

<b>Comparison Table of a Selection of Celestial Buddhas and Bodhisattvas</b>		
<b><i>Celestial Buddhas</i></b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description (Character)</b>
Aksobhya Buddha (Imperturbable)	East – Abhirati	Pure land modeled on a heavenly realm – an ideal realm, a world without Mara, illness, lying, and ugliness. Joy derived from the Dharma.
Bhaisajyarāja (Master of Healing)	East – description of Pure Land is similar to Sukhāvati	A Pure Land – Bhaisajyaguru is accompanied by two Bodhisattvas (Sūryaprabha and Candraprabha)
Amitābha (Immeasurable Light)	West – Sukhāvati	A Pure Land – <i>not</i> a heavenly realm or a sensual paradise.
<b><i>Celestial Bodhisattvas</i></b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Character</b>	<b>Role</b>
Maitreya (The Kindly One)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is a 10th-stage Bodhisattva.</li> <li>▪ Is in Tusita heaven – not in a Pure Land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is to become next Buddha on earth.</li> </ul>
Avalokiteśvara (Regarder of the Cries of the World)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is a 10th-stage Bodhisattva.</li> <li>▪ Embodies compassion.</li> <li>▪ Manifests in many worlds; can take on multiplicity of forms. ▪ Is the focus of devout worship, contemplation, and prayers for help.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is one of two helpers of Amitābha.</li> <li>▪ Enacts Amitābha's compassionate concern for the world. ▪ Is always ready to succor and help out suffering sentient beings. ▪ Is guardian deity of Tibet.</li> </ul>
Tārā (Saviouress)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Has vowed to remain in female form as a Bodhisattva, and then as a Buddha. ▪ Can manifest in a variety of forms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is sometimes referred to as the 'Mother of all the Buddhas'. ▪ Is tireless in assisting the oppressed and downtrodden. ▪ Specializes in saving sentient beings from enemies.</li> </ul>
Mañjuśrī (Sweet Glory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is a 10th-stage Bodhisattva.</li> <li>▪ Can manifest as a Buddha or in many other forms. ▪ Has a particular association with mount Wutai Shan in China.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is one of two helpers of the heavenly Buddha Śākyamuni.</li> <li>▪ Is the greatest embodiment of wisdom.</li> <li>▪ Has task of destroying ignorance and awakening spiritual knowledge. ▪ Is a patron of scholars.</li> </ul>
Ksitigarbha (Earth-matrix)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is an advanced Bodhisattva.</li> <li>▪ Is also associated with Śākyamuni's Buddha-field, our world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Helps humankind until the next Buddha appears on earth. ▪ Acts as a guardian of travelers, those in trouble, and women and children. ▪ Works for the alleviation of those reborn in hells. ▪ Is concerned about the destiny of dead children.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Celestial Buddhas</b> – ▪ Are savior beings and focuses of cults. ▪ Have fulfilled all their bodhisattva vows. ▪ Are spread out in world systems (a multiplicity of infinitely long-lived Buddhas exist in space).</p> <p><b>Celestial Bodhisattvas</b> – ▪ Are wise and inspiring examples. ▪ Also function as transcendent, celestial savior beings. ▪ Are more in contact with the world and more actively engaged in helping beings. ▪ Are guides on the path to enlightenment and helpers in difficulties. ▪ Remain dedicated to saving all sentient beings as part of their bodhisattva practice.</p>		
<p><b>Sources:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Harvey, P. (2013). <i>An introduction to Buddhism: teachings, history and practices</i>. 2nd edn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</li> <li>2. Strong, John S. (2008) <i>The experience of Buddhism: sources and interpretations</i>. 3rd edn. Boston, MA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.</li> <li>3. Williams, P. (2009) <i>Mahāyāna Buddhism: the doctrinal foundations</i>. London: Routledge.</li> <li>4. Williams, P., Tribe, A., Wynne, A. (2012) <i>Buddhist thought: a complete introduction to the Indian tradition</i> 2nd edn. London: Routledge.</li> </ol>		