

Glossary

aagaami. Action (*karma*) in which one is now engaged that is bound to affect the future; impending; future.

ahavaniya (*aahavaneeya*). Consecrated fire taken from the perpetual fire and prepared for receiving oblations, esp. the eastern one of the three fires burning at a sacrifice.

aalambana. Support, receptacle.

a-chara (*-chaara*). Unmoving.

a-chetana (*chethana*). Non-intelligent, unconscious, inert.

adheya (*aadheya*). Being based, contained, sustained.

a-dwaita (*-dhvaitha*). Nondualism or monism, the *Vedantic* doctrine that everything is God.

A-dwaita-jyothi (*a-dhvaitha jyothi*). The light without a second.

a-dwaitin (*a-dhvaithin*). One who propounds nondualism.

agni. Fire element.

Aham Brahmaasmi (*Brahmaasmi*). I am Brahman, or I am divine.

aham-kara (*-kaara*). Ego, self-love, selfish individuality.

ahavaniya (*aahavaneeya*). Consecrated fire taken from the perpetual fire and prepared for receiving oblations, esp. the eastern one of the three fires burning at a sacrifice.

a-jara. Decline, diminution.

a-jnana (*-jnaana*). Ignorance, stupidity.

a-jnana avriti (*a-jnaana-aavriti*). Obscuring or deluding power.

akasa (*akaasha*). Sky, space, ether.

akhandajyothi. The eternal, unbroken light.

a-kshara. Imperishable, indestructible.

a-kshaya. Undecaying, never-ending.

a-mritha. Divine nectar (literally, no death or immortal).

ananda (*aanandha*). Supreme bliss, unending joy.

ananda-loka (aanandha-loka). Region of heavenly bliss; also Brahma region.

ananda-maya (aanandha-maya). Spiritual bliss.

ananda-maya kosa (aanandha-maya kosha). Body sheath of supreme bliss.

ananda-nilaya (aanandha-nilaya). Abode of supreme bliss.

ananda-praapti (aanandha-praapthi). Attainment of spiritual bliss.

ananda-swarupa (aanandha-svaruupa). The embodiment of supreme bliss.

an-antha. Eternal, unending; infinity.

a-nithya. Impermanent, transient.

anna. Food.

anna-maya kosa (kosha). Sheath of the body composed of food.

antar-jagath (anthar-jagath). Inner universe.

antar-mukha (anthar-mukha). Inward focus.

anthah-karana. Inner psycho-somatic fourfold instruments of mind, intellect, memory, and ego.

anumaana. Inferential perception.

anuraaga. Affection.

apana (apaana). Downward air; goes out through the anus.

a-pourusheya. Non-personal, superhuman.

a-prameya. Unmeasurable.

asthi. Being, existence; is-ness; synonym for *sath*.

atha (athhaa). Thereafter.

athah. For this reason.

Atma (Aathma). The real Self, one's divinity, God, the substance of everything, the unseen basis, the spark of God within. The *Atma* is unchanging and immortal; It does not die.

Atma-jnana (Aathma-jnaana). Knowledge of Self-realization; awareness of *Atma*.

Atmic (Aathmik). Of or pertaining to the *Atma*.

