

GLOSSARY OF SINHALESE, PĀLI AND SANSKRIT TERMS

The purpose of this glossary is mainly the practical one of aiding the reader in understanding the Sinhalese, Pāli and Sanskrit terms. Only those terms frequently used in this study have been included in the glossary. Most terms (*hapax legomena*) occurring only once are omitted.

āgamaya — a religion

agārasmā anagāriyan — from home to homelessness

anagārika — homeless

anattā (Skr. *anātman*) — non-soul

Anunāyaka — Deputy Supreme Chief Monk

ārāmaya (Pāli *ārāma*) — Buddhist monastery with a temple

arhat — enlightened person, one who has realized *nibbāna*

āśrāmaya (Pāli *āśrāma*) — hermitage, monastery for recluses

āvāsaya (Pāli *āvāsa*) — a monastery with no other building than the abode

baṇa — Buddhist preaching, sermon

baṇagē — building used for preaching

bhāvanā(va) — meditation, development of the mind; one of the Ten Good Deeds

bhikkhu (Skr. *bhikṣu*) — Buddhist monk with higher ordination

budugē — building containing at least one statue of the Buddha, see also *vihāragē*

bānā — sons of siblings of the opposite sex

dāgāba (Skr. *stūpa*) — "relic-container"

dānē — "food-giving" to monks

dansalāva — the kitchen and dining hall of a principal monastery

dāyaka(ya) — donor, a layman supporter of a particular monastery

dāyaka sabhāva — a group of lay donors

dēvālagam — village land granted by the king to *dēvālayas*

dēvālaya or *dēvālē* — shrine or temple dedicated to a god or gods of the Sinhalese Buddhist pantheon

dhamma (Skr. *dharma*) — teaching of the Buddha

dukkha — "unease", "suffering", the first of the Four Noble Truths, and one of the three basic characteristics of phenomenal existence along with *anattā* and *anicca*

gabadaḡē — the storehouse

- gihī* — laity
- Goyigama* — the highest and largest Sinhalese caste, the cultivator caste
- kamma* (Skr. *karma*) — action, deed; the law of moral causation
- Kārekasabhā* — the "Council of Monks"
- kaṭhina pinkama* — "robe-giving"
- Katikāvata* — an edict stipulating the regulation of the affairs of the monastic order of monks or of a fraternity within it
- laukika* — of the world, as opposed to *lokottara*. A sphere of reality within the rounds of rebirth
- lokottara* — above the world, a sphere of reality beyond the rounds of rebirth, i.e. to do with *nibbāna*
- Mahānāyaka* — Supreme Chief Monk of a principal monastery
- māmā* — mother's brothers
- massinā* — male cross-cousins
- Nāyaka* — Chief Monk of a region
- nibbāna* (Skr. *nirvāṇa*) — Buddhist enlightenment, freedom from the rounds of rebirth
- Nikāya* — monastic fraternity
- pabbajjā* — lower ordination, formal admission of a layman to the fraternity as a novice, *sāmaṇera*
- pansala* — abode, a monk's residential quarter
- paramparāva* — pupillary succession, genealogy
- parinibbāna* (Skr. *parinirvāṇa*) — the death of an enlightened person, especially the Buddha
- pāśvaya* — a principal monastery, sometimes translated "chapter"
- Pātimokkha* (Skr. *Prātimokṣa*) — *Vinaya* text containing 227 rules for monks, to be recited once a fortnight. The rules are classified and arranged according to the penalty for infringement from the gravest to the less grave infringements
- pav* — demerit
- pavula* — family
- pilimagē* — the temple housing images of the Buddha, see also *budugē* and *vihāragē*
- pin* — merit
- piṇḍapāta* — alms-round
- pinkama* — act of merit, for example, *kaṭhina pinkama*
- pirit* — a recitation ceremony to avert evil, "protection-recitation"
- pirivēṇa* — usually secondary school or university for Buddhist monks
- poya* (Skr. *uposatha*) — quarter day of the lunar calendar; on the half days, i.e. full moon and no moon monks are to convene and hold a ceremony, also called *poya*, at which the *Pātimokkha* is recited
- poyagē* — building in which monks perform recitation and offerings to the Buddha

- pravrajyā* — going forth
- pūjā* — act of veneration, especially an offering before the Buddha
- puññakkhetta* — field of merit
- rājakāriya* — primarily and literally service to the king; extended to cover services to a nobleman, a *vihāre* or a *dēvālē* by tenants of *vihāragam* and *dēvālagam*
- rājamahāvihāre* — ancient royal temple (monastery)
- sāmaṇera* — novice with lower ordination, *pabbajjā*
- samsāra* — rounds of rebirth
- sangha* — the Buddhist monastic fraternity, see also *sāsana*
- Sangharāja* — literally king or ruler of the *sangha*, highest ecclesiastical office in a Buddhist country
- sāsana* — the "Buddhist church", Buddhist teachings, institutions and practices; *Buddha sāsana* refers to the bearers of the teaching of Gautama Buddha
- sīla* — precept, moral undertaking, especially *pañ sil* (five precepts), *aṭṭa sil* (eight precepts) and *dasa sil* (ten precepts)
- sīmā* — consecrated boundary within which higher ordination (*upasampadā*) and other ceremonies are performed
- stūpa* — see *dāgāba*
- tanhā* — craving, the desire which leads to continued existence
- tāpasa(yā)* — general term for an ascetic
- tapovanaya* — cave or modest monastery for an ascetic
- thera* — a monk (*bhikkhu*) with more than ten years of monkhood from the day of his higher ordination (*upasampadā*), *mahāthera* — more than twenty years
- Theravāda* — "doctrine of the elders", usually refers to the southern branch of Buddhism
- Tipitaka* (Skr. *Tripitaka*) — the Pāli Canon
- tiratna* — the Three Jewels; *Buddha*, *Dhamma*, *Sangha*
- upāsaka* — Buddhist layman who has taken the ten precepts
- upāsikā* — Buddhist woman who has taken the ten precepts
- upasampadā* — higher ordination, a ceremony at which a *sāmaṇera* becomes a *bhikkhu*
- Vihārādhipati* — Chief Incumbent of a *pansāla*
- vihāragam* — villages granted by the king to Buddhist monasteries, especially the principal monasteries of the *Syāma Nikāya* fraternity
- vihāragē* — image house, containing image(s) of the Buddha and other objects of religious art, part of the complex of buildings in a *vihāraya*, see also *budugē* and *pilimagē*
- vihāraya* — usually a principal monastery