Images of the Guardians of the Four Directions (Gyal Chen Zhi) appear at the entrances of important public buildings in Bhutan. Each guardian (North, South, East, and West) holds an object that he uses to protect the world from harm. The tradition of the Guardians of the Four Directions comes from ancient Mongolian culture.

The Guardian of the North (Namthose) holds a mongoose and a banner of victory. The mongoose is believed to oppose greed and promote generosity.