

# Glossary

This glossary contains many Sanskrit words, people, places, and literature that Sathya Sai Baba uses in His discourses, especially those in *Prema Vahini*. The glossary attempts to provide comprehensive meanings and detailed explanations of the more important Sanskrit words, for the benefit of lay readers who are interested in Hindu religion and philosophy.

In an electronic version of this volume (e.g. an e-book for the Ipad, Kindle, or Nook), you can click on most names, places, people, and Sanskrit words within the text in order to immediately access the word in this glossary. Your device will also have an arrow or other link to press to get back to the text.

## Glossary

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

**Abhimanyu**. Arjuna's son and Parikshith's father; slain in battle.

***acharya***. Spiritual teacher, preceptor.

***adhama***. Lowest, worst.

***a-dharma***. Evil, injustice.

***adwaitha***. Nondualism, monism, the doctrine that everything is God, the philosophy of absolute oneness of God, soul, and universe.

***a-dwaithic***. Of or pertaining to nondualism (*a-dwaitha*).

***a-dwaithin***. One who propounds nondualism (*a-dwaitha*).

***aham***. The knower, the "I".

***Aham Brahmasmi***. "I am Brahman." One of the great *Vedic* aphorisms (*mahavakyas*).

***ahamkara***. Ego, self-love, selfish individuality.

***ahimsa***. Nonviolence.

***aikya***. Oneness with God, union of the individual soul (*jiva*) with God.

***a-jnana***. Ignorance, stupidity.

***a-jnani***. Ignorant person.

**Ambarisha**. Pious king of the Ikshvaku dynasty. Son of Prasusruka and father of Nahusha.

***amritha***. Divine nectar (literally, no death or immortal)

**Amsumanta**. King of the solar dynasty; virtuous son of Aswamanja and grandson of Sagara.

***ananda***. Divine bliss. The Self is unalloyed, eternal bliss. Pleasures are but its faint and impermanent shadows.

**Anasuya**. Wife of sage Athri and mother of Dattatreya; an incarnation of the Trinity.

***an-atma***. Not *Atma*, or not-Self.

***anna***. Food.

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

**anuraaga.** Affection.

**archana.** Worship, adoration.

**arishadvarga.** Six inner enemies of man, viz. lust, anger, greed, delusion, pride, and hate.

**Arjuna.** Krishna's disciple, in the *Bhagavad Gita*; third of five Pandava brothers. See *Mahabharatha*.

**artha.** Wealth, prosperity, material object, thing, aim, purpose, desire.

**Aryan.** (a) Literally noble. (b) Follower of *Vedic* or spiritual path. (c) Ancient dwellers of India who composed the *Rig-veda*; the chief tribe was that of the *Bharathas*.

**asanthi.** Lack of peace; agitated mind; restlessness. Opposite of *santhi*.

**a-sura.** GRUES Demon; term arose when Diti's sons refused to drink the divine liquor (*suraa*) offered by Varuni, the daughter of Varuna.

**Aswamanja.** King of solar dynasty; wicked son of Sagara and Kesini; driven away by his father because of his cruelty..

**Aswathama.** Son of Drona.

**Atharva-veda.** The fourth *Veda*. *Atharva* means "fourth". Steady, unmoved person, of stable nature.

**Athri.** A sage; father of Dattatreya.

**Atma.** Self; Soul. Self, with limitations, is the individual soul. Self, with no limitations, is Brahman, the Supreme Reality.

**Atma-ananda.** *Atmic* bliss, bliss of Self-realization.

**Atma-dharma.** *Atmic* duty, divine duty.

**Atma-jnana.** Knowledge of Self-realization; awareness of *Atma*.

**Atma-swarupa.** Embodiment of the all-pervading divine Self.

**Atma-thathwa.** True nature of *Atma*, the *Atmic* Principle.

**Atma-vidya.** Knowledge of supreme reality or *Atma*.

**Atmic.** Of or relating to the *Atma*.

**Aum.** *Om*; Designation of the Universal Brahman; sacred, primordial sound of the universe.

**Avatar.** Incarnation of God. Whenever there is a decline of *dharm*a, God comes down to the world assuming bodily form to protect the good, punish the wicked and re-establish *dharm*a. An *Avatar* is born and lives free and is ever conscious of His mission. By His precept and example, He opens up new paths in spirituality, shedding His grace on all.

**a-vidya.** Ignorance.

**Balarama.** Elder brother of Krishna, noted for his strength.

**Bali.** Emperor of demons; grandson of Prahlada and son of the demon Virochana. Humiliated by dwarf Vamana, who was an incarnation of Vishnu.

**Bhagavad Gita.** Literally, Song of God. Portion of the *Mahabharatha* that is a dialogue between Arjuna, one of the Pandava brothers, and Krishna.

**Bhagavan.** Divinity; term of reverential address; Sathya Sai Baba is called *Bhagavan* by his devotees.

**Bhagavatha.** A sacred book composed by Sage Vyasa dealing with Vishnu and His incarnations, especially

Krishna. It also means those with attachment to God, or the Godly.

**Bhagiratha.** King of Solar Dynasty, son of Amsuman. Gave up his kingdom for enlightenment, but eventually returned as king..

**bhajans.** Congregational chant group worship by devotees with devotional music in which repetition of holy names predominates.

**bhaktha.** Devotee of the Lord.

**bhakthi.** Devotion to God.

**Bharath.** India; Indian; descendent of King Bharath, first emperor of India.

**Bharatha.** Son of Dasaratha and Kaika; brother of Rama. “Bharatha” means “he who rules”. The *Bharathas* are the Indians.