- Aum. Om*; Designation of the Universal Brahman; sacred, primordial sound of the universe.
- baddha*. Bound.
- Bhagavad Gita (Bhagavath Geetha)*. Literally, Song of God. Portion of the *Mahabharatha* that is a dialogue between Arjuna and Krishna. See *Mahabharatha*.
- Bhagavath-sankalpa. Will of God.
- bhajan*. Devotional song(s) to God; community singing of spirituals.
- bhathi (bhaathi)*. That which shines, illuminates; *chit*.
- bhava sagara (bhaava saagara)*. Ocean of worldly existence.
- Bhima (Bheema). Second of five Pandava brothers; named for his size and strength. See *Mahabharatha*.
- Bhrigu. One of 10 great sages created by the first Manu.
- bhuma (bhuuma)*. Vast limitless, the eternal, the changeless.
- bhutha (bhuutha)*. Any of the five elementary constituents of the universe; spirit, monster.
- Brahma. The Creator in the trinity Brahma, Vishnu (the Preserver), and Siva (the Destroyer).
- Brahma-ananda (-aanandha)*. Bliss of realising Brahman.
- Brahma-chaitanya*. Supreme consciousness.
- Brahma-loka*. Region of Brahma.
- Brahman or Brahman. Impersonal Supreme Being, primal source and ultimate goal of all beings. Identical to *Atma*.
- Brahma sutra (suuthra)*. Spiritual text of *Vedantic* teachings attributed to Badharayana or Vyasa.
- Brahma-vidya (-vidhyaa)*. Spiritual attainment, knowledge of Brahman.
- brahmin (braahmana)*. First of four castes of social order, priestly or teacher caste; a person belonging to this caste. See *caste*.
- Brihadaranyaka Upanishad (Brihadhaaranyaka Upanishath)*. The *Upanishad* that sets forth teachings maintained by Yajnavalkya regarding Brahman.

buddhi. Intellect.

caste. The four castes of social order are: *brahmin* (priestly or teacher), *kshatriya* (warrior, protector), *vaisya* (trader, merchant, agriculturist), and *sudra* (worker, helper).

chaithanya. Consciousness, intelligence, spirit.

chara (*chaara*). Moving.

charana. Feet.

chetana (*chethana*). Conscious, intelligent.

chit (*chith*). Consciousness, knowledge, awareness.

chittha. Mind stuff, memory, subconscious mind.

dakshinagni (*dhakshinaagni*). Southern fire of altar.

dama (*dhama*). Control of the outer senses.

darsana (*dharshana*). Any of the six principal systems of ancient Indian philosophy; insight or vision of truth.

darshan (*dharshan*). Sight of a holy person.

deepyathi (*dheepyathi*). Illumine.

deha (*dheha*). Body.

deha-drishti (*dheha-dhrishti*). Body's vision.

deva (*dheva*). Deity, celestial being, god.

dhana. Wealth, possessions.

dharma. Right action, truth in action, righteousness, morality, virtue, duty, the dictates of God, code of conduct. *Dharma* defies a simple translation into English.

dharmic (*dhaarmik*). According to *dharma*, righteous.

dhyana (*dhyaana*). Meditation.

divi (*dhivi*). Heaven; divine light.

drishti (*dhrishti*). Vision, seeing, intelligence.

dukha (*dhukha*). Grief, sorrow, misery, pain.

gauna. Derived, secondary.

Gautama (Gauthama). Author of the *Nyaya* system of philosophy and logical system.

Gita (*Geetha*). Literally, song. *Bhagavad Gita*, the Song of God.

guda. Sugar.

guna. Quality, characteristic. The qualities of *sathwa*, *rajas*, and *thamas* (serenity, passion, ignorance) are general universal characteristics of all kinds of mental tendencies and actions / thoughts, which are prompted by specific kinds and mixtures of these three qualities. For example, *sathwic* food is health-giving, strength-giving and delightful; *rajasic* food is spicy, sour, or salty and brings on diseases; and *thamasic* food is impure, old, stale, tasteless, or rotten. See *thamas*, *rajas*, *sathwa*.

guru. Preceptor, teacher, guide to spiritual liberation.

Hiranyakasipu (Hiranyakashipu). A demonic person who forbade mention of Vishnu, wicked father of Prahlada, a great devotee of God; killed by man-lion *Avatar* of Vishnu.

Indra (Indhra). Lord of the *devas* (celestials).

indriyas (*indhriyas*). Senses.

Isvara (Eeshvara). Lord, God, Supreme Being; name for Siva.

jada. Inert matter.

