

Mythical Journeys of Chinese Folklore

Yuqing Liu

Chinese Folklore

My BFA project for the fall semester involves creating a collection of murals in the form of posters that depict traditional Chinese folk stories. I believe that mythology is an ancient and widespread cultural phenomenon that reflects the humanistic spirit and carries valuable messages and values. The folklore chosen for this project includes Jingwei Reclamation, Nuwa repairing the sky, the Nine-colored Deer, the Immortal Crane, the Dragon, and the Hundred Birds Paying Homage to the Phoenix. I am using a mural style to complete the work and posters as an effective means of promotion. By presenting Chinese mythological stories in the form of posters, I hope to attract more people to explore and appreciate Chinese culture, as well as to cultivate an interest in exploring their own cultural background and related customs.

Thesis Statement

My BFA project for the fall semester is a collection of posters showcasing Chinese myth, By depicting traditional Chinese folk stories in the form of murals or posters, not only can more people be attracted to explore and understand Chinese mythological culture, but it can also cultivate interest in exploring one's own cultural background and related folk customs.

Nvwa Repairing the Sky

Once upon a time, there was a high mountain connecting the heaven and earth. One day, Fire god and Water god had a fight, they broke the mountain and the sky. So there was huge floods coming from the heaven. Nvwa, the mother goddess of human beings used the five-colored stone to patched up the sky and sacrificed herself to save the world.