**Bharatha-desa.** India; region of God-loving people.

**Bharatha-khanda.** Continent of Bharath (India).

**Bharatha-varsha.** Culture of India.

**Bharathiya.** Indian, dweller in the country of Bharath (India).

**bhava-roga.** Disease of worldliness.

**bhava-samadhi.** Mental union with the Divine.

**Bhima.** Second of five Pandava brothers; named for his size and strength. See *Mahabharatha*.

**Bhishma.** The guardian and patriarch of the Kauravas and Pandavas. Son of King Shantanu. Remarkable for his wisdom and unflinching devotion to God. Trapped by his fate to fight on side of evil Kauravas; bled to death on a bed of arrows while thinking of God. See *Mahabharatha*. He also vowed life-long celibacy to ensure that his offspring would not claim the throne.

**bhoga.** Catering to the senses, eating, enjoyment.

**bodha.** Teaching, understanding.

**Brahma.** The Creator, the First of the Hindu Trinity of Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver), and Siva (the Destroyer).

**brahma-chari.** Student, celibate, first stage of life of a *brahmin* in the *brahmin* caste; one who dwells in God consciousness.

**brahma-charya.** Path to knowledge of Brahman; state of an unmarried religious student; first stage of life of a *brahmin*; spiritual studentship.

**Brahma-jnana.** Knowledge of Brahman.

**Brahma-muhurtha.** Sacred period during early morning, when spiritual practices such as meditation are recommended. Approximately 96 minutes hours before sunrise for 48 minutes, but one can also find it defined as 04:08–04:56. A *muhurtha* is approximately 48 minutes.

**Brahman.** The Supreme Being, the Absolute Reality, Impersonal God with no form or attributes. The uncaused cause of the Universe, Existence, Consciousness-Bliss Absolute (*Sat-Chit-Ananda*); The Eternal Changeless Reality — not conditioned by time, space, and causation.

**Brahmana.** A section of each of the four *Vedas* dwelling on the meaning and use of mantras and hymns at various sacrifices.

**Brahma-nishta.** Steady contemplation of Brahman.

**brahmarshi.** Highest sage; one absorbed in divine consciousness.

**Brahma-sakshatkara.** Direct perception of Brahman.

**Brahma Sutra.** Spiritual text of *Vedantic* teachings in short maxims, attributed to Badharayana or Vyasa.

**Brahma-thathwa.** Formless God, Brahman principle.

**Brahma-vidya.** Spiritual attainment, knowledge of Brahman.

**brahmin.** First of four castes of social order, the priestly or teacher caste; a person belonging to this caste.

**Brihadaranyaka Upanishad.** The *Upanishad* that sets forth teachings maintained by Yajnavalkya regarding Brahman.

**buddha.** Awakened, enlightened, wise.

**Buddha.** Prince Gautama, circa 556–480 BC. Founder of Buddhism after attaining enlightenment.

**buddhi.** Intellect, intelligence, faculty of discrimination.

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

**chaitanya.** Consciousness, intelligence, spirit.

**chandrayana.** Lunar system of measurements of time; also, a vow of penance performed during the waxing period of the moon.

**Chidambaram.** Town 122 miles SSW of Chennai, noted for its temple dedicated to Siva in his aspect of “cosmic dancer”, Nataraja.

**chit.** Consciousness, knowledge, awareness.

**chith-swarupa.** Embodiment of consciousness.

**chittha.** Mind stuff, memory, subconscious mind.

**dama.** Control of the outer senses.

**Damayanthi.** Wife of King Nala of Nishada, who lost his kingdom at dice.

**dana.** Charity, giving.

**danava.** Class of demons, *daityas*, or *asuras*; enemies of the Gods (*devas*). Children of Dhanu and Kasyapa.

**darshan.** Sight of a holy person.

**Dasaratha.** Son of Aja and father of Rama; King of Ayodhya; the name means “ten chariot hero”.

**Dasarathi.** Son of Dasaratha: Rama.

**Dattatreya.** Sage son of Athri and Anasuya.

**daya.** Compassion, sympathy.

**deha.** Body.

**deva.** Deity, celestial being, God.

**Devaki.** Mother of Krishna.

**dhaana.** Charity, giving —sometimes with the goal of receiving a particular benefit.

**dhana.** Wealth, possessions.

**dharma.** Righteousness, religion, code of conduct, duty, essential nature of a being or thing. It holds together the entire Universe. Man is exhorted to practise *dharma* to achieve material and spiritual welfare. The *Vedas*

contain the roots of *dharmā*. God is naturally interested in the reign of *dharmā*.

***dharmā-karmā***. Act of duty, virtuous action.

**Dharmaraja**. Name for Yudhistira, eldest of the five Pandava brothers. Born to Kunthi by the grace of Yama Dharmaraja, Lord of Death. Named for adherence to *dharmā*. See *Mahabharatha*.

***Dharma Sastras***. Codes of law and ethics concerning virtuous living.

***dharmic***. According to *dharmā*, righteous.

**Dhritharashtra**. Father of Kauravas; holder of ruling power.

***dhyana***. Meditation.

**Dronacharya**. Drona, the teacher of archery and war tactics for the Pandavas and Kauravas.

**Droupadi**. Wife of Pandavas. See *Mahabharatha*.

**Drupada**. King of Panchala (Punjab) and father of Droupadi.

**Druva**. Grandson of Brahma and son of Uttanapadha; as a child, he performed severe penance and attained self-renunciation.