Jagadiswara (*Jagadheeshvara*). Lord of the cosmos, world.

jagath. Cosmos, world of change, creation.

Jaimini. Author of *Purva Mimamsa* or the portion relating to ritual action.

jala. Water.

jangama. The moving.

janma. Birth, existence.

japa. Soft prayer or repetition of the name of God.

jivan-muktha (*jeevan-muktha*). One who is liberated in this life.

jivatma (*jeeva-aathma*). Soul or true Self.

jijnaasa. Yearning to know.

jivi (*jeevi*). Individual or soul.

jnana (*jnaana*). Spiritual knowledge, experiential wisdom.

jnani (*jnaani*). Spiritually wise man, realized soul.

jyothi. Divine light.

Kaivalya Upanishad (*Upanishath*). A *Upanishad*; it portrays the state of consciousness of one's absolute identity with God.

kamyā-karma (*kaamyā-karma*). Acts done to gain their fruits.

Kanada (Kanaadha). Founder of the *Vaiseshika* school of philosophy.

Kapila, Kapilamaharshi. Ancient sage-philosopher; prime exponent of the one of the six systems of philosophy known as *sankhya*, which emphasizes duality of spirit and nature.

karana (*kaarana*). Causal or cause.

karma. (a) Activity, action, work, duty. (b) Fate; the consequences of acts done in this life and past lives.

karmic (*kaarmik*). Of or pertaining to *karma*.

kosa (*kosha*). Sheath.

kshatriya (*kshathriya*). Protector, warrior; see *Caste*.

ku-darshan (*dharshan*). Distorted vision, false vision.

lakshana. Characteristic, sign, aspect.

laya. Merging, dissolution, absorption.

leela. Divine sport or play.

loka. Region, world. Usually refers to the three worlds of earth, atmosphere, and sky, but it can mean 7 or even 14 worlds (7 above and 7 lower).

Mahabharatha (*Mahaabhaaratha*). Ancient epic in poetic form, by sage Vyasa; describes conflict between the Pandavas and their cousins, the 100 Kaurava brothers. It contains the *Bhagavad Gita*, the metaphysical teaching of Krishna to Arjuna.

Maha-karana (*Mahaa-karana*). Supreme Cause.

Maitreyi (Maithreyee). Female consort of Yajnavalkya; one of the greatest sage-philosophers in the *Upanishads*. She was known for her wisdom. See the *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad*.

manana. Reflection, meditation, understanding.

manomaya-kosa (*-kosha*). Mental sheath of the body.

mantra (*manthra*). Sacred syllable or word(s) to be repeated (often silently) for attaining perfection or self-realization; a mystic formula for spiritual enlightenment.

- Manu. The first father of mankind; author of the codes of righteous conduct (*Dharma Sastras*); son of Surya and father of Vaivaswatha Manu, present progenitor of mankind.
- manushya-loka*. Region or level of humans.
- maya* (*maayaa*). Wordly illusion, mistaking the transient for the real; non-awareness of actuality, appearances masquerading as reality.
- Mimamsa* (*Meemaamsa*). Exegetical school of Indian metaphysics, the earlier (*purva*) concerning itself chiefly with interpretation of *Vedic* ritual, the later (*uttara*) with the nature of Brahman.
- moksha. Liberation, devoid of delusion. Freedom from bondage.
- mukthi*. Liberation; final release or emancipation from the cycle of birth and death.
- mula* (*muula*). Primordial matter; root cause, basis, foundation.
- nama* (*naama*). Name.
- Narayana (*Naaraayana*). The Primal Person, the Lord, Vishnu.
- nidi-dhyasana* (*nidhi-dhyaasana*). Inner concentration, profound meditation.
- nimitta* (*nimitta*). Efficient.
- nithya*. Eternal, permanent.
- nivritti* (*nivritthi*). Withdrawal, detachment, renunciation.
- niyathi*. Fixed order of things; destiny; fate.
- Nyaya Sastra* (*Nyaaya Shaasthra*). System of logical philosophy delivered by Gautama, which uses syllogistic inference.
- Om*. Designation of the Universal Brahman; sacred, primordial sound of the universe.
- oushadha*. Plants.
- padartha* (*padhaartha*). Word-meaning; thing, object.
- para-akasa* (*aakaasa*). Supreme space.
- Para-brahman*. Universal Absolute Brahman.

