

# Glossary of Sanskrit terms

## I—Different kinds of Purusha, Men

*Akhyanakushala*: A clever story-teller, well versed in Sanskrit and dialects; a favourite of the ladies

*Ashvaroaha*: A man, skilled in the science of looking after horses

*Ayuktaka*: An officer of high rank, supervising over civil amenities and general health measures

*Bhikshuka*: A brahman not having learnt the Vedas, leaving on alms; also a common beggar

*Brahmachari*: A celibate

*Brahman*: A man well versed in the Vedas and scriptures; he acts as the preceptor guiding the citizens in religious matters

*Chat*: A companion of the Nagaraka, keeping him in good spirit

*Daivadnya*: A gold-smith; also an astrologer

*Dikshita*: One that conducts a sacrifice; also one initiated for performing a religious ceremony

*Dharmadhikaranastha*: A person advising in religious matters and legal affairs; also a judge

*Doota*: A male messenger or go-between

*Gajaroaha*: A mahout, skilled in looking after elephants

*Gandhika*: A man preparing and selling fragrant unguents

*Gavadhyaksha*: Superintendent of the royal kine. His duties included care of the cows, supervising their sale and purchase

*Gopalaka*: The common cow-herd, making his living by tending cows and selling milk and its products

*Gramadhipati*: The village head-man with unlimited authority. He is the keeper of land records, responsible for law and order, and a judge in minor disputes

*Halothavritti*: A man making his living by means of farming

*Kapurusha*: An impotent and timid man; one unable to face a difficult situation

*Kavi*: A poet

*Kliba*: An impotent man, totally devoid of valour

*Lingayat*: A person belonging to a clan devoted to Lord Shiva, wearing a linga in a chain around his neck

*Mahajana*: A pillar of the society; he was well cultured and had to be careful about his dress and manners, as he was imitated by the laity in these matters

*Mahamatra*: The chief minister

*Malakara*: A florist skilled in making garlands with flowers of various colours, sizes and fragrance

*Malla*: A wrestler

*Manikar*: A jeweller making ornaments studded with jewels and precious stones

*Medhavi*: An intelligent and cultured person with an ability to take correct decisions in difficult situations

*Nagara*: An officer responsible for ensuring law and order in the territory under his jurisdiction

*Nagaraka*: A cultured house-holder

*Napita*: A barber, adept in devising different hair-styles for men

*Nayaka*: A leader. The hero in Sanskrit literature. He should possess good physique, all the noble qualities and know some of the fine arts, especially music and painting

*Nili*: A washerman

*Pandaka*: An impotent man; he gives more money to the prostitute for not disclosing his defects

*Panyadhyaksha*: The Market Manager. He supervises the sale and purchases of goods brought to the market

*Paricharaka*: A male servant of the Nagaraka, looking after his physical comforts

*Pati*: A common term for husband

*Pithamarda*: A poor man, alone in the world, but commanding respect in the assembly of Nagarakas and the abodes of the courtesans with his skill in all the arts; makes a living by teaching the arts and acting as mediator between lovers

*Purusha*: A common term for man

*Raja*: A king

*Rajaka*: A dyer; also a washerman

*Rakshaka*: A policeman

*Rangopajivi*: A man earning his living on the stage; an actor, musician

*Samvahaka*: A masseur, massaging the Nagaraka with oils, after exercise

*Sanyasi*: A mendicant; one who has renounced family life and lives on alms

*Saurika*: A person preparing and selling wines

*Sauvarni*: A gold-smith, having access to the ladies of the households

*Shastradnya*: One well versed in the scriptures and various sciences

*Shaundika*: Same as Saurika

*Shilpadnya*: An artisan, skilled in carpentry and sculpture

*Shrotriya*: A brahman well versed in the Vedas and scriptures and reciting them in a proper manner at religious ceremonies

*Stena*: A thief

*Sutradyaksha*: An officer of the royal court supervising transactions of cotton, cotton-thread, and garments