**Durga**. Goddess of the universe; mother earth; daughter of Himaval and wife of Siva.

**Durvasa**. Son of Athri and Anasuya; known for quick temper and severe curses with an eventually constructive effect of driving home hard lessons of discipline and virtuousness. He granted boons to Kunthi, which resulted in the births of Karna and the Pandavas.

**Duryodhana**. Chief (and eldest) of the evil-minded sons of Dhritharashtra.

**Dussasana**. Infamous second son of Dhritharashtra and younger brother of Duryodhana.

***dwaitha***. Dualism, the doctrine that the individual and the Supreme Soul are two different principles or entities

***Dwapara-yuga***. Third in the cycle of four ages. See *yuga*.

**Dwaraka**. Capital of Krishna. After Krishna's death the city was swept over by the sea; researchers believe it was situated in the sea just west of Gujarat.

***dwipa***. Island; one of seven divisions of the terrestrial world.

**Easwara**. *Iswara* The Supreme Lord. Easwara is the Lord of every creature in the universe. Hence, the entire cosmos is reflected as an image in the Lord. Siva is often called Easwara.

**Easwaramma**. Sathya Sai Baba's mother; means *the mother of Easwara (God)*. She passed away on 6 May 6 1998.

***Ekadasi***. Eleventh day of fortnight of lunar month; considered sacred for fasting.

***ekantha-mukthi***. Absolute liberation.

**Ganga**. The 1560-mile-long Ganges river; starts in the Himalayas and flows generally east into the Bay of Bengal; the most sacred river of India.

***Gayatri mantra***. A very sacred *Vedic* prayer for self-enlightenment; it is repeated piously at dawn, noon, and twilight devotions.

***Gita***. See *Bhagavad Gita*.

**Godavari**. Sacred river of south India; cuts across central south India, flowing from west to east.

**Gouranga**. Name for Chaithanya, a great saint.

**Gopala.** Cowherd boy. A name for Lord Krishna.

**gopura.** Decorated gate to the temple.

**Govinda.** Govinda and Gopala are names of Krishna, referring to his occupation as a young boy as a cowherd.

**Grihalakshmi.** Goddess of the home.

**grihasta.** Householder, one of the four stages of life.

**grihini.** Housewife.

**guna.** Quality, property, trait; one of the three constituents of nature (*sathwa*, *rajas*, and *thamas*). They bind the soul to the body. Man's supreme goal in life is to transcend the *gunas* and attain liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

**guru.** Spiritual guide; a knower of Brahman, who is calm, desireless, merciful, and ever ready to help and guide spiritual aspirants who approach him.

**Hanuman.** Son of the Wind God and a great "devotee servant" of Rama. He was part man, part monkey.

**Hari.** God; destroyer of sins; name for Vishnu.

**Hariparayana.** A person completely devoted to God.

**Hindu.** Person who adheres to Hinduism —the religion based on the *Vedas*. Name originally applied by foreign invaders to inhabitants of Indus (Sindhu) river valley.

**Hiranyakasipu.** A demonic person who forbade mention of Vishnu's name, wicked father of Prahlada, who was a great devotee of the Lord; killed by the man-lion Narashimha, an *Avatar* of Vishnu.

**Hiranyaksha.** Wicked brother of Hiranyakasipu; killed by the wild boar *Avatar* of Vishnu.

**hridaya.** Heart.

**Indra.** Lord of the *devas* (celestials). Indra is one of the chief deities in the *Rig veda*..

**ishta.** Also *ishtam*. Beloved, cherished, desired.

**Iswara.** Easwara. The Supreme Ruler, the Personal God. He is Brahman associated with illusion (*maya*) but has it under His control, unlike the individual soul, who is illusion's slave. He has a lovely form, auspicious attributes, and infinite power to create, sustain, and destroy. He dwells in the heart of every being, controlling it from within. He responds positively to true devotion and sincere prayer.

**ithihasa.** Historical legend, traditional account of former events.

**jaagrath.** Waking state.

**jagath.** Cosmos, world of change, creation.

**Janaka.** A self-realized king; Sita's father and Rama's father-in-law. His ancestor was Nimi, a great emperor.

**Janaki.** Janaka's daughter Sita.

**janma.** Birth, existence.

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

**Jayadeva.** Sanskrit poet; wrote the *Gita Govinda*, which describes the early life of Krishna.

**Jesus Christ.** Founder of Christian religion; death on cross symbolized death of the ego.

**jiva.** Individual or soul, in a state of non-realisation of its identity with Brahman. It is unaware of its own nature and is subjected to sensations of pain and pleasure, birth and death, etc.

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

**jivi.** Individual or soul.

**jnana.** Sacred knowledge; knowledge of the spirit, pursued as a means to Self-realisation. It is direct experience of God, as the Soul of the souls. *Jnana* makes a man omniscient, free, fearless, and immortal.

**Jnana-kanda.** Portion of the *Vedas* that deals with knowledge of Brahman through the path of spiritual wisdom or discriminative knowledge.

**jnana-marga.** Path of spiritual wisdom.

**jnana-yoga.** Path of inner contemplation, spiritual wisdom.

**jnana-driyas.** Five organs of perception: eye, ear, tongue, nose, and skin.

**jnani.** Wise man, realized soul.

**Kabir.** Also **Kabirdas.** 15th century mystic poet; preached equality before God of all creatures and the religion of love/devotion, which was aimed at the union of the soul with God. Born to a Muslim weaver family of Benares.