- Para-sakthi (Paraa-shakthi)*. Supreme Goddess, embodiment of highest energy.
- Param-aartha*. Highest good; highest goal beyond and above this material world, highest Truth.
- Param-atma (Paramaathma)*. Supreme Self, Supreme *Atma*.
- Para-sakthi (Paraa-shakthi)*. Supreme Goddess, embodiment of highest energy.
- Parathathwa (Parathatthva)*. Absolute supreme principle.
- pasu (pashu)*. Animal, bull.
- pasyathi (pashyathi)*. Looks outward.
- praani*. Living unit.
- pradhana (pradhaana)*. Primordial matter; source of material world according to Sankhya.
- Prahlada (Prahlaadha)*. Son of the demon king Hiranyakasipu. As a boy, he was beaten, trampled, and cast into fire and water. But, he saw only God everywhere, and repetition of the Name of God saved him. Once, Prahlada asserted that God was everywhere, and Narayana appeared in his man-lion form from within a pillar to destroy the king.
- prajnana (prajnaana)*. Highest wisdom.
- prakasa (prakaasha)*. Effulgence, luminosity.
- prakriti (prakrithi)*. Causal matter, creation, nature.
- pralaya*. Dissolution of the world.
- prana (praana)*. Life-breath, life force, vital energy, the five vital airs.
- prana-maya kosa (praana-maya kosha)*. Body sheath of vital airs.
- pranava*. Om, the sacred primordial sound principle.
- prapancha*. Cosmos; created world composed of the five elements.
- Prasthan Thraya (Prasthaana Thrayee)*. The three supreme spiritual texts: the *Upanishads*, *Bhagavad Gita*, and *Brahma Sutra*.
- pratyaksha (prathyaksha)*. Direct knowledge, perceptible, before one's eyes.

- pravritti (pravritthi)*. Wordly activity, attachment.
- prema*. Divine or supreme love.
- prithvi (prithvee)*. Earth, world.
- priya, priyam*. Love, dearness.
- puja (puuja)*. Worship.
- pundit (pandith)*. Learned scholar, wise man.
- purna (puurna)*. Complete, full.
- purusha*. Perfect person, supreme lord, soul, indweller.
- Purva Mimamsa (Puurva Meemaamsa)*. A text by Jaimini on the early school of *mimamsa* philosophy.
- purva paksha*. Technique of raising an objection to expound truth.
- rajas*. Passion, activity, restlessness, aggressiveness. Associated with colour red. See *guna*.
- rajasic (raajasik)*. Adjective form of *rajas*, passionate, emotional.
- rajoguna*. See *rajas* and *guna*.
- Rama (Raama)*. *Avatar* of the *Thretha* era (*yuga*). Hero of the *Ramayana*; killed the wicked Ravana to rescue his wife Sita, who had been kidnapped. Means “he who pleases”.
- rasa*. Taste, sweetness, essence of enjoyment.
- Rudra (Rudhra)*. *Vedic* God of dissolution of the cosmos; named Siva in his auspicious or benevolent form; one of the Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Rudra/Siva.
- rupa (ruupa)*. Form, figure, appearance.
- saaswatha (shaashvatha)*. Eternal.
- sabda (shabdha)*. Sound.
- sadhana (saadhana)*. Spiritual discipline or exercise; self effort.
- sa-guna*. With qualities, with form, materialized.
- sakthi (shakthi)*. Great universal power, divine energy, strength.
- sama (shama)*. Control of the senses, peace, equanimity, tranquility.
- sama-dhana (samaa-dhaana)*. Mind control by equanimity.
- samana (samaana)*. Digestive air; equal; even breath.
- samanvaya*. Mutual connection, harmonizing factor.

