

Blessings for all beings

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The Himalayan Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan is inspiring culturally, environmentally, spiritually. A learned Buddhist spoke with us about the use of prayer flags, smoke offerings and prayer wheels which we saw everywhere as we traveled across the country. Our Bhutanese friend said that all were created to send blessings for all beings.



We asked him what rituals Bhutanese used for increasing their individual spiritual merit. He paused, seeming to sense that we didn't get it yet, then gently replied that Bhutanese do not focus on individual spiritual progress; rather, their intentions and efforts are for peace and blessings for all beings.

May the accompanying images bring you some of the joy we experienced: Prayer flags flying from mountaintops and above roaring rivers--from where the blessings would be blown most vigorously to all; smoke blessings billowing up in courtyards and on distant mountain slopes on misty mornings; the warm light of butter lamps lit in monasteries; and, prayer wheels turned by human hands and by the rushing water of rivers and streams.



May all beings be at peace and may this begin with us.



Nancy is an ESL teacher whose recent book, [International Folktales for English Language Learners](http://www.global-awareness.org) is previewed on her website, www.global-awareness.org. Roger is a cultural anthropologist and a member of the Satir Global Network. He has been inspired by Virginia Satir and her many colleagues since the 1980s. Roger and Nancy are preparing to accompany their sixth group to Bhutan (www.worldviews2000.com)