**Kaikeyi.** Also **Kaika.** A princess of Kekaya (Kashmir), third wife of Dasaratha, and mother of Bharatha.

**Kali.** Mother goddess associated with death.

**Kali-yuga.** Fourth in a cycle of four ages; the evil age; the one we are now in. See *yuga*.

**kama.** Desire, lust, worldly fulfillment; one of four goals of humans.

**Kamsa.** Brother of Krishna's mother, Devaki, and killer of her first six sons.

**kamya-karma.** Acts done to gain fruits thereof.

**kanjee.** Rice gruel.

**karma.** Action, deed, work, religious rite, the totality of innate tendencies formed as a consequence of acts done in previous lives. Every *karma* produces a lasting impression on the mind of the doer, apart from affecting others. Repetition of a particular *karma* produces a tendency (*vasanas*) in the mind. *Karma* is of three kinds: (i) *praarabdha*, which is being exhausted in the present life: (ii) *aagami*, which is being accumulated in the present life, and (iii) *samchitha*, which is being accumulated or stored to be experienced in future lives. *Akarma* is action that is done without any intention to gain the consequences; *vikarma* is action that is intentionally done.

**Karma-kanda.** The section of the *Vedas* dwelling mainly on rituals; the *samhithas* and the *Brahmana* of the *Vedas*.

**karmen-driyas.** Organs of action: larynx, hands, feet, anus, sex organs.

**karma-yogi.** *Yogi* who dedicates his actions to God.

**Karna.** Half-brother of the Pandavas. Valiant but unfortunate eldest son of Kunthi by the Sun deity. Ally of the Kauravas in the war with Pandavas.

**Kathopanishad.** One of most popular *Upanishads* because of its clarity and brevity in expressing mystic truths; contains famous dialogue between Nachikethas and Yama, God of death.

**Kauravas.** Family that fought Pandavas. See *Mahabharatha*.

**Kausalya.** Daughter of the King of Kosala, first wife of Dasaratha, and mother of Rama.

**Kausika.** Name for Viswamitra, since he was Kusa's son.

**Kenopanishad.** One of the ten most important *Upanishads*; it is divided into two parts: the first expounds the unknowability of the Brahman without attributes, the second the relation of Brahman to the *Vedic* gods.

**Kesini.** Daughter of the king of Vidarbha and wife of Sagara.

**Kethu.** A demon. Along with Rahu, an inauspicious planet.

**khanda.** Part; continent.

**kirtana.** Recital of the name of God; singing devotional songs.

**Krishna.** The *Avatar* of Vishnu in the *Dwapara yuga*, prior to the present *Kali yuga*.

**kritha-yuga.** First age of man, Golden age of truth. See *yuga*.

**kriya.** Action, activity, will.

**kshatriya.** Protector, warrior; see caste.

**kumkum.** Auspicious mark of vermilion placed on forehead.

**Kunthi.** Also **Kunthi Devi.** Mother of Pandavas, wife of King Pandu (the younger brother of emperor Dhritrashtra), and sister of Krishna's father (Vasudeva).

**Lakshmana.** Brother of Rama and son of Sumitra; represents intellect.

**Lakshmi.** Consort of Vishnu, goddess of wealth.

**leela.** Divine sport or play.

**lingam.** Also *Sivalingam*. Egg-shaped stone; symbol of Siva; the form of the formless; symbolizes merger of the form with the formless.

**Madhava.** God (name for Krishna); Master of illusion (*maya*), Lord of Lakshmi.

**Madhava (2).** See Madhwacharya.

**Madhwacharya.** 13th cent. exponent of dualist philosophy; lived in the South Indian court of Vijayanagar; author of *Vedantic* works; founder of a sect of Vaishnavas; refuted monism of Sankaracharya.

**madhyama.** Middling, average.

**Mahabharatha.** The Hindu epic composed by Sage Vyasa, which deals with the deeds and fortunes of the cousins (the Kauravas and Pandavas) of the Lunar race, with Lord Krishna playing a significant and decisive role in shaping the events. The *Bhagavad Gita* and *Vishnu Sahasranama* occur in this great epic. It is considered to be the Fifth *Veda* by devout Hindus. Of this great epic, it is claimed that "what is not in it is nowhere.

**maha-purusha.** Outstanding sage.

**Mahasamadhi.** The conscious departure from the physical body of a realized soul; the shrine where the physical body is buried. Sathya Sai Baba's *Mahasamadhi* was on 24 April 2011, and His *Mahasamadhi* is in Sai Kulwant Hall in Prasanthi Nilayam.

**mahatma.** Great soul.

**mahavakya.** Great aphorism.

**manas.** Mind, the inner organ, which has four aspects: (i) mind (*manas*), which deliberates, desires, and feels; (ii) intellect (*buddhi*), which understands, reasons, and decides; (iii) the 'I' sense, and (iv) memory (*chitha*). The mind, with all its desires and their broods, conceals the Divinity within man. Purification of the mind is essential for realisation of the Self.

**manava.** Human being.

**manthri.** Counselor, minister.



**mantra.** A sacred formula, mystic syllable or word symbol uttered during the performance of the rituals or meditation. They represent the spiritual truths directly revealed to the *rishis* (seers). The section of the *Veda* that contains these hymns (*mantras*) is called the *Samhitha*.

**Manu.** The first father of mankind; author of the codes of righteous conduct (*Dharma Sastras*); son of Surya (the sun) and father of Vaivaswatha Manu, the present progenitor of mankind.

**Manu-dharma.** Code of virtuous conduct presented in the *Dharma Sastras* by Manu.

**Manu-smrithi.** Laws of Manu.

**marga.** Path.

**Mathura.** Krishna's birthplace.

**maya.** Delusion. The mysterious, creative, and delusive power of Brahman through which God projects the appearance of the Universe. *Maya* is the material cause and Brahman is the efficient cause of the Universe. Brahman and *maya* are inextricably associated with each other like fire and its power to heat. *Maya* deludes the individual souls in egoism, making them forget their true spiritual nature.

