

HAND GESTURES IN HIMALAYAN ART

The way a character's hands are positioned shows us what they are doing. This card can help you to read common gestures you will see in the RMA galleries.

Gesture of Generosity

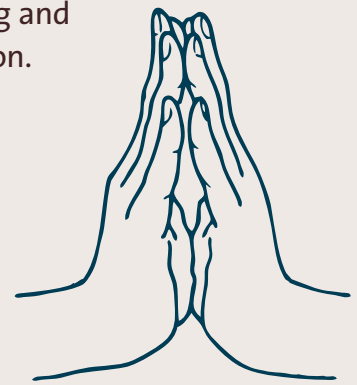
Represents openness and the granting of wishes.



varadamudra

Gesture of Reverence

A common greeting and gesture of salutation.



namaskaramudra

Gesture of Protection

Represents fearlessness and giving of protection from fears.



abhayamudra

Gesture of Meditation

Can be made with one or both hands and symbolizes a character's serenity.



samadhimudra

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Gesture of Teaching

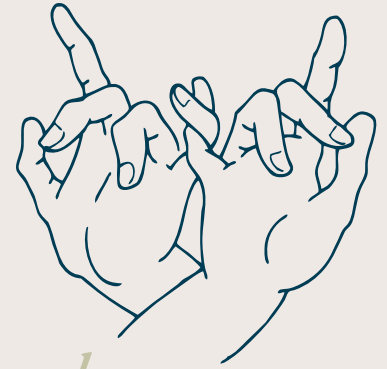
Also known as turning-the-wheel-of-the-law gesture and referring to the Buddha, who set the wheel of law in motion with his sermons.



dharmachakramudra

Gesture of Victory Over the Three Worlds

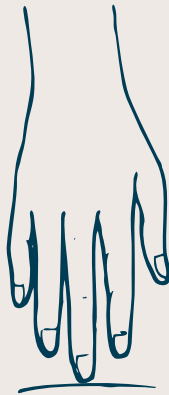
Deities using this gesture often hold objects that represent wisdom and method in each hand.



humkaramudra

Earth-Touching Gesture

Refers to the way that the Buddha called the Earth to witness his dedication to enlightenment when the armies of delusion attacked him.



bhumisparasamudra

Gesture of Menace

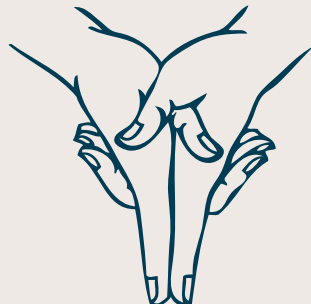
Made by many wrathful deities, the raised forefinger is threatening.



tarajanimudra

Ambrosia-Sprinkling Gesture

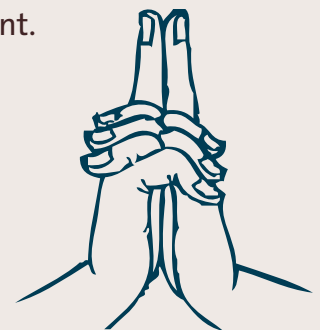
Signifies dispensing the nectar of immortality.



ksepanamudra

Gesture of Perfection

Also known as the gesture of supreme enlightenment.



uttarabodhimudra