIES OF THE BUDDHA

### 1. TRUTH BODY *DHARMAKAYA*

- ↗ **WISDOM TRUTH BODY / *JNANAKAYA***  
(Omniscient Mental Consciousness of the Buddha)
- ↘ **NATURE BODY / *SVABHAVAKAYA***

- ↗ **OMNISCIENT CONSCIOUSNESS REALIZING THATNESS (ULTIMATE TRUTH)**
- ↘ **OMNISCIENT CONSCIOUSNESS REALIZING CONVENTIONAL TRUTH**

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- ↗ **NATURE BODY OF NATURAL PURITY** (Emptiness of the Omniscient Mental Consciousness)
- ↘ **NATURE BODY FREE FROM PERIPHERAL DEFILEMENTS** (Cessations in Continuum of the Buddha)

### 2. ENJOYMENT BODY / *SAMBOGHAKAYA*

### 3. EMANATION BODY *SAMBOGHAKAYA*

- ↗ **ARTISAN EMANATION BODY / *SILPA NIRMANAKAYA*** (emanations of Artists or Objects of Art)
- **BIRTH EMANATION BODY / *JANMA NIRMANAKAYA*** (emanations of Humans or Animals)
- ↘ **SUPREME EMANATION BODY / *UTTAMA NIRMANAKAYA***

### III. FOUR BODIES OF THE BUDDHA

#### 1. WISDOM TRUTH BODY - *JANAKAYA*

(Buddha's Omniscient Mental Consciousness)

↗ **OMNISCIENT CONSCIOUSNESS REALIZING THATNESS (ULTIMATE TRUTH)**

↘ **OMNISCIENT CONSCIOUSNESS REALIZING CONVENTIONAL TRUTH**

#### 2. NATURE BODY - *SVABHAVAKAYA*

↗ **NATURE BODY OF NATURAL PURITY** (Emptiness of the Omniscient Mental Consciousness)

↘ **NATURE BODY FREE FROM PERIPHERAL DEFILEMENTS** (Cessations in Continuum of the Buddha)

**3. ENJOYMENT BODY – *SAMBOGHAKAYA*** - (Arya Buddha Resides only in the highest Pure Realm; is perceived only by Arya Bodhisattvas, is adorned with the 32 major & 80 minor marks; teaches only Mahayana; and dwells until the end of Samsara.)

#### 4. EMANATION BODY - *NIRMANAKAYA*

↗ **ARTISAN EMANATION BODY / *SILPA NIRMANAKAYA*** (Emanated by the Enjoyment Body/*Samboghakaya*)

→ **BIRTH EMANATION BODY / *JANMA NIRMANAKAYA*** (Emanations of humans, animals and in non-visible realms)

↘ **SUPREME EMANATION BODY / *UTTAMA NIRMANAKAYA*** (Emanation of Wheel Turning Buddha, adorned with the 32 major and 80 minor signs)

## NOTES - CHART 04 – BODIES OF THE BUDDHA: THREE CATEGORIZATIONS

### THREE DIVISIONS of *NIRMANAKAYA* EMANATION BODIES

***SILPA NIRMANAKAYA* - ARTISAN EMANATIONS** appear as:

- 1) **Objects of Art** (*e.g.*, as thangkas, statutes, music, etc.) – beautiful inspirations that induce clarity, peacefulness, joy — a special feeling that affects the heart center; and
- 2) **Artists** who, working for the benefit of sentient beings, create inspirational art. *E.g.*, Buddha Shakyamuni emanated as a musician, a lute player, in order to subdue the King of the Gandharavas, Sunanda.

***JANMA NIRMANAKAYA* - BIRTH EMANATIONS** appear not only in the Human and Animal forms, but in the Non-Visible Realms. They take birth as males and females as required for the benefit of sentient beings. Many Jataka tales tell the stories of Buddha taking birth in the Animal Realm (*e.g.*, as a fish, turtle, bird, monkey, bear and lion); as well as manifesting Birth Emanations in the Human and Celestial Realms.

Birth Emanations in the Human Realm are known in Tibetan as ‘Tulku.’ Tulkus do not necessarily appear as Buddhas or monastics. They are born in order to remove obstacles and dualistic conceptions of sentient beings: *i.e.*, to free sentient beings from ignorance and lead them to the perfect understanding of primordial wisdom.

***UTTAMA NIRMANAKAYA* - SUPREME EMANATIONS** appear (adorned with the 32 Major and 80 Minor Marks of a Fully Enlightened Buddha) when needed in the various world systems to Turn the Wheel of Dharma and Enact the Twelve Deeds of a Wheel Turning Buddha.