**maya-prapancha.** This illusory world, composed of the five elements.

**maya-sakthi.** Power of illusion, the veiling and projecting power of God.

**Mimamsa.** Exegetical-expository school of Indian metaphysics, the earlier (*purva*) concerning itself chiefly with interpretation of *Vedic* ritual and the later (*uttara*) with the nature of Brahman.

**Mimamsaka.** Adherent of philosophical system concerning itself chiefly with correct interpretation of the *Vedic* rituals.

**mithya.** Mixture of truth and falsehood; neither true nor untrue, but something in between. The world is not untrue (*asat*) but *mithya*.

**mithya-achara.** Unreal living, deluded living.

**Mohammed.** Seventh century Arabic prophet and founder of religion of Islam.

**moksha.** Liberation from all kinds of bondage, especially the one to the cycle of birth and death. It is a state of absolute freedom, peace, and bliss, attained through Self-realisation. This is the supreme goal of human endeavour, the other three being, righteousness (*dharma*), wealth and power (*artha*), and sense-pleasure (*kama*).

**Moksha-puri.** Salvation City.

**mukthi.** See *moksha.ahabharatha*.

**nama-smarana.** Remembrance of God's name — one of the important steps of spiritual discipline to obtain God's grace and to make progress in the spiritual journey.

**Nanak.** 15th century founder of Sikh religion.

**nara.** Man; divine man; primeval man, human being.

**Narada.** Sage-bard; traveled the world chanting Narayana. Famous for creating disputes, resulting in solutions for the spiritual advancement or victory of the virtuous. Expert in law and author of texts on *dharma*.

**Narasimha.** Man-lion. One of the ten *Avatars* of Vishnu.

**Narayana.** The Primal Person, the Lord, Vishnu.

**nasthika.** Atheist.

**neem.** The margosa tree, which exudes a tenacious gum, has a bitter bark used as a tonic, and whose fruit and seeds have medicinal properties.

**nir-guna.** Without qualities, attributeless.

**niyama.** Control of the outer senses.

**Om.** Designation of the Universal Brahman; sacred, primordial sound of the Universe.

**Omkara.** The form of AUM, or Om.

**Om Tat Sat.** A mantra; it expresses the identity of the individual and the Universal Brahman.

**paaramaārtha.** Fool's goal.

**pakora.** Indian spicy hot snack.

**Pandavas.** Sons of Pandu; family of 5 brothers that fought the Kauravas: Dharmaraja, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula, and Sahadeva. See *Mahabharatha*.

**para-bhakthi.** Supremest devotion.

**Parabrahman.** Universal Absolute Brahman.

**Param-aārtha.** Highest good; highest goal beyond and above this material world.

**Param-atma.** Supreme Self, Supreme *Atma*.

**Parameswara.** Supreme Lord, highest Godhead, Siva.

**Param-jyothi.** Highest revelation, supreme light, divine intelligence.

**parārtha.** Higher good, truth.

**Parikshith.** Emperor of Kuru dynasty; grandson of Arjuna and son of Abhimanyu.

**pasu.** Animal, bull.

**Pasupathi.** Lord of animals or individualized souls; another name for Siva.

**Patanjali.** Author of the *Yoga Sutras*, which form the foundation of the *yoga* system of Indian philosophy. See *raja-yoga*.

**pathi-vratha.** Chaste and loyal to the husband.

**pathi-vratha-dharma.** Duty of a chaste wife to husband.

**pathni.** Housewife.

**Prahlada.** 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.

**prakriti.** Nature, the Divine Power of Becoming. Also known as *maya*, *avidya*, and *sakthi*; the world of matter and mind as opposed to the spirit. *Prakriti* has three dispositions or *gunas* (*sathwa*, *rajas*, and *thamas*), which go into the make-up of all living and non-living beings in the Universe, in varying proportions leading to the appearance of infinite multiplicity in form, nature, and behaviour.

**prana.** Life-breath, life force, vital energy, the five vital airs of the body. English doesn't seem to have names for these vital airs, so we list them with their Sanskrit names: *prana* (located in lungs), *apana* (flatus, which moves downward through the rectum), *vyana* (diffused throughout the whole body), *samana* (navel; essential to digestion), and *udana* (rises through throat to head).

**Pranava.** *Om*; the sacred seed-sound and symbol of Brahman. "The most exalted syllable in *Vedas*". It is used in meditation on God. It is uttered first before a *Vedic mantra* is chanted.

**pranayama.** Breath control.

**prapatthi.** Surrender to the Lord, unflinching devotion.

**prasanthi.** Supreme peace, equanimity.

**prema.** Ecstatic love of God; divine love of the most intense kind.

**prema-rasa.** Essence of love.

**prithvi.** Earth, world.

**priya.** Also *priyam*. Love, dearness.

**puja.** Worship.

**pundit.** Learned scholar, wise man.

**punya.** Virtuous deeds, good works, meritorious actions.

**Puranas.** Any of a number of collections of ancient legends and lore embodying the principles of the universal, eternal religion and ethics. There are 18 *Puranas*, the most famous being the *Mahabhagavatham* and the *Devi Bhagavatham*.

**Puranic.** Relating to Purana.

**Purusha.** Primeval Person, Supreme Spirit, Lord, God.

**Purushothama.** The supreme Lord of all.

**Purva Mimamsa.** A text by Jaimini on the early school of *Mimamsa* philosophy.

**Rahu.** A demon (*a-sura*), step-brother of Kethu. Both are also inauspicious planets; An eclipse is the phenomenon of Rahu ‘swallowing the moon’.

