

Tantrism: a form of Buddhism which grew from the Mahayana and favored the use of magic formulae (mantra), symbols (yantra), and diagrams (mandala) to compel the gods to bestow magic power on the worshipper.

Tapas (pl): asceticism; self-mortification.

Tara: wife of **Valin**.

Tataka: rakshini, mother of **Marica**.

Tathagata: 'Thus Gone,' the title given to the **Buddha** after enlightenment, sometimes translated as 'the Perfect One.'

Techo (sk tejas, pl tejo, kh ដកតជ័ ០): honorific title of a grandee.

Tenon (fr 'tenon', 'mortaise'): a projecting piece of wood or masonry made for insertion into a **mortise** in another piece. Several smaller statues in Khmer temples have a **tenon** in their base.

Tep Roam (Kh ដេត្រូរ៉ាម): the spirit of dance.

Tep Monorom (kh ដេត្រូរ៉ាមដេត្រូរ៉ាម): a female group dance which expresses courtship and the happiness of gods and goddesses.

Thani (sk dhani): town, city.

Theravada (sk vada path + therā ancient, 'The Path of the Elders'); disparagingly referred to by its opponents as **hinayana** ('the inferior or lower path') this major sect of Buddhism flourishes nowadays in Sri Lanka and mainland Southeast Asia. Its adepts maintain that they practice accordingly to the original teaching of Buddha, contained in the **Pali** canon, the **Tipitaka**. Some scholars have shown that the term "Theravāda," itself indicating a "kind of Buddhism," was a 19th-century creation. Theravāda is a term rarely found in early Buddhist texts and histories or in early European writings. Pali and Sanskrit texts use the terms **ācāryavāda** or **nikāyāntara** when referring to other schools or religious affiliations.

Thireach (sk adhi+raja, kh ធំរី ០៨៨): supreme king, in the name of kings.

Thom (kh ធំ): large, big.

Thommo (sk dharma, kh ធំម៉ូ ០): the law; the holy law; a name of a king.

Thupdei (sk adhi + pati kh ធំប្រើ ០): supreme master, in the name of kings.

Tilottama: female deity created by the gods to pacify two fighting **asuras** who were wreaking havoc on earth.

Tipitaka, Tri-pitaka (pl 'three Baskets'): the three main divisions of the **Pali** Canon.

Tonle (sk danle, kh ត្នែល ០): lake.

Toych (kh តូច): small.

Tral: boat.

Tramak (kh ត្រាម ០៨៨ moh domrei): mahout.

Trapeang (kh ត្រាប៉ាង ០): small tank or pond, usually man-made. Often followed by a proper noun identifying a particular source of water.

Trei (kh ត្រី ០): fish. **Reach sramut** (sk raj sramut 'king of the sea', kh រាជ ០៨៨ ០៨៨): the 'royal sea fish', tuna.

Trijata: a rakshini who spoke in favor of **Sita**.

Trimukha (sk 'three-faced'): three-lobed design of a platform or structure seen in plan.

Trivikrama: epithet of **Vishnu** when making three steps.

Tuk, Toek (kh តូក ០៨៨): water.

U

Uccaishrava: the white horse of **Indra**, bred from the **Churning of the ocean of milk**.

Uma: daughter of the god Himavan, wife of Shiva. Also known as **Parvati**.

Upanisad: The esoteric texts that developed a mystical and spiritualized understanding of the **Vedas**, and which would form the basis of Hinduism.

Upasunda: an **asura** who fought with **Sunda**.

Upiidiina: 'clinging', attachment; it is etymologically related to upadi, fuel.

Uposatha: the days of fasting and abstinence in the Vedic tradition.

Usha: beautiful daughter of **Bana**.

V

Vahana (sk 'vehicle'): a term which indicates the animal or avian mounts or vehicles of the gods, e.g. Skanda's peacock, Shiva's nandi...

Vaisya: The third caste of farmers and stockbreeders in the Aryan system.

Vaisravana (sk vaisravana, pl vessavana): one of the 'Forth Heavenly Kings'.