*Suvarnakar*: A gold-smith

*Tambulika*: A man preparing and selling various condiments required in the preparation of mouth freshener or *paan*, betel

*Vagmi*: An eloquent man, having a good command over languages

*Vaidya*: A physician, learned in the Ayurveda, science of medicine

*Vaikatika*: An expert in the science of evaluating gems and precious stones

*Vanik*: A grocer; a merchant

*Vidushaka*: A jester provoking laughter; trusted by all, he sometimes acts as a go-between

*Vikrant*: A brave man

*Vita*: A married man, skilled in some arts, honoured in the assembly of Nagarakas and the houses of prostitutes; earns his livelihood by liaising between the Nagaraka and the Nayika

*Vrati*: A man initiated in the observance of a vow, not indulging in sex and other pleasures until the vow is fulfilled

## II—Different kinds of Women

*Abhyantarika*: A woman of the inner court. See *Antahpurika*—a more common term

*Abhisarika*: A woman, who, after fully adorning and anointing her body, goes to meet her lover at the appointed time and

place, in spite of hazards. She is the subject of many literary works and paintings

*Agamya*: A woman not to be approached for satisfying carnal desire

*Antahpurika*: A lady of the inner royal court or from the house of an aristocrat

*Atanti*: A secret prostitute of a low rank; a street-walker moving stealthily at night in search of a customer

*Bala*: A girl between ten and fourteen years of age, who is as yet innocent in matters of Kama

*Bharya*: A wife, one who bears the burden of household duties

*Bhikshuki*: The wife of a Brahman living on alms; a fit person to act as a *Dooti*, female messenger

*Charshani*: A woman employee satisfying the sexual impulses of her master and petty village officers

*Chetika*: A maid servant accompanying a *Nayika* to keep her in good humour

*Dara*: A wife, same as *Bharya*

*Dasi*: A female servant usually of a lower rank

*Devi*: Literally a 'goddess'. A term of reverential address to ladies of the royal family and aristocracy

*Dhatreyika*: The daughter of the (wet) nurse, of about the same age of the *Nayika*. Acts as her friend or messenger

*Dooti*: A female messenger or a go-between. She brings about the successful union of the *Nagaraka* and the *Nayika*

*Duhita*: A daughter, from *Duhitru*, one who milks the cow

*Durbhaga*: An unfortunate wife, who has lost the favours of her husband for some reason

*Ekacharini*: The lone wife; the lady of the house. She looks after the welfare of her husband and other members of the household, even at a sacrifice of her own pleasures

Also a prostitute, who stays with only one man for a specific period, usually one year, acting as if she is a wedded wife. However, her duties and authorities are limited

*Ganika*: A prostitute of the highest class having pride of place in all the religious and social functions. Princes and princesses as also the sons and daughters of the ministers and aristocrats were sent to the *Ganikas* for learning the fine arts, good social manners and etiquettes

*Ikshanika*: A woman of inquisitive nature. A devoted wife should not confide in her as she is apt to make public their conversation

*Jyeshtha*: The eldest wife. She should act as an elder sister to her co-wives and advise them in matters of keeping the husband happy

*Kanchukiya*: An old eunuch of the female type, employed to serve the queens

*Kanishtha*: The second or youngest wife. She should look upon her co-wives as her elder sisters and seek guidance from them

*Kanya*: Generally, a daughter; virgin between fourteen and eighteen years of age

*Kshapana*: A buddhist female mendicant

*Kuhaka*: A woman flattering a wife for her merits and trying to lure her away from her husband

*Kulapramada*: A woman from a renowned and respected family. Her manners should be refined and pleasing; should be always on guard not to defame the name of her family even by a slightest mistake

*Kulata*: One who defiles the name of the family, an adultress, indulging in prostitution secretly or openly in a place other than her husband's house

*Kulayasha*: Same as *Kulapramada*

*Kumbhadasi*: A female water-carrier; a *Nagaraka*'s hasty sexual union with her is termed *Potarata*

*Lokakanta*: Wife of many men; a prostitute of higher rank, invited to entertain at fairs, drinking parties public per-

formances and auspicious occasions; well-versed in singing, dancing and such other performing arts

*Mahattarika*: An old maid in the royal inner court

*Matru*: Mother.