**rajarshi.** Royal sage.

**rajas.** One of the three *gunas* (qualities or dispositions) of *maya* or *prakriti*. Passion, restlessness, aggressiveness, emotions such as anger, greed, grief. Associated with colour red. See *guna*.

**rajasic.** Adjective form of *rajas*, passionate, emotional.

**raja-yoga.** Royal *yoga* of meditation, detachment, and desirelessness. Eight-fold path of *yoga* developed by Patanjali, which includes control of the mind and withdrawal of the senses from the external world.

**raja-yogi.** *Yogi* on the path of royal *yoga* (*raja-yoga*).

**rajoguna.** Quality of passion, restlessness, aggressiveness. Associated with colour red. See *guna*.

**rajya.** Kingdom.

**Rama.** *Avatar* of the *Thretha yuga*. Hero of the *Ramayana*; killed the wicked Ravana to rescue his wife Sita, who had been kidnapped. “Rama” means “he who pleases”.

**Ramachandra.** Another name for Rama.

**Ramakrishna Paramahansa.** (1836–1886) Celebrated mystic; mastered all types of *yoga* and also Christian and Islamic practices. Swami Vivekananda took his message of universal religion to the West. Married to Saradadevi.

**Rama-rajya.** The kingdom of Rama; the ideal ruler.

**Ramayana.** This sacred epic, composed by Sage Valmiki, deals with the incarnation of Vishnu as Sri Rama, who strove all his life to reestablish the reign of *dharma* in the world. The *Ramayana* has played an important role in influencing and shaping the Hindu ethos over the centuries.

**Ramdas.** Maratha 17th century saint; author of work on religious duty; guru of the great King Sivaji.

**rasa.** Taste, sweetness, essence of enjoyment.

**Ravana.** Lord of demons and king of Lanka, who abducted Sita (Rama's wife).

**Rig-veda.** First *Veda* composed by the sages, consisting of 1028 hymns. Oldest religious text in world.

**Rig-vedic.** Of or relating to the *Rig-veda*.

**rishi.** Sage, wise man.

**rupa.** Form, figure, appearance.

**Sabari.** A woman ascetic living in the hermitage of her teacher, Sage Mathanga; Rama gave her salvation.

**sadbhava.** Goodness, good nature.

**sadhaka.** Spiritual aspirant.

**sadhana.** Spiritual discipline or exercise; self effort.

**sadhu.** Virtuous, wise aspirant; pious or righteous person.

**Sagara.** Ancient emperor of Ayodhya; son of Asitha and father of Aswamanja.

**sagara.** Ocean.

**sa-guna.** With qualities, with form, materialized.

**Sahadeva.** One of the Pandava brothers. See *Mahabharatha*.

**sahaja.** Innate, inborn, natural.

**sahana.** Tolerance, fortitude.

**sahasra-nama.** 1000 names of Siva or Vishnu.

**sakshatkara.** Divine spiritual experience or vision; direct experience of the Lord.

**sakthi.** Great universal power, divine energy, strength. *Maha* means *Great*, so *Mahasakthi* is great *sakthi*.

**salokya-mukthi.** Being in the same plane or world of God consciousness.

**sama.** Control of the senses, peace, equanimity, tranquility.

**samadhi.** Literally, total absorption. The state of super consciousness resulting in union with or absorption in the ultimate reality, the Atma; perfect equanimity. The state that transcends the body, mind, and intellect. In that state of consciousness, the objective world and the ego vanish and Reality is perceived or communed with, in utter peace and bliss. When people realise in this state their oneness with God, it is called *nirvikalpa samadhi*.

**sama-drishti.** The act of looking on all equally or impartially.

**samana.** Digestive air; even breath.

**sambhasana.** Speech, conversation, dialogue

**samhitha.** Collection of methodically arranged verses or text; continuous text of the *Vedas* as formed out of the separate words by proper phonetic changes.

**samipyamukthi.** Being close to the Divinity, the glory of the Lord.

**samskara.** Inborn desire, mental impression of acts done in former state of existence. Purificatory ceremony or sacrament.

**samsara.** Worldly life; life of the individual soul through repeated births and deaths. Liberation means getting

freed from this cycle.

**sam-yama.** Self control.

**sanathana.** Ancient and also eternal.

**Sanathana Dharma.** Eternal religion. A descriptive term for what has come to be called Hinduism. It has no single founder or text of its own. It is more a commonwealth of religious faiths and a way of life.

**Sanathana Sarathi.** A monthly magazine published by the Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilyam 515134, Anantapur District (A.P.), India. The title means *Eternal Charioteer*. It was first published on 16 February 1958. Website: <https://saireflections.org/journals/index.php>.

**Sanjaya.** An advisor to the blind King Dhritarashtra. Sanjaya had the gift granted by sage Vyasa of seeing events at a distance, and he tells Dhritarashtra what is happening in the battle. See *Mahabharatha*.

**sankalpa.** Will, resolve.

**Sankara.** Another name for Siva (means beneficent, conferring happiness).

**Sankara.** Also **Sankaracharya.** Celebrated philosopher, preceptor of non-dualistic *Vedanta*. Defeated all religious opponents in debates throughout India.

**Sankranthi.** *Sankranthi*, meaning “sacred change”, occurs every month as the sun moves from one house of the Zodiac to another. But special sacredness is attached to the movement of the sun to Capricorn (*Makara*), so this day is known as *Makara Sankranthi*. This day is related to the beginning of the apparent northward movement of the sun. This auspicious day heralds the conferment of many worldly and spiritual blessings on man. It is a witness to the prospective successes of humanity in many fields. (From Sai Baba’s discourses of 14 Jan 1997 and 14 Jan 1998).

