

Ardhamandapa

shallow porch over a **mandapa**.

Areca palm

(sk *puga* kh ដើមឃ្លា ch 檳榔 fr aréquier): also known as 'betel tree', *Areca catechu*, in Khmer 'flowered palm tree'. Palms, flowers and nuts are often used in ancient and modern Khmer religious rites.

Arjuna

central character in the **Mahabarata**, the king of the Haihayas, of the Pandava tribe. **Pandu**, his real father, chose **Indra** as his 'godly' father. Also, the tree *Terminalia Arjuna* (arjun tree) symbolizing the achievement of enlightenment in **Theravada** Buddhism.

Arogyasala

(sk 'sickness-free pavilion', 'health pavilion', kh ផ្ទះពេទ្យ, មន្ទីរពេទ្យ, 'medical house'): Ancient name of the hospitals built in Angkor and across the Khmer Empire, especially at the end of 12th century, under the rule of Jayavarman VII.

Arthashastra

(sk 'The Treatise on Profit'): probably written in the second century AD and attributed to **Kautilya**, it expounds all aspects of practical action, including technology, economy, and public and military administration.

Asana

the correct position for yogic meditation, with straight back and crossed legs.

Asrama, Ashram

(sk): a kind of monastery or retreat to which men retire when they consider that their active life is over, in order to prepare for their future existence. In ancient Angkor, the **asrama**, or **vidyasrama**, or **varnnasrama**, were educational colleges with teachers were called **adhyapaka**, and heads of association often called **kulapati** (cf. **varnnasrama**).

Ascetic

sage who practiced austerity.

Asura

(sk): a class of 'demons-monsters', the **devas**' foremost enemies.

Atman

the eternal, unchangeable Self sought by the yogins, ascetics and followers of the Samkhya philosophy. For the **Upanisads**, identical to brahman status.

Avalokiteshvara

(sk 'The Lord who looks down'; ch Guanyin): the most famous of all **bodhisattvas**, also called Lokeshvara. Pictured with four arms and carrying the **amitabha** (attributes) on his head-dress: a lotus, a rosary, a bottle and a book. In Southeastern and Chinese traditions, the deity is 'The Venerable Mother' and 'The Hearer of Prayers'.

Avatara, Avatar

(sk 'descent'): the word is most frequently used to refer to the various incarnations of Vishnu, as he descends to earth to save the world from some danger.

Avasa

rural settlements, often built from scratch each year by Buddhist monks for monsoon retreats.

Charaka Samhita

(sk 'wandering healer's compendium'): the first treatise of **Ayurvedic medicine**, compiled between 100 BCE and 200 CE. This sum of eight books and one hundred twenty chapters was edited by **Dridhabala** in the 6th century. The treatise includes recommendations on nutrition, physical exercise, sexual health and medical education. Along with the **Susrutha Samhita**, another ancient medical treatise, it has inspired **Khmer herbal medicine**.

Chaturmukha

(sk catur + mukha kh ចតុមុខ): the four faces (for the four rivers), a name for Phnom Penh.

Chau

(sm 'chao', lord): honorific title in the name of princes. **Chau Fa**, title of a high mandarin. **Chau ku**, 'my master', name given to a monk.

Chedei or Chetei

(sk saitya, kh ចេតិយ): Khmer word for a reliquary, funeral monument, **stupa**.

chmur, -Chhmar

(kh ឆ្មារ): small, less important.

Cella

inner part of a temple. This Latin word (or the Greek *naos*) is more often applied to Roman or Greek structures, yet some archeologists use it while describing Southeast Asian temples.

Chenla, Zhenla

(kh ចេនឡា, ch 真腊): Chinese designation of a confederation of principalities upon which reigned King **Mahendravarman** and his successor, **Isanavarman I**. Originally a province controlled by the **Funan** rulers, Chenla conquered the Funan area around 627 CE.

Chestha

(sk jyestha kh ចេស្តា): 'the strongest, greatest, eldest', in the name of a king or prince.

Chey

(sk **jaya**, kh ជ័យ): 'The Victorious', in the name of a king or prince.

Chipor, Chivor

(sk civara, kh ជីវារ, ជីវីរ): robe, priest's garb.

Chitrlekha

Usha's friend.

Chola (Cola)

Dynasty (tl ចៅហ្វាយ ឈ័ស័ល័): a Tamil clan and dynasty of Southern India, the Cholas developed and a maritime empire as one of the longest-ruling dynasties in the world's history (9th-13th centuries). Ultimately defeated by the Padyan empire, the Cholas influence extended to vast parts of Southeast Asia.

Churning of the Ocean of Milk

(sk samudra manthana kh ក្លរសមុទ្រទឹកដោះ): one of India's greatest myths. Desiring to secure their immortality, the gods churned the Ocean of Milk to generate **amrita** - the elixir of eternal life. They turned the sacred mountain **Mandara** upside down and used it as a dasher, and for a rope they used the serpent Vasuki. Vishnu incarnated himself as the turtle Kurma to serve as a pivot at the base of the mountain. On Angkor Wat famous bas-relief, 88 [asuras](#) and 92 *devas* with crested helmets are seen churning up the sea.

