

## SOME SANSKRIT FOR SANGHA

Classical Sanskrit terminology is in worldwide usage for certain Buddhist names and philosophical concepts. In Sangha, when we recite sutras or chant (e.g., the Bodhisattvas' Names), it is enjoyable if our pronunciation is more or less correct. What is true is that the Sanskrit words hold power. Sanskrit is one of the most ancient of languages. So when we speak these words, we are invoking a venerable lineage. We talk about 'our ancestors' in Thay's tradition. This is way, way before that.

We have attempted here to state the meaning of certain terms in their original language/worldview to help us comprehend Thay's teachings more deeply. That is not so easy. Our friend Ani Daychen, who helped with this list, said: "Translation of Dharma terms into English is quite challenging because there is not a direct correspondence of terms and, even more significantly, there is a very different worldview that doesn't map with our own."

### GUIDE TO SANSKRIT PRONUNCIATION

VOWELS					
Letter	Pronounced as in	Phonetic transcription	Letter	Pronounced as in	Phonetic transcription
a	but	uh	□	father	ah
e	pay	ay	□	my	y
i	fill	ih	□	feel	ee
o	go	o	□	cow	ow
u	book	u	□	sue	oo

CONSONANTS		
Letter	Pronounced as in	Phonetic transcription
c	ch as in <b>church</b>	ch
dh	child <b>hood</b>	dh
j	measure	zh
ñ	mañana	ny
r	reed or pur	r
s	Sam	s
s	silly (tongue high in mouth)	s(h)
s	sham	sh
t and th*	top	t
ks	In English we make this sound at the end of words, as in <i>ticks</i> or <i>backs</i>	ks

\* Sanskrit has no 'th' sounds such as the English words *thin* or *the*. Any /th/ is pronounced *t*.

## SANSKRIT AND/OR PALI TERMS USED IN SNOWFLOWER SANGHA

TERM	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
ahimsa	uh-HIM-suh	non-harming (of body, speech, and mind)
alā yavijnā na	uh-LY-uh-vih-ZHNYAH-nuh	store consciousness. (alaya means sleeping, as in the sense of dormant)
anatman	uh-NAHT-muhn	no separate self
anitya	Ah-NIH-tyuh	impermanence
avidya	a-VIH-dyuh	ignorance (of the true nature of reality and who we are -- not lack of information)
bodhichitta	bo-dhuh-CHIH-tuh	the heart and mind of awakening; the aspiration to realize enlightenment for the sake of all living beings
bodhisattva	bo-dee-SAHT-vuh	great being (one who is awake)
Buddhata	BOO-dhuh-tuh	Buddha Nature/essence/suchness
budh	boodh	awake
chitta	CHIH-tuh	Mind. In Sanskrit, for both Hindus and Buddhists, chitta means more than the intellectual or rational faculty. It is a very expansive term, which includes heart, spirit, mind, awareness, sensitivity.
chitta samskara	CHIH-tuh suhm-SKAH-ruh	mental formations
dhā rana	DAHR-uh-nuh	concentration
dharmas	DAHR-muhz	things
dhatu	DHAH-too	realm
dhyā na	DHYAH-nuh	meditation
dristi	DRIH-shtee	views
dukha	DOO-kuh	ill-being
dvesa	DVAY-shuh	aversion
gā tha	GAH-tuh	short mindfulness verse to help us return to the here and now
Gautama	GOW-tuh-muh	family name of the Buddha
krodha	KRO-dhuh	anger
lā ksana	LAHK-shuh-nuh	sign, mark
Mahā bhuta	muh-HAH-boo-tuh	Four Great Elements plus space and consciousness
maitri/mettā *	MY-tree MEH-tah	lovingkindness/love
pā ramitā	PAHR-uh-MEE-tah	perfection. Thây says that in Chinese it is always the sign for 'crossing to the other shore.'
Prajñā	PRAH-zhnyah	wisdom
prajñā pā ramitā	PRAH-zhnyah PAHR-uh-MEE-tah	perfection of wisdom
rā gā	RAH-gah	attraction
Sakyamuni	S(H)AHK-yuh-MOO-nee	Sage of the Shakyas (the clan the Buddha came from)

\*Pali word, vowel 'eh', like English 'met'.