**santhi.** Peace, equanimity, serenity, tranquility.

**santhosha.** Peace, contentment, happiness.

**sanyasa.** Renunciation-detachment, mendicancy.

**sanyasi.** Also *sanyasin*. Renunciant, mendicant.

**sarupya-mukthi.** Having the same form of Divinity.

**Sarva-antaryaami.** Indweller in all, the universal Self.

**sarva-butha-anthar-atma.** Inner reality or self in all beings.

**Sarveswara.** The Lord of all.

**Sarveswara-chinthana.** Contemplation of the Lord.

**Sastras.** The Hindu scriptures containing the teachings of the sages. The *Vedas*, the *Upanishads*, the *itihisas* (epics), the *Puranas*, the *Smrithis* (codes of conduct), etc., form the *Sastras* of the Hindus. They teach us how to live wisely and well with all the tenderness and concern of the Mother.

**sat.** Existence, being, good, real.

**sat-chit-ananda.** Existence-knowledge-bliss, or being-awareness-bliss.

**sat-guna.** Virtuous quality.

**sath-karma.** Good actions.

**sath-sang.** Good company.

**sathwa.** One of the three *gunas* (qualities and dispositions) of *maya* or *prakriti*. It is the quality of purity, brightness, peace, and harmony. It leads to knowledge. Man is exhorted to overcome *thamas* by *rajas* and *rajas* by

*sathwa* and finally to go beyond *sathwa* itself to attain liberation.

**sathwic.** Adjective form of *sathwa*; serene, pure, good, balanced.

**sathya.** Truth.

**sathya-achara.** Living a truthful life.

**sathya-dharma.** Law of truth, practice of truth.

**Sathyanarayana.** Sathya Sai Baba, as an incarnation of Narayana, the Primal Person, the Lord, Vishnu.

**Satrughna.** Sumitra's son, twin of Lakshmana and brother of Rama. The name means "slayer of enemies".

**Savithri.** Brought husband back to life by outwitting Yama, the Lord of Death, by her power of purity and chastity.

**sayujya.** Union, merger with the Divine.

**sayujya-mukthi.** Union-with-God liberation.

**seva.** Selfless service; service to others while trying to serve the God within them.

**sevak.** One who engages in service; server; worshipper.

**Shantanu.** A Kuru king, descendant of the Bharata race, of the lunar dynasty and the ancestor of the Pandavas and the Kauravas. Bhishma was his son.

**Sita.** Wife of Rama; brought up by King Janaka who found her in a box in the earth. Also, a tributary of the Ganga, flowing westward.

**Siva.** The Destroyer, the Third of the Hindu Trinity of Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver), and Siva (the Destroyer).

**Sivarathri.** The fourteenth day of the lunar fortnight, when the moon is waning. Mahasivarathri is the Sivarathri when the sun is in the sign of Aquarius, generally February or March. *Siva-rathri* means "Auspicious darkness". In His discourse of 7 March 1978, Sai Baba explained, "The waned moon may be taken to stand for the mind with all its wild fancies and waywardness reduced after it has been conquered by spiritual discipline. On this night, there is just a minute part more to be conquered, and that can be done by keeping vigil and dwelling on the glory of God." That is the reason for night-long devotional singing on Mahasivarathri.

**smarana.** Remembering the name of the Lord.

**smrithi.** Code of law; traditional law delivered by human authors.

**sneha.** Affection, tenderness, love.

**soham.** I am God.

**sparsha.** Also *sparshana*. Touch, contact.

**sraddha.** Faith.

**sravana.** Listening to discourses on the scriptures.

**sruthi.** 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.

**subha.** Good, beautiful, auspicious.

**subha-drishhti.** Auspicious vision.

**sudra.** Labourer, the fourth caste of workers. See Caste.

**Sumanthra.** Court priest and prime minister of Dasaratha.

**Sumitra.** Second wife of Dasaratha and mother of Lakshmana and Satrugna.

**Surdas.** A great blind devotee of Krishna.

**Surpanakha.** Ravana's wicked sister.

**surya.** The sun.

**Surya.** The sun god, the father of time. A name for the sun. Also, son of Kasyapa and father of Manu.

**Surya-narayana.** Sun-god.

**swa-dharma.** One's own *dharma* or duty.

**swartha.** A person's own interest; selfishness.

**swarupa.** Form, essential nature, true nature of Being, embodiment.

**tapas.** Concentrated spiritual exercises to attain God, penance, severe austerities.

**thamas.** One of the *gunas* (qualities and dispositions) of *maya* or *prakriti*. It is the quality of dullness, inertia, darkness and tendency to evil. It results in ignorance.

**thamasic.** Adjective form of thamas, dull, ignorant, passive.

**thamoguna.** Quality of dullness, ignorance, delusion, inactivity, inertia, sloth. Associated with colour black. See *guna*.

**Thath.** That, the Godhead.

**Thathwa.** Principle, truth, essence. That-this entity. *Thathwa* is regarded as made up of That (*Thath*) and you (*thwam*).

**Thretha-yuga.** The second in the cycle of four eras. See *yuga*.

**thwam.** Thou, You, This, the individual.

**Thyagaraja.** 18th and 19th century mystic singer/ composer. Leader in Karnatak tradition of classical Indian music. Born in Thanjavur District of south India.

