

# Good essay on manjusri: the gentle glory

[Religion](#), [Buddhism](#)



**Eliminate the darkness enclosing my mind, give me intelligence so that I may gain**

insight.

-Prayer to Manjusri Bodhisattva (qtd. in Kerby, W. R. "Prayer to Manjushri")

**Manjusri is the god of wisdom and courage. In other texts, he is the god who created the**

'nanshoku' or 'male homosexual love' He is also one of the most prominent gods portrayed in

the Mahayana art and literature. He is the representation of the wisdom of prajna which is

closely related to the Madhyamika School of Buddhism which was founded by the Indian monk

named Nagarjuna in the 2nd century. Though the origins of Manjusri is uncertain, scholars

believes that like Buddha, he came from a wealthy family from India and received an education

appropriate for his status. Manjusri was first mentioned in the pages of the Mahayana literature

most particularly on the chapter of the lotus sutra (verses) and the Vimalakirti Sutra. However,

the most accurate book detailing about Manjusri's life is the Prajna Paramamita Sutra a Sanskrit

book which literally means the 'Perfect Wisdom' in English. By the 4th and 5th centuries, he

became famous throughout India and is regarded as one of the pioneers of the Mahayana

**Buddhism. His Sanskrit name means, ' noble and gentle' and Manjusri is known to people as the**

' gentle voiced one' because of his soft spoken tone. Other people regarded to him as the ' gentle

glory' because of his very kind attitude towards people despite his status in the society. His

personality, is often described by monks as ' the one who has attained the true meaning of

wisdom.' Hence, for the Mahayana Buddhism, in line with Gautama he is one of the most

influential. His name is first stated in the first lines of the Mahayana scriptures

and are as follows:

**" He is revered as the chief of the Bodhisattvas. With Fugen, he is depicted as one**

of the two bodhisattvas who attend Shakyamuni Buddha. Manjusri is generally shown at the

**Buddha's left, riding a lion, and represents the virtues of wisdom and enlightenment. In contrast,**

Shakyamuni's right-hand attendant, Bodhisattva Fugen, represents the virtues of truth and

practice. According to the Manjusri Hatsunehan Sutra (Sutra of the Nirvana of Monjushiri),

### **Manjusri was born to a Brahman family in Shravasti and joined the Buddhist Order,**

converting a great number of people." (qtd. in urbandharma ch. 3)

layman's terms, the ' bodhisattvas' are gods who work for the enlightenment of all mankind. He is

often depicted as a young man holding the Vajra Sword of Discriminating Insight in his right

hand and the Prajna Paramita (Perfection of Wisdom) Sutra in his left hand.

The sword is

### **Manjushri's most interesting attribute because the sword cuts through ignorance and man's**

distorted views and cuts away ego and self-created obstacles. Although there are some instances

that his sword is seen with flames; it is because the flame itself represents warmth, light and

transformation of the human mind. People believed that the sword the Vajra sword can give life

and death to anyone. While the ' Prajna Paramita' a Sanskrit book collection of Mahayana

verses. In some pictures drawn since the beginning of the 6th century, he is often seen to ride a

wild lion while holding a book on his hand. The lion represents Manjusri's princely qualities and

courageous nature although other scholars of the Mahayana sect believes that the lion is the representation of the man's wild spirit and in order to tame the beast, Manjusri must lower them down by means of 'sitting' on the lion to so that everything in man's nature will remain in harmony. Although there are times that he is pictured sitting on a lotus, holding either a jewel or a scepter. As a deity of knowledge, his prayers is recited at the dawn by monks and students aiming to have a high score on their exams. Although no one nowadays can prove his real existence as a god or a human being, Manjusri's teachings are in a way the key in having the life we've always wanted. Manjusri's teachings can help us in a way we can actually develop ourselves into people with deeper insights but with kind personality. By adapting his teachings we can change the way we perceive about the world and ourselves.

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