



Blue Padma Services Incorporated
Understanding Buddhism



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Glossary



Changing Sanskrit and Tibetan Terms Into English

Other glossaries are available in the back of certain Dharma books, for example, "The Essence of Tibetan Buddhism" by Lama Thubten Yeshe (published by Lama Yeshe Wisdom Archive).



Arya – A Being who is aware or awake to their natural Awakened state.

Bardo – the after death state and/or intermediate state.

Bodhisattva – Warrior Saint.

Bodhisattvacharyavatara – the aspirational Path of the Saint.

Buddha – the Buddha of this fortunate age, the age of this present moment, Buddha Shakyamuni, who had the fortitude to come and teach to the people here in this world system.

Dharma – the profound and complete truth of reality and the Buddha taught it completely to the people who had the capacity and could hear it completely.



Hinayana – the lesser vehicle; the Sutra Teachings of the Buddha; taught in Pali for people for that inclination.

Interconnectedness – we are connected on all levels, whether we have spiritual attainments or not; what affects one, affects another.

Interdependency – we depend on everybody for our own welfare, for our own being.

Lam Rim – formulated by the great Indian Teacher Lama Atisha Shrijana Dipamkara, (982 – 1055) when He came to Tibet in 1042; the graduated path, the presentation of Shakyamuni Buddha's teachings in a form suitable for the step-by-step training of a disciple.

Mahayana – the greater vehicle; the Sanskrit Teachings of the Buddha taught for people with that inclination.



Nirvana – the understanding that we have an innate quality of awareness, kindness and compassion; when we are awake to that state we are aware of interconnectedness and interdependency.

Root Guru / Lama – likened to a professor; authentic Teacher coming from an experiential point of view; perfectly qualified.

Samsara – the life we live without any spirituality; without any recognition that death will come.

Sangha – teachers who get Teachings from perfectly qualified Teachers; they should represent their Teacher and go out and teach with humility, knowing that the Dharma is the profound truth that works.

Shamatha – abiding in a calm state of mind; rigpa; natural awareness; peaceful essence of mind.

Shunyata – the truth of reality; your clean, clear, natural state of mind; wisdom of suchness; the wisdom of the way things are.

Vajrayana – the diamond vehicle; the Tantric Teachings of the Buddha taught for people with that inclination.

Vispassana – special insight into your mind.



Yana – vehicle.