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 South (Phagchepo) is said to inhabit a glass palace built atop a peak of lapis lazuli. He is identifiable by his dark greenish-blue complexion and is pictured holding in his right hand a magical sword, which can change into many things.