

GLOSSARY

Abhiṣeka — consecration, by which a monarch is anointed sovereign.

Ālvār — title for a religious figure.

Antarāla — in architecture, the antechamber before an inner shrine.

Bisōva — a royal consort who has received some form of consecration (Skt. *abhiṣeka*).

Brahmin (Skt. and P. *brāhmaṇa*) — a hereditary member of the class of scholars and priests.

Cakravartin (P. *cakkavattin*) — “wheel-turner,” an epithet for particularly elevated kings.

Devālaya — “House of God,” shrine for a theist deity like Śiva or Viṣṇu.

Dharma (P. *dhamma*) — the teachings of the Buddha, but also “morality” or “duty” in a more general sense (particularly in the context of *rājadharma*, the duties incumbent on a king).

Dharma-rājan (P. *dhamma-rājan*) — “dharma-king,” a monarch who rules by or through *dharma*.

Dharmaśāstra — a genre of texts concerned with proper society order.

Garbhagrha (P. *gabbhageha*) — an inner shrine, usually containing an image for veneration.

Image-house (P. *paṭimāghara*, Sin. *pīlimagē*) — a shrine, typical of Sri Lankan Buddhism, housing an image of the Buddha for contemplation and veneration.

Kalpa (P. *kappa*) — an immeasurably long period of time.

Kṣatriya (P. *khattiya*) — a hereditary member of the class of kings and warriors.

Mahāyāna — a Buddhist movement with texts and doctrines not held canonical by the modern Theravāda.

Mahiṣī (P. *mahesī*, Sin. *mehesun*) — a royal consort.

Maṇḍapa — a ceremonial hall, particularly the entrance hall of a shrine or temple.

Nikāya — a monastic ordination lineage; also a division of the *Sutta-piṭaka*.

Pūjā — worship, usually of a deity or the Buddha.

Purohita — the royal priest, usually a Brahmin.

Rājaguru — the royal tutor, usually a monk.

Saṅgha, *mahāsaṅgha* — the monastic community.

Śāsana (P. *sāsana*) — the teachings of the Buddha, and the institutions which preserve them.

Śāstra (P. *sattha*) — a field of art or science, or a treatise relating to that field.

Sirit — a genre of Anurādhapura-period inscription laying out regulations for individual monasteries.

Stūpa (P. *thūpa*) — a domed structure enshrining relics.

Śudra (P. *sudda*) — a hereditary member of the servant class.

Śūtra (P. *sutta*) — a sermon given by the Buddha.

Svāmin (P. *sāmin*, Sin. *himī*) — master, lord, often “husband.”

Theravāda — the form of Buddhism today prevalent in South and Southeast Asia, and its forebears.

Tulābhāra — a ceremony in which valuable equal to the donor’s weight is donated to the needy.

Vaiśya (P. *vessa*) — a hereditary member of the agricultural class.

Vihāra — a Buddhist monastery.

Vinaya — the monastic disciplinary code; capitalized *Vinaya* refers to the canonical *Vinaya-piṭaka*.

