

GLOSSARY

- Adhivāsa (अधिवास) – Pre-marrital ceremony, Consecration.
- Agni (अग्नि) – Fire, the God of fire, sacrificial fire. Two types of fire are installed in Vedic rites and rituals – Śrauta (श्रौत) and Gṛhya (गृह्य). – Marriage is performed in Gṛhya (domestic) Agni, south-east corner.
- Agnidagdhā (अग्निदग्धा) – burnt on a funeral pile, burnt in fire.
- Akṣata (अक्षत) – Thrashed and winnowed rice dried in the Sun.
- Amuka (अमुक) – A pronoun, used in the declension of the pronoun, such and such a person or thing. This word is used to refer to a person in general, Amukī (अमुकी) – in feminine.
- Aṅguriya (अङ्गुरीय) – Finger-ring.
- Annaprāśana (अन्नप्राशन) – The ceremony of feeding a new-born child for the first time, one of the various saṁskāras performed between 5th and 8th month of the child.
- Aratni (अरत्नि) – A cubit of the middle length, from the elbow to the tip of the little finger.
- Asagoṭrā (असगोत्रा) – Not belonging to the same family.
- Asapiṇḍā (असपिण्डा) – Related mere distantly than a sa-piṇḍa.

- Avanejana (अवनेजन) – Washing, water for washing, foot-bath, sprinkling water on the darbha grass at a śraddha ceremony.
- Ācamana (आचमन) – Sipping water before the religious ceremonies from the palm of the hand.
- Āsana (आसन) – Seat, place, a particular posture, mode of sitting.
- Bandhana (बन्धन) – Knot, bondage, binding, tying.
- Bhāryā (भार्या) – A lawful wife.
- Brahmacarya (ब्रह्मचर्य) – The period of studentship, the first order of his life.
- Brahmacārī (ब्रह्मचारी) – A twice-born in the first order of life.
- Cāmara (चामर) – Fly brush, a chowri.
- Dakṣiṇā (दक्षिणा) – A present or gift to the Brāhmaṇas (at the completion of a religious rite, such as a sacrifice), fee, remuneration.
- Daṇḍa (दण्ड) – Name of a measure of time.
- Dūrvā (दूर्वा) – Green grass, Bent grass or Panic grass having leaves each considered as a sacred article of worship and offered to the deities.
- Dvija (द्विज) – The twice born (Brāhmaṇa, Kṣātriya and Vaiśya).
- Dhūpa (धूप) – Incense, aromatic vapour.
- Dhyāna (ध्यान) – Religious meditation.
- Gandha (गन्ध) – Sandal-paste. It is used at the time of worship to please the deity by its perfume. White sandal and Red-sandal—both type of sandal are used in the worship.

- Gārhasthya (गार्हस्थ्य) – The stage of life of a householder. Relating to the house-holder.
- Gāyatrī (गायत्री) – A Vedic metre of 24 syllables, a very sacred verse repeated by every Brāhmaṇa at the Sandhyā (morning and evening devotion) and on other occasions also; a hymn composed and recited in the Gāyatrī metre.
- Ghaṭa (घट) – Water-pot, essential in every sacred or holy function.
- Ghṛta (घृत) – Ghee, clarified butter.
- Homa (होम) – Offering an oblation in fire.
- Īśāna (ईशान) – North-east corner, Śiva, Lord.
- Kośā (कोशा) – A canoc-shaped copper-vessel larger in size used in all the rites and rituals as water-container; alternative spelling Koṣā (कोपा).
- Kuśa (कुश) – A kind of grass considered holy and forming an essential requisite of several religious ceremonies.
- Kuśāṅguriya (कुशाङ्गुरीय) – Ring made of Kuśa grass.
- Kuśī (कुशी) – A canoc-shaped copper-spoon for taking up water out of a Kośā and smaller in size than Kośā (कोशा); alternative spelling कोपी or कुपी.
- Kutupa (कुतुप) – The eighth muhūrta of the day.
- Kuśaṇḍikā (कुशण्डिका) – A homa ceremony during wedding.
- Kulā (कुला) – A flat basket containing various articles for a ceremony of welcome. Winnowing fan.
- Lāja (लाज) – fried grain.
- Madhuparka (मधुपर्क) – A mixture of honey and milk, a respectful offering to a guest or to the bridegroom

on his arrival at the door of the father of the bride (sometimes consisting of equal parts of curd, honey and clarified butter).

Mantra (मन्त्र) – A Vedic hymn or sacred prayer

(addressed to any deity), a sacred Vedic text of 3 types – Rk, Sāman and Yajus; A formula (of prayer) sacred to any deity uttered in sacrifices, worships etc., a mystical verse or magical formula.

Muhūrta (मुहूर्त) – A moment, any short space of time, a patric division of time, a period of 48 minutes.

Nairṛta (नैर्ऋत) – South-west corner.

Nāndimukha (नान्दीमुख) – A form of śrāddha performed in memory of the manes which is preliminary to any festive occasion such as marriage etc.