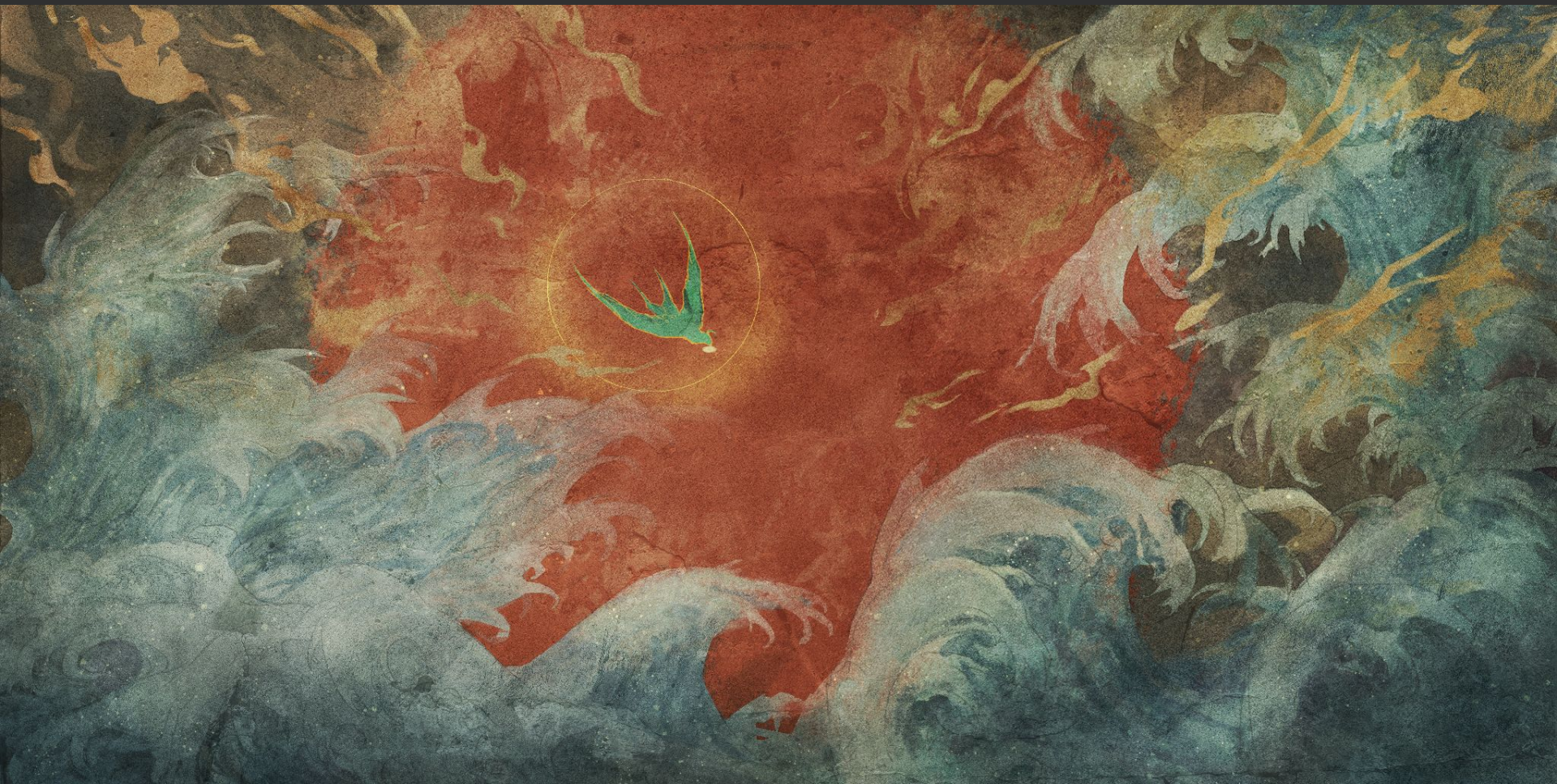




Jingwei Reclamation



Long long ago, there is a girl named Jingwei. One day Jingwei went boating and fell into sea. After she died she turned into a divine bird, we named the bird Jingwei. She brought stones day and night, trying to fill the sea.



The Divine Crane

Crane is a very important divine bird in Chinese Taoism. When a taoist priest dies, it is referred as yuhua (turned into a feather (crane))

Crane also symbolized unfettered.





Dragon



The mythical creature in ancient China, the dragon manipulate the rain. They will anchor their power to the mountain, and the dragon will protect the people around it. If people did terrible things around the area, dragons would stop rain for an extended period of time, so that all the crops all die because of dry weather as punishment to humans.



