

BUDDHIST GLOSSARY

Abhidharma	Philosophical analysis of the Dharma.
Alaya-vignana	Store consciousness; mechanism by which we remember and are affected by events in the past.
Anatta	No inherently existing or independent self.
Anicca	The first mark of conditioned existence, that all things are subject to change.
Arhat	Worthy one, used to those who gained enlightenment following the Buddha's teaching.
Avidya	Spiritual blindness.
Bardo	Used of a transitional state, especially that between one life and the next.
Bhikku	Buddhist monk (nun).
Bodhicitta	The mind of enlightenment, person is determined to follow the path towards enlightenment.
Bodhisattva	Being of enlightenment, used of Gautama prior to his enlightenment.
Dhayana	Meditation; also the spiritual state achieved in meditation.
Dukkha	Suffering, unsatisfactory.
Hinayana	Lesser Vehicle, or Theravada.
Hua-yen	The interpenetration of all things.

Magga	The Middle Way – fourth of the Four Noble Truths.
Mahayana	Great Vehicle, Buddhist tradition originating in India but developed particularly in the Far East and the Himalayas.
Mandala	A spiritual diagram or map.
Mantra	A chant, repeated as an aid to devotion and meditation.
Maya	Illusion, used of the world of the senses.
Nirodha	Cessation. It describes the exhaustion of the karmic fuel of the fires of greed, hatred and ignorance, and is equated to nirvana.
Nirvana	The state in which the triple fire of hatred, greed and ignorance is extinguished.
Paramita	Perfection.
Prajna	Wisdom.
Pratitya samutpada	The arising and ceasing of things in dependence upon conditions.
Punabhava	Re-becoming or reincarnation.
Rupa	Body, one of the five skandhas.
Samadhi	Meditation.
Samatha	Form of meditation which seeks to develop calm, one pointedness of mind.
Samjna	Mental concepts, one of the five skandhas.

Samsara	The world of change and re-becoming.
Samskara	Desires, one of the five skandhas.
Satya	Truth.
Shunyata	Emptiness, used to describe that which is dependent, conditioned and liable to change.
Sila	Morality.
Skandhas	The five elements of which the self is made up.
Sutra	Literally “thread”, used of a teaching of the Buddha. The Buddhist scriptures are divided into sutras.
Svabhava	Inherent existence (things lack this).
Tanha	Craving, the cause of suffering.
Tathagata	One who has gone beyond, used of the Buddha.
Vajrayana	Diamond vehicle or thunderbolt vehicle, incorporating Tantric elements.
Vedana	Feelings, one of the five skandhas.
Vijnana	Consciousness, one of the five skandhas.
Vipassana	Form of meditation which seeks to develop insight into the nature of reality.

MAP OF INDIA

