

GLOSSARY OF SANSKRIT WORDS

Adharatha : Half-warrior

Adharma : Against moral law; a term for any form of unrighteous or immoral act.

Apsaras : Nymphs of Indra's heaven

Ardhangini : The other half of man who is incomplete without his female counterpart

Artha : Material success

Arya : Loyal, noble, dependable; name of the invading and settling race in north India in c.2000 B.C.; an Indian man

Aryanari : Wife of an Arya; an Indian woman

Asuras : Titans

Avatara : Descent; an incarnation of God

Bheda : Cunning tricks employed to win a case or to get work done

Brahmastra : A divine, irresistible weapon of Brahma

Dama : Giving money (bribing) to get work done

Danda : Application of physical power to win a case or to get work done

Deva : Demi-god

Dharma : Prescribed code of good conduct; pattern of righteous way of living

Dharma-grantha : Book of code of good conduct

Dwaparayuga : The third age or yuga - at the close of which the Kurukshetra war was fought

Itihasa : Epic history or legend

Kaliyuga : The last and fourth age or yuga; the present age, believed to have begun in 3102 B.C.; Kali in dice games is the ace, and a symbol of ill-luck

Kama : Love, passion, desire

Karma : Hindu theory of birth-rebirth; also, actions performed by men

Kiratas : A tribe of forest-dwellers or hunters

Krtayuga : The first age or yuga, also known as Satyuga

Kshatriya : Warrior; the second, ruling caste in Hinduism

Kshatriyadharma : The code of conduct to be followed by a Kshatriya

Mahakavya : An epic; a long narrative poem

Manas : Excessive personal pride

Maya : Asura architect who built the palace of the Pandavas at Indraprastha

Maya : Cosmic illusion, the depiction by which the Divine One appears to be the Material Many, and by which the phenomenal world appears to be real

Moksha : Liberation from the cycle of birth-rebirth

Naga : Snake, Cobra. Mythical creatures with a human face, a serpent tail and cobra neck; also a non-Aryan tribe

Narayanastra : Deadly weapon of Vishnu

Nataka : Play, Drama

Niti : The method or rule of practising or following an accepted norm

Rajasuya Yajna : Royal sacrifice undertaken by a king to become an emperor

Rasa : Essence, pleasure, taste, sentiment

Rishi : Saintly person with highly developed spiritual powers; an ascetic

Sanatanadharma : Eternal, ontological Dharma, true for everyone, to be practised by all

Sandhi : Union, junction, alliance

Sarga : Cantos of an epic or long poem

Sargabandha : That which unites various sargas or cantos, that is, an epic or long poem

Sati : A woman who dies willingly at the funeral pyre of her husband

Shakti : Female form of the uncreated God

Sama : To get work done by making the other person see sense through the use of clever words

Shanta rasa : Sublime and peaceful emotion, one of the nine rasas

Shastra : Holy book, written principle or precept, any law book

Shloka : Form of lyrical poetry; verse, not necessarily a single line

Sthitaprajna : One who is unmoved by passions and emotions

Suta : A low-caste person

Suta-putra : Son of the low-born

Swayamwara : A form of bridal, the bride selects her husband from among suitors

Tretayuga : The second yuga or age

Varna : The four classes in Hinduism - Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra

Vasus : Celestial beings

Veda : Wisdom, collection of hymns and songs in the four Vedas - Rig, Yajur, Sama, Atharva

Vira : A hero; one who has exceptional bravery, strength and courage

Vira rasa : The emotion of bravery and courage, one of the nine rasas

Viveka : Discrimination

Vyasa : Arranger, editor, compiler; also, the traditional author of the *Mahabharata*

Yoga: A School of Philosophy in ancient India concerned with development of spiritual power through the control of the senses.

Yuga : A world cycle