

The Chinese Laughing Buddha









In western culture the Laughing or Lucky Buddha is one of the most instantly recognised symbols of Buddhism. The Buhai (Chinese) or Hodei (Japanese), has become entrenched in many religions and is considered symbolic of contentment and abundance, expressed in a smiling or laughing pose.

The figure is closely related to the inception of Zen or Zen Buddhism, established in China during the 7th Century CE. Known as the Chan (Mandarin Pinyin) Buddha, the character is thought to be have developed as a caricature of an acentric Chan monk of the Liang Dynasty (502-598 AD).

The Budai, together with the traditional 'Thai' Buddha are the two most common symbols of Buddhism. Some believe that rubbing the Budai's belly will bring good luck. However, Chinese respect for the Buddha would not tolerate such a disrespectful attitude. Both Buddha are often worn as jade amulets. Wearing a jade Buddha provides personal protection.



The position of a Buddha figure in your home would normally be determined by a Feng Shui master. However, there are some general rules you can apply when positioning the figure yourself. Buddha should be positioned in a clean, open area. Never place the figure in a bedroom or close to a bathroom or toilet and Buddha should be accompanied by the offering of a plant, a glass or bowl of water and an incense bowl for offerings.

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|  G116012 \$66.95 RRP |  X1339 \$120.00 RRP |  S11D0110 \$81.95 RRP | You can find a number of Buddha figures and depictions in the Eastern Red range. |