*Matruka*: A foster-mother

*Moolakarika*: A witch, assuring the wife of many pleasurable things obtainable by practice of black magic

*Munda*: One with a shaven head; a female mendicant, usually an old widow, who has left her house and lives on alms wandering from place to place. Also a woman with receding hair, not recommended for marriage

*Nari*: A common term for a woman

*Natakiya*: An actress. She had to attain a high standard in acting to deserve royal patronage and abode in the royal inner court

*Nati*: An actress

*Nayika*: The heroine in literary works; a desired woman. Divided into more than fifty categories according to the age, physic, marital status, mood, etc

*Pakshiki*: Another man's wife, enjoyed for a specific purpose and only until the purpose is served, for instance enabling her to conceive, which her husband is probably incapable of

*Paradara*: Another man's wife, not to be approached for carnal desire, except for a specific purpose

*Parastri*: Same as *Paradara*

*Paricharika*: A maid-in-waiting. She is above the common servants who looks after the physical needs of the ladies of the house; sometimes attending upon the master and satisfying his sexual desire

*Parityakta*: A woman deserted by her husband because she could not bear children or being an adultress or not liked by him for some reason

*Patita*: A fallen woman, driven out of the house and despised by her relatives and the society she belongs to

*Pativrata*: A wife thoroughly devoted to her husband, not falling a prey to the wiles of other men, under any circumstances

*Prakashavinashita*: A married woman or widow openly staying with other man, leaving him after some time and going to another, thus continually changing her supporter

*Pravrajita*: A female mendicant, usually wearing white, reddish or orange robes

*Punarbhva*: Generally, a woman eligible for remarriage

*Rupajiva*: A prostitute not well versed in any fine arts, her only assets being the beauty of the face and a well-formed body

*Sakhi*: The female friend of the heroine, of nearly the same age, who acts as a *Dooti*. She is the heroine's adviser and also speaks on her behalf

*Samvahika*: A masseuse, massaging the *Nagaraka* after his exercise. She also applied oil and other unguents and bathed him

*Sapatni*: A co-wife. Polygamy was order of the day. Every king and many a well-to-do householder had many wives and also concubines

*Shilpakarika*: The wife of a professional, such as washerman, barber, florist, etc. Also a woman living by these professions

*Shramana*: A Jain female mendicant clad in unstitched single white garment

*Stri*: A woman

*Svairini*: A woman moving freely and under nobody's check. Though married, she openly carries on amorous activities with other men either in her own house, defying and despising her husband, or elsewhere

*Tapasi*: A woman leading a pious life, observing vows and penances

*Vatsala*: A married woman having children

*Veshya*: A professional prostitute residing on the outskirts and catering to the physical needs of the travellers