**Thrisanku.** King for whom Sage Viswamitra created another heaven.

**Tukaram.** Well-known Maratha 17th century writer. He abandoned the world and became a wandering ascetic.

**udana.** Breath that moves upward from the throat.

**Upanishadic.** Relating to the *Upanishads*.

**Upanishads.** The very sacred portions of the *Vedas* that deal with God, humanity, and universe, their nature and interrelationships. Spiritual knowledge (*jnana*) is their content, so they form the *Jnana-kanda* of the *Vedas*.

**uthama.** Highest, best.

**uttara.** Later

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

**vaatsalya.** Affection, esp. toward offspring.

**Vaikunta.** Vishnu's heaven.

**vairagya.** Detachment, renunciation.

**Vaishnavite.** A person belonging to *Vaishnavism*, one of the major branches of Hinduism. It focuses on worship-

ing Vishnu and his ten incarnations.

**vaisya.** Business person, trader, merchant. See caste.

**Valmiki.** The saint-poet who wrote the *Ramayana*.

**Vamana.** Dwarf incarnation of Vishnu, who asked for three feet of land from Emperor Bali and humbled Bali's pride.

**vanaprastha.** Forest-dweller, hermit; third of the four stages of life.

**vandana.** Praise, worship, veneration, salutation.

**varna.** Caste.

**varna dharma.** The Hindu community is divided into four social groups, or castes (*varnas*), based on qualities (*gunas*) and vocations: (1) *Brahmana* (the *brahmins*), the custodian of spiritual and moral role), (2) *kshatriya*, the warrior group, which rules and defends the land), (3) *vaisya*, the group dealing with commerce, business, and trade, and (4) *sudra*, the group devoted to labour and service to the community. Each *varna* has its own *dharmic* restrictions and regulations that strive to canalise impulses and instinct into fields that are special to their place in society, controls pertaining to the duties of the caste.

**Varuna.** Chief *Rig-vedic* god associated with Mitra; god of rain, water, the ocean, night; a great sage.

**vasana.** Inclination, impression of anything remaining in the subconscious mind from past action.

**Vasishta.** One of the greatest *rishis* (sages) of ancient times; priest of the solar race of kings; revealer of several *Vedic* hymns. Had sacred, wishfulfilling cow called Nandini.

**Vasudeva.** Father of Krishna.

**Veda.** Knowledge, wisdom. This knowledge is generally viewed as being given in the *Vedas*.

**Veda-matha.** The mother that is the *Veda*.

**Vedanta.** Means "the end of the *Vedas*". It is the essence of the *Vedas* enshrined in the *Upanishads*. The philosophy of non-dualism, or qualified non-dualism, or dualism based on the *Upanishadic* teachings, is denoted by this term.

**Vedantic.** Of or pertaining to *Vedanta*.

**Vedas.** The oldest and the holiest of the Hindu scriptures, the primary source of authority in Hindu religion and philosophy. They are four in number: the *Rig-Veda*, *Sama-Veda*, *Yajur-Veda*, and *Atharva-Veda*.

**Veda-vidya.** Knowledge of the *Vedas*.

**Vedic.** Of your relating to the *Vedas*.

**Vibhishana.** Brother of Ravana; Demon chief who represented pure mindedness and sided with Rama.

**Vidarbha.** An ancient country in India.

**vidya.** Spiritual education, spiritual knowledge, learning, that which illumines, that which gives light, supreme teaching.

**vidya-maya.** Knowledge-based illusion.

**vi-jnana.** Highest wisdom; discriminating faculty of the intellect; spiritual wisdom beyond the material plane.

**vi-kara.** Transformation, change.

**vinaya.** Modest conduct, discretion, humility.

**Virat-swarupa.** The Lord in His form as manifested universe; the cosmic form of God.



***Vishnoh-smarana***. Remembrance of Vishnu, God.

**Vishnu**. The Preserver, the Second of the Hindu Trinity of Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver), and Siva (the Destroyer).

***visishta-adwaitha***. Qualified nondualism. The doctrine that men's spirits of have a qualified or partial identity with God.

**Viswamitra**. Sage; known for his efforts to equal Vasishta. Born as warrior Kausika who by the power of the *Gayatri* transformed himself spiritually. Early counselor of the young Rama.

***viveka***. Discrimination.

**Vivekananda**. Disciple of Ramakrishna; one of the founders of the Ramakrishna order. He taught *Vedantic* philosophy in Europe, America, and India.

***vratha***. Oath; discipline of worship.

***vyabhi-chara***. Unchaste.

***vyana***. One of five vital airs; that which is diffused throughout the whole body

**Vyasa**. Compiler of *Vedas* and author of the *Mahabharatha*, *Mahabhagavatham*, and *Brahma Sutra*.

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

**Yajnavalkya**. Great *Upanishadic* person. Priest and *guru* of King Janaka. Taught monistic *adwaithic* doctrine of identity of *Atma* and Brahman in Brihadaranyaka Upanishad.

***Yajur-veda***. Second *Veda*, consisting of a collection of sacred texts in prose relating to sacrifices.

**Yama**. God of Death; death personified.

***yoga***. Union with God. Also the path by which this union of the soul with God is achieved. The four important paths of *yoga* are knowledge, action, meditation, and devotion.

***Yoga Sutras***. An aphoristic treatise on *yoga* by Patanjali.

***Yoga-vasishta***. Sacred work in the form of dialogue between Vasishta and his pupil Rama, teaching the way to eternal bliss.

***yogi***. One who practices yoga.

***yogini***. Female ascetic or *yogi*.

**Yogini**. Female *yogi* in *Mahabharatha*.

**Yudhistira**. Eldest Pandava brother; also called Dharmaraja.

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