- sampath, sampatthi*. Wealth, treasure, excellence, virtue.
- samsara (samsaara)*. The objective world; sea of change; cycle of birth and death; transmigration.
- sankalpa*. Will, resolve.
- Sankara (Shankara). Celebrated philosopher, preceptor of non-dualistic *Vedanta*. Defeated all religious opponents in debates throughout India.
- sankhya (saankhya)*. One of 6 leading systems of spiritual *Vedic* philosophy, attributed to sage Kapila. Chief object: emancipation of the soul from the bonds of worldly existence.
- sankhyan (saankhyan)*. One who believes in or propounds the *sankhya* system of thought.
- sarira (shareera)*. The body.
- saririka (shaareerika)*. All the components of embodied *Atma*.
- sarva*. All, every.
- Sarva-chaithanya*. Omni-consciousness.
- sastra (shaasthra)*. Holy scripture; sacred text; that which commands, orders, directs with authority.
- sat (sath)*. Existence, being, good.
- satchidananda (sath-chith-aanandha)*. Existence-knowledge-bliss, or being-awareness-bliss.
- sath-darshan (-dharshan)*. Correct vision.
- sathwa (satthva)*. Purity, calmness, serenity, joy, strength, goodness. Associated with colour white. See *guna*.
- sathwic (saatthvik)*. Adjective form of *sathwa*; serene, pure, good, balanced.
- sathya*. Truth.
- siddhatha (siddhaatha)*. Conclusion.
- Siva (Shiva). Destroyer in the trinity of Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver), and Siva. The embodiment of spiritual wisdom and God of Gods, *Mahadeva*.
- soham*. I am God.
- sraddha (shraddha)*. Faith.
- sravana (shravana)*. Listening to discourses on the scriptures.

- sreyomarga (shreyomaarga)*. Path of fulfillment.
- srishti (shrishtih)*. Creation.
- sruthi (shruthi)*. Sacred revelations orally transmitted by *brahmins* from generation to generation, differing from traditional law codes (*smrithi*). Divinely sourced scripture; *Veda*; divine words known by revelation; that which was heard or listened to.
- sthaavara*. The fixed, stationary.
- sthithi*. Preservation, staying, abiding. Also a state, position, condition.
- sthula (sthuula)*. Gross, material, superficial.
- sudra (shuudhra)*. Labourer, the fourth caste of workers. See *Caste*.
- sukshma (suukshma)*. Subtle; small; that which expands.
- suktha*. Hymn.
- sushupti (sushupthi)*. Deep sleep state.
- sutra (suuthra)*. Concise rule or aphorism; that which, through a few words only, reveals vast meanings; text consisting of aphorisms or maxims; a thread; something, like a thread, that runs through and holds everything together.
- swa-bhava (sva-bhaava)*. Essential nature, essence, reality, truth.
- swa-dharma (sva-dharma)*. One's own *dharma* or duty.
- swa-rupa (sva-ruupa)*. Form, essential nature, true nature of Being.
- swa-tantra (sva-thanthra)*. Freedom.
- taijas (thaijas)*. Splendid, luminous (from *tejas*).
- Taithiriya Upanishad (*Thaitthireeya Upanishath*). The philosophical portion of the *Black Yajur-veda*; the other part is called the *White Yajur-veda*.
- tapas (thapas)*. Concentrated spiritual exercises to attain God; penance, austerities.
- tejas (thejas)*. Spiritual power, splendour.
- thamas*. Dullness, ignorance, delusion, inactivity, passivity, inertia, sloth. Associated with colour black. See *guna*.

thamasic (thaamasik). Adjective form of *thamas*, dull, ignorant.
thamoguna. See *thamas* and *guna*.

thatastha (thathastha). Derivative.

