

Glossary of Buddhism terms & definitions



Acariya

teacher (Thai: Ajahn)

Adhitthana

decision, resolution, self determination, will

Akusala

unwholesome, demerit, wrong, bad, evil

Anagami

a Non-returner, the third stage in the realization of Nibbana.

Anapanasati

mindfulness of in and out breathing

Anatta

not self, Egolessness

Anicca

Impermanence

Arammana

Sense objects, and object of consciousness (in Thai: mood, temper, emotion)

Arahant/Arahat

The worthy one

Ariya

Noble: 1. The Sublime Path of the Holy life
 2. Ariya atthaangika magga, The Noble Eightfold Path

Ariya Dana

(Thai: Ariyasab) the sublime or noble treasure

Ariya Phala

Fruition: 1. Sota patti phala, fruition of stream entry
 2. Sakadagamiphala, fruition of once returning
 3. Anagami phala, fruition of non returning
 4. Arahatta phala, fruition of the worthy one or perfected one.

Ariya Sacca

Noble Truth

Asava

Mental intoxication, defilement

Atta

Self, Ego

Avijja

Ignorance, nescience, not knowing better, delusion

Bhavana

Mental culture, development, the control and evolution of the mind, meditation

Bodhipakkhiya Dhamma

The 37 qualities contributing to Enlightenment
Bodhisatta (Pali)/Bodhisattva (Sanskrit). A Buddha to be, one who has resolved to attain Enlightenment for the helping of all sentient beings.

Brahma

(In Hinduism, The Creator, The Universal Self); in Buddhism, a divine being of the Form Sphere or the Formless Sphere, Happy and blameless celestial beings, inhabitants of the higher heavens.

Buddha

The Awakened One, The Enlightened one

Buddho

a recitation of the Buddha, an example of a mantra

Citta

Thought, thoughtfulness, active thoughts, mind, a state of consciousness

Dalai Lama (Tibetan)

Great Ocean. Spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people. (formerly) the ruler and chief monk of Tibet, believed to be a reincarnation of Avalokitesvara and sought for among newborn children after the death of the preceding Dalai Lama.

Dana

giving, gift, alms-giving, alms, generosity, charity, benevolence, liberality, donation

Deva

a shining one, god, deity

Devata

(Thai: Thevada) a shining one, god, deity

Dhamma (Pali) Dharma

(Sanskrit) The Dhamma, The Doctrine, The Teaching of the Buddha, The Law, nature, the Truth, Ultimate Reality, The Supramundane

Nibbana

righteousness, virtue, morality

Dukkha

Suffering, misery, woe, pain, ill, sorrow, trouble, discomfort, dissatisfaction

Ekaggata

one-pointedness (of mind) concentration

Gotama/Gautama

Family name of the Buddha

Guru

Religious teacher, spiritual leader

Iddhi

success, psychic power

Iddhipada

The Four Paths of Accomplishment

Jhana

meditation, trance, ecstasy, absorption, a state of serene contemplation attained by meditation

Kamma/Karma

Action. A volitional action. Intentional actions that affect one's circumstances in this and future lives. The Buddha's insistence that the effect depends on volition marks the Buddhist treatment of kamma as different from the Hindu understanding of karma.

Karuna

Compassion

Kandha

aggregate, category

Kesa (Japanese)

The robe of a Buddhist monk, nun or priest.

Pancakkhandha

The five Aggregates, The five causally conditioned elements of existence forming a being or entity, corporeality, feeling, perception, mental formations and consciousness.

Kammatthana

the act of meditation or contemplation, subjects of meditation exercises

Kappa (Pali)/ Kalpa (Sanskrit)

an aeon, world cycle

Karuna

Compassion

Khanti

patience, forbearance, tolerance, endurance

Kilesa

defilement, impurities

Kusala

wholesome, meritorious, good action, virtue

Kuti

an abode of a Buddhist monk or novice

Lama (Tibetan)

Teacher. One who is revered.