Vajra (sk "weapon"): ritual weapon manifesting the purity and strength of the diamond and thunderbolt. **Vajrayana**, the 'Diamond or Thunderbolt Way', is the main spiritual trend in Tantric Buddhism.

Valin: in the **Ramayana**, king of the monkeys, son of **Indra**, half-brother of **Sugriva**, and husband of **Tara**.

Valmiki: the sage who compiled the **Ramayana**.

Vantail: leaf of a door.

Varman (kh វរ្ម័នៈ): 'Protector'. **-varman** (sk 'protection, breast-plate') is a suffix for the royal names of

almost all the Khmer kings; thus 'Jayavarman' means 'protected by Victory', 'Indravarman' 'protected by (the god) **Indra**'...

Varuna: God of the ocean and guardian of the West.

Vasana: The subconscious activities of the mind.

Vasudeva: Father of **Krishna**.

Vasuki: great king of the nagas.

Vault: arch extended in depth.

Vayu: guardian of the North West.

Veda: the inspired texts, recited and interpreted by the brahmins, in the Aryan religious system.

Vibhishana: 'The Terrifying', rakshasa brother of **Ravana**, who left Lanka to join **Rama**.

Vihara, Vihear (sk and pl 'secluded place', kh វិហារ): an ascetic's cave or retreat, and also a name given

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to temples or monasteries in Theravada Buddhism. Rectangular building housing a Buddha image.

Vimana: celestial palace of the gods.

Vinaya: the monastic code of the Buddhist Order; one of the 'Three Baskets' (Ti-pitaka) of **Pali Canon**: **vinaya-pitaka, sutta-pitaka, abhi-dhamma-pitaka.**

Viradha: Rakshasa who attempted to abduct **Sita.**

Vishnu (sk 'The Pervader', kh វិស្ណុ): one of the main Hindu deities, Maintainer of the Universe. Hinduism's supreme deity, yet less widely-worshipped than **Shiva** by the Khmers. He is the Divine Preserver of the earth and heavens, whose extent he measured in three giant steps. Through his **avatara**, he intervenes to restore order when there is chaos. His mild and peaceful nature the perfect counterbalance to Shiva's destructive wrath. In Khmer art he is portrayed with four arms, the upper two holding the god's 'attributes' of the *conch* and the *discus*, the lower two the *orb* (symbolizing the Earth) and the *club*.

Vishvamita: a sage.

W

Wat (or **Vat**) (sk vastu, pl vatthu, kh វត្ត): temple, pagoda, Khmer Theravada monastery consisting of the religious buildings and the monks' cells. **Angkor Wat**, originally dedicated to **Vishnu**, has since become known as 'the city which is a (Buddhist) monastery'.

Wiang (ta เวียง): fortified temple. In Lao language, a city, like in *Wiang Chan* (lao ວຽງຈັນ), Vientiane, the

capital city of Laos.

Y

Yaksha: half-human and half-godlike being, associated with **Kubera.**

Yama: The 'prohibitions' observed by yogini and ascetics, who were forbidden to steal, lie, have sexual intercourse, take hallucinogens, kill or harm another being.

Yama (kh យមរាជ): king of the Dead, son of **Surya** reigning over the subterranean world, guardian of the South.

Yasoda: Krishna's adoptive mother.

Yassa (kh ឫស្សីពេទ្យ): the spiritual retreat during the monsoon rains, from June to September.

Yatra (sk 'journey'): Hindu procession or pilgrimage.

Yekagrata: In **yoga**, the concentration of the mind 'on a single point.

Yoga (kh យូហ៍): The discipline of 'yoking' the powers of the mind in order to cultivate alternative states of consciousness and insight.

Yogin: A practitioner of **yoga.**

Yoni (pl gabbhaseyya 'womb', sk yoni, kh យ៉ូនី): womb, female genitalia and by extension the female sexual principle, holding the **linga** in Brahmanic representations. When the **linga** is ceremonially lustrated, the water thus becoming holy, runs down the **yoni** and flows out through its spout(s), allowing

Yuga (kh យុគ): an age of the world.

Yuvaraja (sk): crown prince.

*Sources: **Angkor Database Team** research, and lexicons from various books at
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