## Flora in the KAMA SUTRA

Sanskrit	Latin	English
Ajamoda	<i>Apium graveolens</i>	Parsley
Aksha	<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut tree
Alabu	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>	Bottle gourd
Aluka	<i>Colocasia esculanta</i>	Taro
Amalaka	<i>Emblca officinalis</i>	Emblc myrobalan (Amla)
Adraka	<i>Zinziber officinalis</i>	Ginger
Atasi	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	Linseed
Avalguja	<i>Vernonia anthelmintica</i>	Vernonia
Badara	<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i>	Jujube
Bahupadika	<i>Mentha longifolia</i>	Mint
Bhallataka	<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i>	Marking nut
Bhringaraja	<i>Eclipta alba</i>	Common marigold
Brihati	<i>Terminalia belarica</i>	Beleric myrobalan
Chavya	<i>Piper chavya</i>	Pepper
Dadima	<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate
Devadaru	<i>Cedrus</i>	Deodara or Cedrus
Dhanyaka	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	Coriander
Dhattura	<i>Datura innoxia</i>	Thorn apple
Ervaruka	<i>Cucumis melo</i>	Melon
Girikarnika	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	Butter fly pea
Godhuma	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	Wheat
Haridra	<i>Curcuma domestica</i>	Turmeric
Haritaki	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	Yellow myrobalan
Haritala	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Dog-grass
Hingu	<i>Aerula narthex</i>	Asafoetida
Ikshu	<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>	Sugarcane
Jambu	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Blackberry
Japa	<i>Hibiscus rosasinensis</i>	China rose
Jiraka	<i>Cuminum cyminum</i>	Cumin
Kadamba	<i>Anthocephalus indicus</i>	Anthocephalus cadamba
Kapittha	<i>Feronia limonia</i>	Elephant apple
Karkatika	<i>Cucumis sativas</i>	Cucumber
Karpasa	<i>Gossypium arboreum</i>	Egyptian cotton
Kasheruka	<i>Scripus kysoor</i>	Water-nut
Ketaki	<i>Pandanus tectorius</i>	Screw pine
Khadira	<i>Acacia catechu</i>	Catechu
Kshiraka	<i>Bambusa arundinaceae</i>	Bamboo
Kushmanda	<i>Beninease hespide</i>	Ash gourd
Kustha	<i>Saussurea lappa</i>	Kutch or Kuth
Kutaja	<i>Sterculia urens</i>	Karaya-gum
Langalika	<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	Glory lily
Lashuna	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Garlic
Madayantika	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i>	Henna
Madhuka	<i>Madhuca indica</i>	Mahua
Mallika	<i>Jasminium sambae</i>	Jasmine
Maricha	<i>Piper nigrum</i>	Black pepper
Masha	<i>Phaseolus radiatus</i>	Green gram
Mulaka	<i>Raphnus sativus</i>	Radish
Nagavalli (Tambula)	<i>Piper betel</i>	Betel
Nandyavarta	<i>Anthocephalus indicus (Kadamba)</i>	Anthocephalus Cadamba
Palandu	<i>Allium cepa</i>	Onion
Pashanabheda	<i>Coleus aromaticus</i>	Fragrant coleus
Palasha	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	Dhak
Pippali	<i>Piper longum</i>	Long pepper
Priyala	<i>Buchanania latifolia</i>	Cuddapah almond
Pugaphala	<i>Areca catechu</i>	Areca nut
Punarnava	<i>Boerhaavia diffusa</i>	Hog weed
Sarshapa	<i>Brassica campestris</i>	Mustard
Shatapushpa	<i>Anethum sowa</i>	Soya
Shatavari	<i>Asperagus racemosus</i>	Shatmulí
Shimshapa	<i>Balbergia sissoo</i>	Indian redwood
Shravanapriyangu	<i>Cardiospermum halicaecabum</i>	Baloon vine
Shringataka	<i>Trapa bispinosa</i>	Water chestnut
Shriparni	<i>Gamelina arborea</i>	Indian flax
Shvadamsbtra	<i>Pedaliun murex</i>	Gokhru (Medicago)
Svayamgupta	<i>Mucuna prurita</i>	Cowage
Tala	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i>	Palmyra-palm
Tamala	<i>Cinnamomum tamala</i>	Bay-leaf
Tambula (Nagavalli)	<i>Piper betel</i>	Betel
Tila	<i>Sesamum indicum</i>	Gingelly
Ushiraka	<i>Vetiana zizeniades</i>	Khas-Khas
Utpala	<i>Nelumbium speciosum</i>	Blue lotus
Vacha	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Sweet flag
Yashtimadhuka	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>	Licorice
Yava	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	Barley