Lobha

greed, lust, covetousness

Loka

the World, a world, plane of existence

Lokiya

mundane, worldly

Lokuttara

supramundane, transcendental

Lumbini

Birthplace of the Gotama Buddha in Nepal, a place of pilgrimage.

Magga

Path. The way leading to cessation of suffering. The fourth Noble Truth.

The Eightfold Noble Path:

- 1 Right Understanding, Right Vision
- 2 Right Thoughts
- 3 Right Speech
- 4 Right Action
- 5 Right Livelihood
- 6 Right Effort
- 7 Right Mindfulness
- 8 Right Concentration, Meditation

Majjima patipada

The Middle Way (The Eightfold Noble Path)

Mana, Mano

mind, thinking faculty

Manta, Mantra

sacred or magical formula

Metta

Loving kindness, good will, friendliness

Metta Sutta

Buddhist scripture which describes the nature of loving kindness.

Moha

delusion, ignorance, dullness

Mudda/Mudra

Ritual gesture, as illustrated by the hands of Buddha images.

Nana

knowledge, real knowledge, wisdom, insight

Nama

mind, name, mental factors, mentality,

Nibbana

the extinction of the fires of greed, of hatred and ignorance, the Unconditioned, the Supreme Goal of Buddhism, the

final emancipation

Nirodha

Liberation, the Cessation of suffering

Nissaya

foundation, help, support, protection (in Thai: habit)

Nekkhamma

renunciation

Pagoda (Dagoba, Chorten, Wat)

Alternative names for stupa or place of worship

Panna

wisdom, insight

Papa

evil, wrong action, demerit, bad, wicket,

Parami

Perfections, stages of spiritual perfection achieved by a Bodhisatta on his path to Buddhahood

Patticcasamupada

The Dependent Origination, The Law of Causation, The twelve links of conditioned co-production

Phala

fruit, effect, result, consequence

Phassa

contact, touch, mental impression (Thai: Samphas)

Puja

worship (external and mental, honor, veneration, homage, devotional offering)

Punna

merit, meritorious action, virtue, righteousness
(Thai: Tham boon)

Ratanattaya

the Triple Gem, the Three Jewels (viz, the Buddha, the doctrine,

and the Order)

Rupa

matter, form, material body, shape, corporeality

Saddha

faith, confidence

Sala

hall, pavilion, wayside shelter, study and merit-making hall, preaching hall

Samadhi

Concentration, contemplation, absorption

Samathabhavana

Concentration development, tranquility

Samsara

the Round of Rebirth, Cycle of Existence

Samudaya

the Cause of Suffering

Sangha

Community, a chapter of (not less than four) Buddhist monks, the Order

Sankhara

Compounded things, conditioned things, volitional activities

Sati

mindfulness

Satipatthana

(the Four) Foundations of Mindfulness

Sila

Morality

Sotapanna

a Stream Enterer, one who has attained the first stage of sainthood

Tanha

craving, desire, thirst

Tepitaka

the Three Baskets, the three divisions of the Buddhist Canon: Vinaya, Sutta, and Abhidhamma; generally known as the Pali Canon

Tilakkhana

the common characteristics of component things

Upadana

attachment, clinging

Upaya

means, method, resource, expedient

Upekkha

equanimity, even-mindedness, neutrality

Uposatha

1. Observance of the Eight Precepts;
2. Bi-weekly recitation of the Vinaya rules by a chapter of Buddhist monks.

Uposatha hall

a hall in a monastery in which ceremonies are performed

Vatta

duty, service, monastic daily routine or service, observance.

Vedana

sensation, feeling

Vesantara

a prince, cited as one of the previous births of the Buddha in order to illustrate the practicing of one of the Ten Perfections; in this case, Generosity.

Vihara

a monastery, temple

Vimutti

deliverance, release

Vinaya

discipline, the monastic regula

Vinnana

consciousness

Vipaka

effect, result, fruit, kamma resultant

Vipassana

insight intuitive vision, introspection, contemplation, insight development

Viriya

effort, energy, vigour, endeavour, exertion

Wat (Thai)

Monastery, temple

Yome (Thai)

appellation used by a monk for his parents or his patron or supporter.