



Guru Rinpoche (Padmasambhava) is an enlightened Buddha, not a God.

From a conventional point of view:

Who is Guru Rinpoche?

- Guru Rinpoche (Padmasambhava) is an enlightened being in Buddhism.
- He is considered a fully awakened Buddha, the embodiment of all Buddhas' compassion and activity.
- Manifestation: often explained as emanating from Amitābha (Buddha of Boundless Light).
- His role: to spread Vajrayana (Tantric Buddhism) and tame harmful forces, especially in Tibet and the Himalayas.

Who is God?

- Worldly god/deity who is active in creating, preserving and destroying the cosmic world and so on.
- Thus, some gods/goddesses are known as the destroyer and transformer within the worldly cosmology.
- For example, in Hindu tradition, Shiva is a high god, but not a Buddha.

Why do some people confuse between enlightened Buddhas and the Gods?

In the Himalayan regions (Nepal, India, Tibet, Bhutan), cultures sometimes interact. Because people see similarities—such as meditation, yogic powers, wrathful forms, and the ability to subdue spirits—some mistakenly think they are the same.

However:

Similar qualities, but not the same being

Similar conventional qualities both Buddhas and Gods possess are such as:

- meditate in the mountains
 - tame spirits
 - use yogic powers
 - have wrathful forms
- does not mean they are identical.



Buddhist View on This:

Buddhism – especially Tantric Buddhism does not identify Guru Rinpoche as a God. Instead, it teaches everyone in the three realms.

- ✓ All Buddhas can appear in many forms to benefit beings.
- ✓ Appearances may resemble local gods to tame them.
- ✓ But their nature remains enlightened, beyond worldly gods and deities.

Key Difference

Buddhas	Gods
Enlightened Buddha (beyond samsara)	Samsaric deity (within rebirth cycle in Buddhist view)
Liberates beings through Dharma	Transforms/destroys in cosmic cycle (worldly cosmology)
Manifestation of Buddhahood	One form of universal divine energy

In short:

Guru Rinpoche is a Buddha. God is a Worldly deity. They are not the same.

Trashidelek!

Just a brief clarification by Kharchen Lingpa/Professor Kharchen Wangchuk Rinpoche.



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