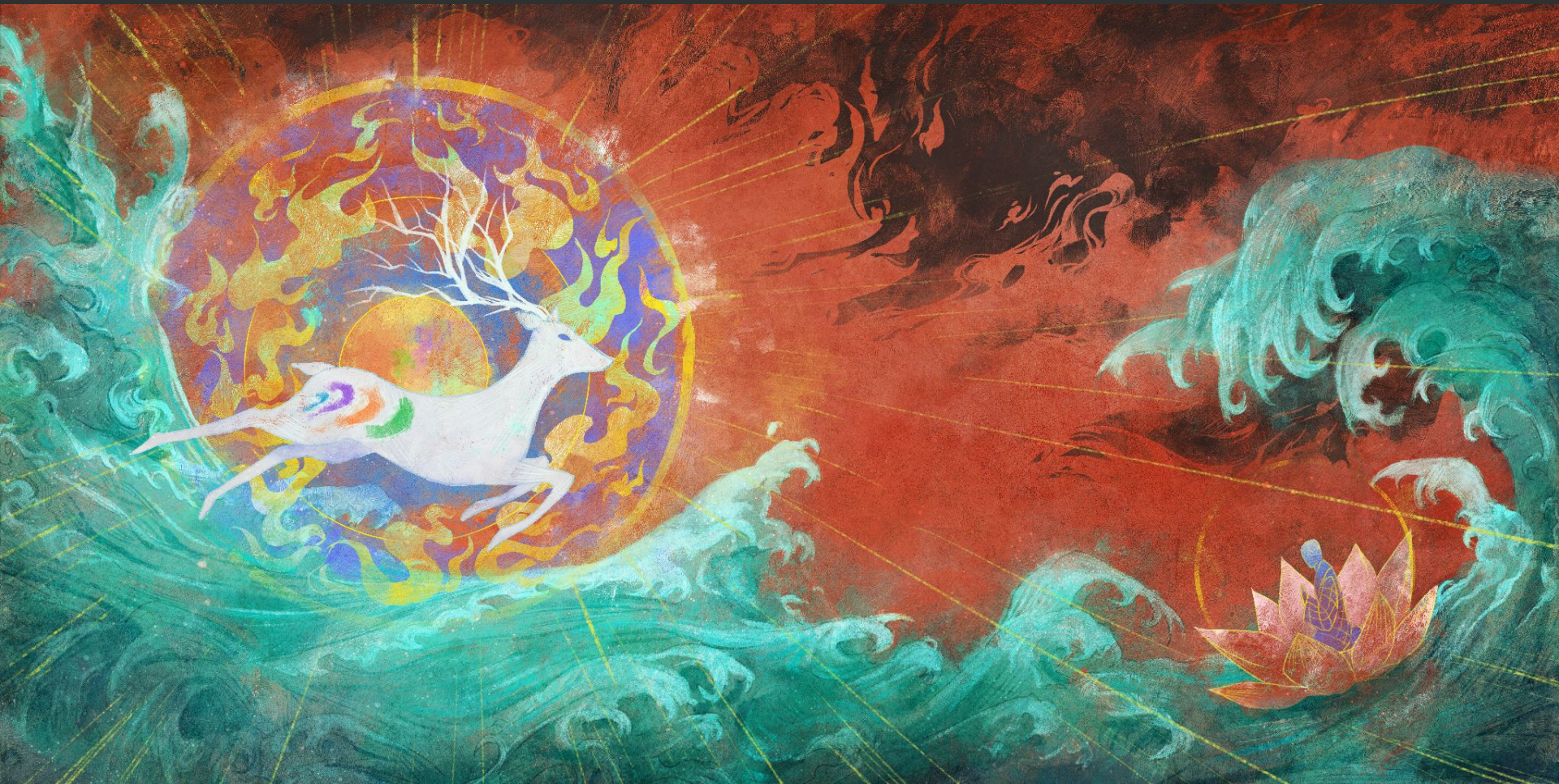
Nine-Colored Deer



The nine-colored deer is a mythological creature.

Divine, pure and very kind.

It talks about a story that nice-colored deer saved a group of drowning people. But they were not grateful, they even caught the nice-colored deer. Then, the king knew about this, so he helped to release the deer, and punished those people.



All Birds Paying Homage to the Phoenix



The phoenix is the king of birds. In Chinese mythology, phoenix was not very pretty at first, but very kind. Phoenix likes to help other birds, so birds are willing to give phoenix their feather to make phoenix looks more beautiful.



Avalokiteshvara

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Avalokiteshvara

The inspiration for my spring BFA project comes from concepts and philosophies of Buddhism such as impermanence, reincarnation, illusion, mercy, enlightenment, and self-exploration. As someone who is deeply interested in spirituality, I wanted to create a series of illustrations that not only aims to help people better understand the core concepts of Buddhist philosophy but also represent a journey of self-expression and exploration of my own inner world. I believe that art has the power to inspire, to provoke thought, and to guide us towards deeper understanding and personal growth. Therefore, my hope is that my illustrations may serve as a catalyst for viewers to embark on their own spiritual journeys and to deepen their understanding of Buddhist philosophy, as well as their own inner selves.

Thesis Statement

My BFA project draws inspiration from Buddhism's core concepts and philosophy, reflecting my personal interest in spirituality and self-exploration through a series of illustrations that may serve as a spiritual trigger for viewers to explore their own inner world and deepen their understanding of Buddhist philosophy.

Reality and Illusion

“Like a tiny drop of dew, or a bubble floating in a stream; Like a flash of lightning in a summer cloud, Or a flickering lamp, an illusion, a phantom, or a dream.”