Thathwa (Thatthva). Principle, truth, essence. That-this entity.

Thathwa is regarded as made up of That (*Thath*) and you (*thwam*).

Thath twam asi (Thatthvamasi). You are That. One of four great statements expressing the non-difference of individual soul with Brahman, the supreme absolute Self, in *Vedantic* philosophy.

thithiksha (thitheeksha). Fortitude, forbearance.

thuriya (thureeya). "Beyond" stage in *samadhi*; fourth stage beyond waking, dream, and deep sleep. Superconscious state.

udana (udhaana). Breath that moves upward from the throat.

upadana (upaadhaana). Proximate or material basis.

upadhi (upaadhi). Container, disguise, encasement, limitation.

Upanishad (Upanishath). Any of a set of ancient treatises constituting the primary source of *Vedanta* metaphysics. Principle message is nondualism: unity of Brahman and *Atma*.

Upanishadic (Upanishadhik). Pertaining to the *Upanishads*.

uparathi. Control of mind by withdrawal from senses.

Uttara Mimamsa (Utthara Meemaamsa). Later *Mimamsa Vedantic* philosophy, as distinguished from earlier *Mimamsa*, which concerned itself with rituals. By Veda Vyasa.

vahini (vaahini). Stream or flow.

vairagya (vairaagya). Detachment, renunciation.

Vaiseshika (Vaisheshika). Later school of *Nyaya* philosophy founded by Kanada.

vaisya (vaishya). Business person, trader, merchant. See *Caste*.

valli. Section, chapter; literally, creeper.

Vamadeva (Vaamadheva). Ancient hermit. Friend of Vasishta and a priest of Dasaratha; he composed *Rig-vedic* hymns.

Varuna. *Vedic* god associated with rain, water, ocean, night.

vayu (vaayu). Wind, air.

Vayu (Vaayu). God of wind.

Veda (Vedha). See *Vedas*.

Vedanta (Vedhaantha). The doctrine of either pure non-dualism, i.e. the identity of Brahman and the *Atma*, or conditioned non-dualism; the end or bottom line of the *Vedas*, which declares this doctrine.

Vedantic (Vedhaanthik). Of or pertaining to *Vedanta*.

Vedas (Vedhas). Entire body of ancient sacred revelations of truth, chief among which are four books: the *Rig-veda*, *Yajur-veda*, *Sama-veda*, and *Atharvana-veda*.

Veda Vyasa (Vedha Vyaasa). A name for Vyasa.

Vedic (Vedhik). Of or pertaining to the *Vedas*.

vichara (vichaara). Inquiry, analysis and reflection of the nature of the Self or truth.

vijnana (vijnaana). Highest intellect; discriminating faculty of the intellect.

vijnana-maya kosa (vijnaana-maya kosha). Body sheath of intellect.

Vishnu. The Preserver in the trinity Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu, and Siva (the Destroyer).

viveka. Discrimination.

vyakthi. Individual.

vyana (vyaana). One of five vital airs, that which is diffused throughout the whole body.

Vyasa (Vyaasa). Compiler of *Vedas* and author of the *Mahabharatha*, *Mahabhagavatham*, and *Brahma Sutras*.

yajna. Holy ritual, sacrifice, or rite. Also, personification of rite (when capitalized).

Yajnavalkya (Yaajnavalkya). Great *Upanishadic* person. Priest and guru of King Janaka. Taught the monistic *Adwaitic* doctrine of the identity of *Atma* and Brahman in the *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad*.

Yajur-veda (-vedha). Second *Veda*, consisting of a collection of sacred texts relating to sacrifices.

yuga. Era or age. There is a cycle of four *yugas*: *Kritha*, *Thretha*, *Dwapara*, and *Kali*. The present age is the *Kali yuga*.