Nāmakaraṇa (नामकरण) – Christening ceremony.

Pāṇigrahaṇa (पाणिग्रहण) – Marriage, To take the hand of the bride by the bridegroom.

Pati (पति) – Husband, lord.

Patnī (पत्नी) – Wife.

Piṇḍa (पिण्ड) – special type of food, rice-ball.

Prādeśa (प्रादेश) – The span of the thumb and forefinger.

Prativacana (प्रतिवचन) – An answer, reply.

Puṣpa-patra (पुष्पपात्र) – Flower-pot, a vessel for keeping flowers.

Puṣpa-vṛṣṭi (पुष्पवृष्टि) – Floral shower.

Rauhiṇa (रौहिण) – Connected with the Rohiṇi Nakṣatra (star) or born under it.

Sahadharminī (सहधर्मिणी) – Wife.

Samāvartana (समावर्तन) – The consecrating ceremony at the end of the period of studentship.

Samkalpa (सङ्कल्प) – Oath, vow; definite intention, a solemn vow or determination to perform any ritual observance, declaration of purpose.

Saṁskāra (संस्कार) – Sacrament.

Saṅgava (सङ्गव) – The second of the five divisions of the day, 3 muhūrtas after Prātaḥsavana, the time when grazing cows are collected for milking or when they are together with their calves.

Ṣaṣṭhī (षष्ठी) – The sixth day of a lunar fortnight, a divine mother or a Goddess often regarded as a form of Durgā (supposed to protect children and worshipped on the sixth day after delivery), Tithi when homage is offered to the sixth lunar digit.

Sindūra (सिन्दूर) – Vermilion, a sort of tree/tilaka – a mark on the forehead made with red lead.

Ṣoḍaśamātrkā (षोडशमातृका) – 16 special female deities who give guard various regions in the atmosphere. Their blessings are very necessary for the bride and the bridegroom regarding the removal of all evil influences in the atmosphere. They are listed as follows –

गौरी पद्मा शची मेधा सावित्री विजया जया

देवसेना स्वधा स्वाहा मातृका देवमातृका ॥

शान्तिः पुष्टिर्धृतिस्तुष्टिरात्मदेवतया सह।

आदौ विनायकः पूज्यः, अन्ते च कुलदेवताः ॥

At first you have to worship Lord Gaṇeśa and then you have to worship 16 Mother Goddesses such as Gaurī, Padmā, Śacī, Medhā, Sāvitrī, Vijayā, Jayā, Devasenā, Svadhā, Svāhā, Śāntī, Puṣṭi, Dhṛti, Tuṣṭi, Mātrikā and Ātmadevatā. At the end of the worship, deities of own clan is necessary.

Sāstra (शास्त्र) – An order, rule, precept; a sacred precept.

scriptural injunction; a religious or sacred treatise, sacred book, scripture; any department of knowledge.

Śrāddha (श्राद्ध) —A ceremony performed in memory of and wishing heaven's abode for the deceased persons, observed with great austerity after completion of the mourning days fixed for different castes.

Śrī (श्री) —prosperity, riches, affluence, plenty, Lakṣmī the wife of Viṣṇu etc. The word 'श्री' is often used as an honorific prefix to the names of deities and eminent persons e.g. श्रीकृष्ण, श्रीजयदेव etc., celebrated works e.g. श्रीरामायणः श्रीमहाभारतः, श्रीमद्भागवद्गीता etc. श्री is also used as an auspicious sign at the commencement of letters, manuscripts etc.

Sthaṇḍila (स्थण्डिल) —A piece of ground squared and prepared for sacrifice.

Svastika (स्वस्तिक) —A kind of mystical cross or mark made on persons or things to denote good luck. The majority of scholars regard this sign as a solar symbol; i.e. as representing a curtailed form of the wheel of the solar Viṣṇu, consisting of four spokes crossing each other at right angles with short fragments of the periphery of the circle at the end of each spoke turning round in one direction to denote the course of the Sun. Its shape is like a Greek cross with the extremities of the four arms bent round in the same direction. The form of स्वस्तिक represents two auspicious words —सु अस्ति which signifies well-being or benediction 'क' is the suffix which carries the same meaning. Jains accept

स्वस्तिक as one of the 24 auspicious marks and is the emblame of the seventh Arhat.

Ṭopara (टोपर) —Coronet, crown, hat (worn at annaprāśana, Upanayana and marriage ceremony).

Tulasī (तुलसी) —The holy basil, the sacred basil.

Upanayana (उपनयन) —Investiture with the sacred thread. It is also one kind of Saṁskāra.

Vasudhāra (वसुधारा) —A ceremony of pouring ghee (clarified butter), related with the name of Chedirāja Vasu.

Vāyu (वायु) —Wind, the north-west corner.

Viraṇapatra (वीरणपत्र) —Fragrant grass.

Vivāha (विवाह) —Taking a wife, marriage.

Yajamāna (यजमान) —The person paying the cost of a sacrifice, host, head of a family.