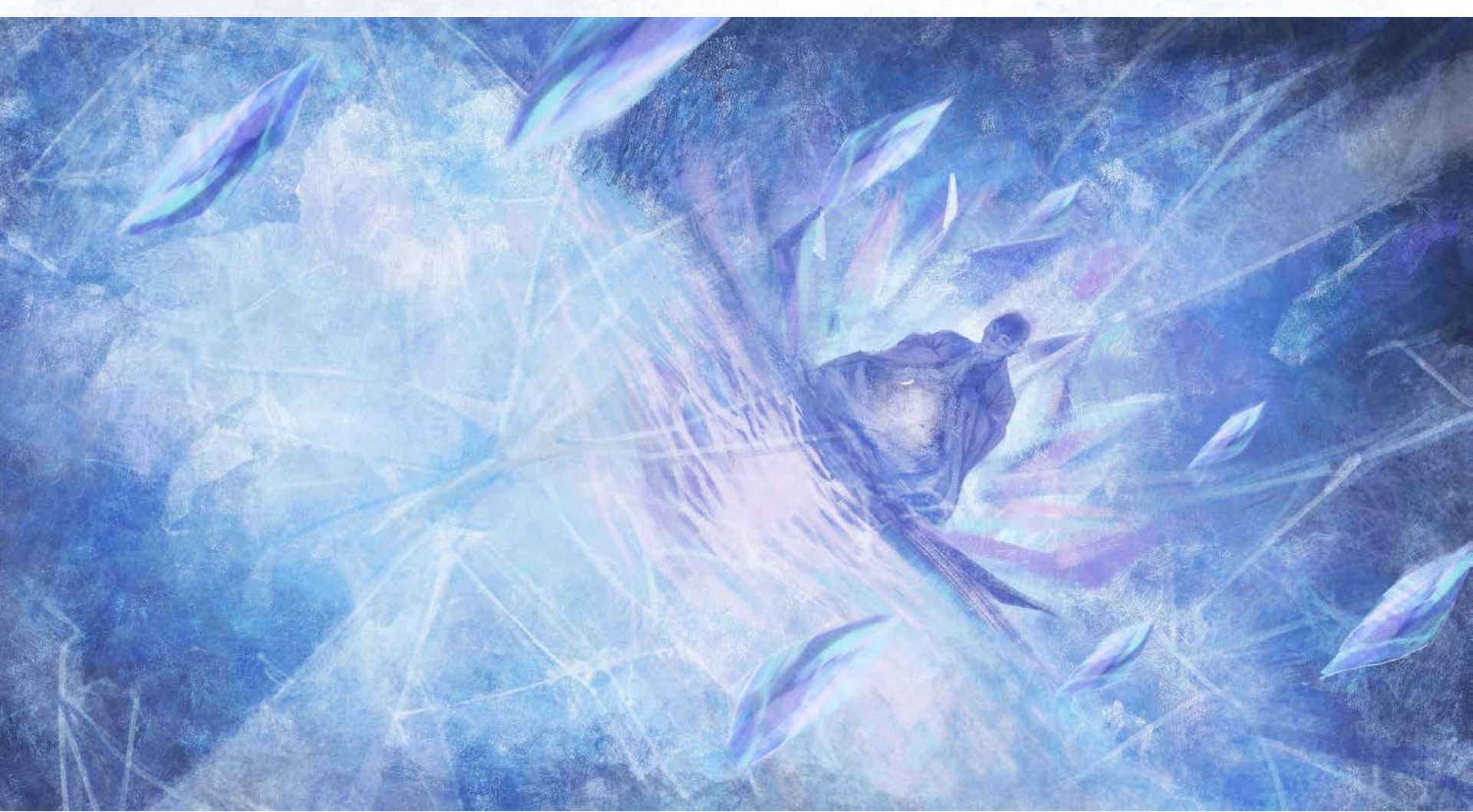
“So is all conditioned existence to be seen.”

- From Diamond Sutra

“All that has a form is illusive and unreal.”

Our perception of the world and its objects is based on our perception of form. The form is a product of our own minds and the way we understand reality.

How we really see the world is through our hearts and minds rather than the form.



Fleeting

The Udumbara flower is a significant symbol in Buddhism, representing the impermanence and change of all existence. The Udumbara flower takes a thousand years to grow, and it is exceptionally beautiful, but it only blooms for a moment before withering away, like a flick of the finger.

Udumbara is a metaphor for the impermanence of all things and the idea that even the most beautiful thing in life are temporary.