<b>TERM</b>	<b>PRONUNCIATION</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
samā dhi	suh-MAH-dee	meditative absorption
samskā ra	suhm-SKAH-ruh	habit energy
samyojana	suhm-YO-juh-nuh	internal knots of suffering/ stuck energy/ fetters
sraddhā	shruhdh-AH	faith
sunyā ta	shun-YAH-tuh	emptiness
Siddhartha	sih-DHAHR-tuh	name of the historic Buddha
sī la	S(H)EE-luh	mindfulness trainings/ ethical precepts
skā ndha	SKAHN-duh	aggregate or heap
smṛiti	SMRIH-tee/SUH-tee	remembering (mindfulness)
sukha	SOO-kuh	well-being
sutra	SOO-truh	records of the oral teaching of the Buddha
Tathagata	Tuh-TAH-guh-tuh	one who arises from suchness and returns to suchness
upekṣa	u-PAY-kshuh	equanimity
vā sana	VAH-shuh-nuh	habit energy; literally 'aroma' (that which lingers/habit energy, carried from one lifetime to another until transformed)
vijñāna	vih-ZHNYAH-nuh	consciousness
vipā syana/ vipā ssana	vih-PAH-shyah-nuh	looking deeply "to see things as they are".
virya	VIHR-yuh	effort/diligence
vṛitti	VRIH-tee	wave (waves/views of the mind/mental activity)

### THE BODHISATTVAS' NAMES

<b>TERM</b>	<b>PRONUNCIATION</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
ā valokitesvara	AH-vuh-lo-kee-TESH-vuh-ruh	Literally, 'Lord who looks down' The Bodhisattva of Great Compassion, The One Who Hears the Cries of the World/Divine Mother (Mary, Meera, Amma)
Kṣitigarbha	KS(H)IH-tee-gahr-buh	Earth Store Bodhisattva; Literally, the one who encompasses the earth.' (Garbha means womb.) Of the four great Bodhisattvas in Buddhism, Kṣitigarbha is the one with the greatest vow: "If Hell is not empty, I will not attain Buddhahood." (Jizo in Japanese.)
Maitreya	my-TRAY-uh	The Buddha to come/ The Buddha of Love. Literally, 'the loving one' Also known as the Laughing Buddha
Mañjuśrī	muhn-JOO-shree	The Bodhisattva of Great Wisdom.
Samantabhadra	suh-MAHN-tuh BHAH-druh	The Bodhisattva of Great Activity. Literally, 'universal virtue'.

## THE FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS

TERM	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
dukha	DOO-kuh	Ill-being
trisna	TRIH-shnuh	Craving
nirodha	nih-RO-dhuh	Cessation
marga	MAHR-guh	path

## SUTRA NAMES

TERM	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
Anapanasati	AH-nuh-PAH-nuh-SUH-tee	Breath Sutra. Literally, 'in breath, out breath, remembering'
Bhaddekaratta	BHAH-duh-KAHR-uh-tuh	Sutra on Knowing the Better Way to Live Alone
Satipatthana	SUH-tee-puh-TAH-nuh	Four Foundations of Mindfulness Sutra. Four Foundations or Fields of Remembering

## THE FIVE SKANDHAS OR AGGREGATES

The components (ever changing and impermanent) through which we categorize experience. They are helpful in naming and understanding experience; they help us, too, to understand that we are empty of a separate self.

TERM	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
nāma/rūpa	NAH-muh/ROO-puh	form (mindbody)
vedanā	VAY-duh-nah	feeling (pleasant, unpleasant or neutral)
samjñā	suhm-ZHNYAH	perception (how we perceive and mentate)
chitta samskara	CHIH-tuh suhm-SKAH-ruh	mental formation (habit energy)
vijñāna	vih-ZHNYAH-nuh	consciousness

## THE NOBLE EIGHTFOLD PATH (arya ashtangika marga)

Samyak/samma means fully complete, pure, ideal. 'Right' (not as in right or wrong) is a sort of shorthand for this.

TERM	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
samyak dṛiṣṭi	SUHM-yuhg DRIH-shtee	right view
samyak saṅkalpa	SUHM-yuhg suhn-KAL-puh	right thinking
samyak smṛiti	SUHM-yuhg SMRIH-tee	right mindfulness
samyag vāc	SUHM-yuhg VAHK	right speech
samyak karmānta	SUHM-yuhg kar-MANH-tuh	right action
samyak pradhāna	SUHM-yuhg PRAH-dhuh-nuh	right effort/diligence
samyak Saṃdhi	SUHM-yuhg suh-MAH-dhee	right meditative concentration
samyag ajīva	SUHM-yuhg uh-JEE-vuh	right livelihood

## SUTRA OPENING VERSE (PALI)

Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Samma Sambuddhassa

“Homage to that Lord, the worthy one, the perfectly awakened one.”

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