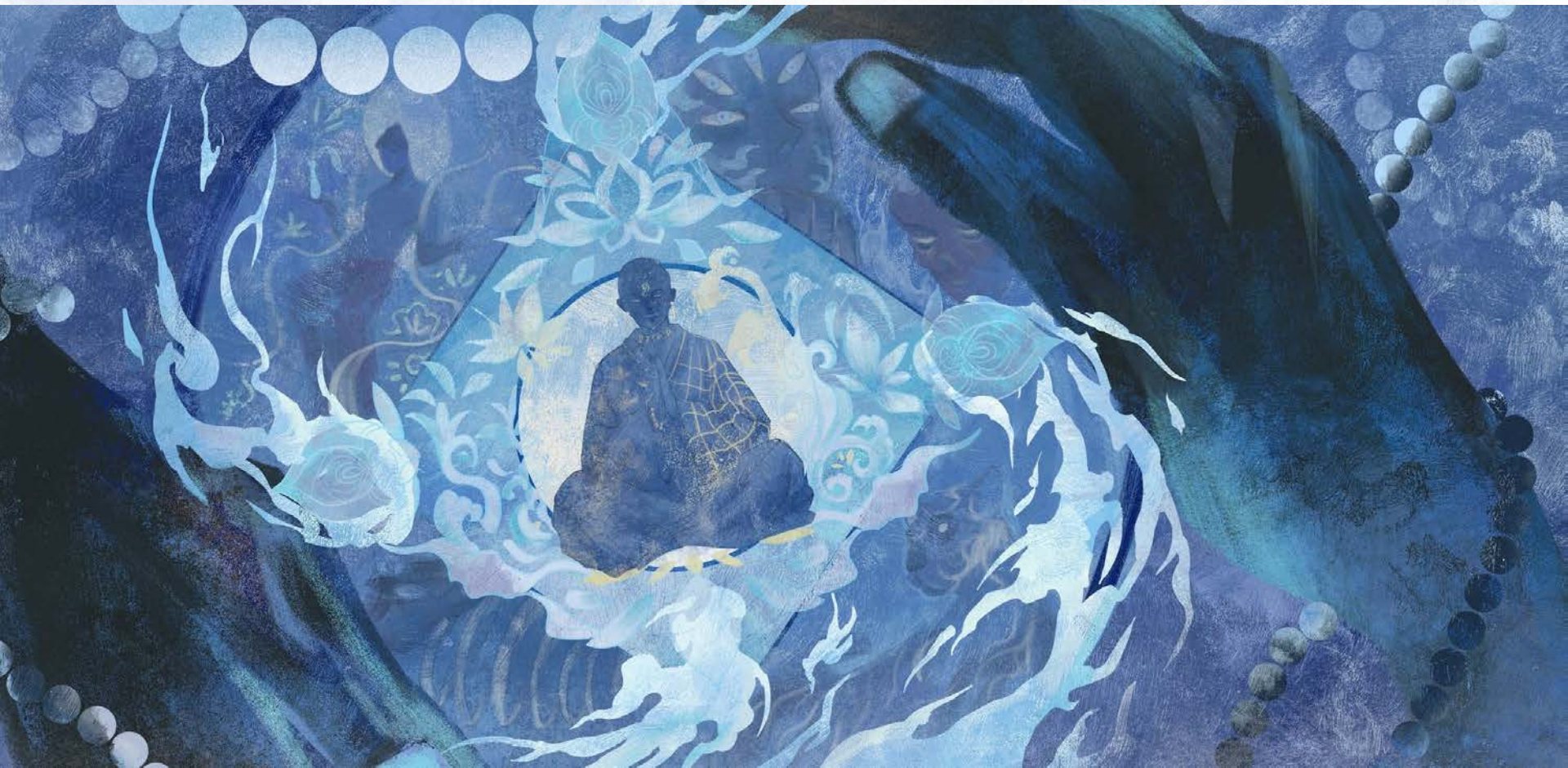
Mercy

Mercy is an aspect that cannot be ignored. Buddha believed that mercy is not simply feeling sympathy and pity for sentient beings, but rather it must arise from the depths of our hearts, consistently permeating our lives both inside and out. Buddha often said, "I aspire to deliver sentient beings," because he deeply understood that sentient beings struggle in suffering and only mercy can bring them true redemption and transformation.



Samsara

It refers to the process in which human beings and other life forms continuously cycle between life and death. According to Buddhist doctrine, all living beings will experience reincarnation, including humans, animals, and even gods. The reason for reincarnation is due to human karma or karmic retribution. Buddhism believes that everyone's actions generate karma, and good deeds will bring good results, while bad deeds will bring negative consequences.



Beyond Illusion

“It is like making a fire with two sticks. The fire blazes and the wood is consumed; the ashes fly away and the smoke vanishes. Using illusion to remedy illusion is exactly like this. Yet even though all illusions are extinguished, you do not enter into nothingness.”

—The Sutra of Perfect Enlightenment

It's like using one stick(practice in illusion), to rub another stick(the world of illusion) to make fire (truth, enlightenment) when the fire consumes the wood and even when the ashes and smoke disappear. The fire is also gone. but you can not say there is nothing left. Because you have seen the fire.

What the Buddha wants everyone to know is to see the fire(which is the truth)



Avalokiteśvara

Avalokiteśvara means through observation, to explore ourselves and our own existence, to know who you truly are, and to connect with the universe.



Thank you!