Citragupta

the record keeper of human deeds and misdeeds.

L

Lakhon, Lokhon

(kh ល្ខោន): Khmer ceremonial dance dating back to the reign of Jayavarman II, Angkor sovereign also named **Preah Ket Mealea** or **Paramesvara**.

Lakshmana

one of **Rama's** brothers and his chief companion in his exile and battles.

Lakshmi

(sk): spouse of Vishnu, the goddess of beauty, fortune and wealth. She automatically became a 'wife' of the Khmer kings when they accessed to the throne.

Lanka, Langka

(kh លង្ការ): kingdom ruled by **Ravana**, a rival of Rama.

Laterite

porous, reddish, easily extracted rock containing iron.

Leap

(kh លោក): "good luck, success".

Li

(ch): a unit of length which varied over time. In the third century AD it is estimated to have measured about 375 meters, whereas Beal, in his translation of the early fifth century 'Pilgrimage to India' of the Chinese Buddhist, Fah Hian, calculates it as circa 322 meters.

'Libraries'

(sk granthalya, kh បណ្ណាល័យ 'bandaly'): structures separated from the main buildings, usually found in pairs in front of the main entrance leading to the temple to a yard. More probably shrines than storage places for sacred texts, they almost always open to the west. It seems that these structures served, at least partly, as 'Fire shrines'. Also called 'Thormatrai' (probably from 'hotrai' in Thai).

Lintel

stone or masonry block bridging two entrance pillars, either structural or purely decorative element. The **structural lintel** is the load-bearing upper member of a stone doorframe, usually concealed for the most part.

Linga, Lingam

(sk): phallus symbol representing the procreative essence of Shiva. Adopted by the Khmer kings as the palladian of the kingdom; an icon in the shape of a stylized phallus, worshipped as a deity symbolizing Shiva but also as the pillar which shores up the earth.

Lingaparvata

(sk 'the mountain of the linga'): the sacred mountain at **Wat Phu** (in modern Laos).

Lok

(sk loka, Kh លោក): man, lord. In modern Khmer, 'Mister' or 'Sir', or priest, 'Lok Srey' meaning 'Madam'.

Lokapalas

guardians of the cardinal directions.

Lokeshvara

(sk 'Lord of the World'): an alternative name for the bodhisattva **Avalokiteshvara**, preferred by the Khmers.

Lolei, Lalây

(sk hariharâlaya): the abode of **Harihara**; name of one of Jayavarman II's capital city; current name of the Lolei Temple.

M

Mahabharata

(sk): one of the great Indian epic poems. Its 120,000 stanzas contain a myriad of different tales but the main theme is the power struggle between the five Pandava brothers and their cousins the Kauravas.

Mahāpajāpatī Gotamī

(pa, sk **Mahāprajāpatī Gautamī**): the Buddha's adoptive mother and first **bikkhuni**.

Mahaparinirvana

attainment of extinction of the self and cessation of the cycle or becoming.

Maharajadhiraja

(sk 'Supreme King of Kings'): title first adopted by Jayavarman II in 802 AD and used by all subsequent Khmer kings.

Mahayana

(sk 'The Great Path'): in Buddhism, it contrasts with 'Hinayana' (**Theravada**) code which preceded it historically. Mahayana is a development of the Buddhist creed in which the **Buddha** and the **Bodhisattvas** are venerated with rituals which are close to those of Hinduism.

Mahendra

(sk ma+Indra): 'the great Indra'.

Mahii, Mohii

(sk, pa): 'great'.

Mahiparvata

sacred mountain.

Mahishi

(sk 'cow-buffalo'): the enigmatic title given in some inscriptions to refer to the senior wife of the Khmer king.

Mahout

(sk 'Mahamatra', ta Kwan Chang): the man who drives the elephant.

Mahunagar

(sk): 'The Great City', name given to the Angkor group.

Majapahit

(old jv 'bitter maja (local fruit)'?): perhaps the greatest of the early Indonesian kingdoms, it was founded in 1293 in East Java by Wijaya, who defeated the invading Mongols. Under the ruler Hayam Wuruk (1350-89) it expanded across Java and gained control over much of present-day Indonesia—large parts of Java, Sumatra, Sulawesi, Borneo, Lombok, Maluku, Sumbawa, Timor and other scattered islands. Trade relations were established with Cambodia, Siam, Burma and Vietnam. According to the **Nagarakretagama** (Desawarñana) written in 1365, Majapahit was an empire of 98 tributaries, stretching from Sumatra to New Guinea. It is sometimes seen as the precedent for Indonesia's modern boundaries.

Makara

(sk kh មករា): crocodile (or fish-based composite monster), sometimes characterized as the 'vehicle' of Varuna, god of the oceans. Sculptural motive largely present at Banteay Srei. In Khmer architecture, often a hybrid mix of crocodile, fish, tapir, bird and elephant.

Mandapa

(sk): antechamber, pavilion preceding the temple's main shrine, sometimes connected to it via the antarala passageway. In **Shiva** temples it may house the god's 'vehicle' - the bull Nandi.

Mandara

mythological mountain of the gods, the king of mountains at the center of the Ocean.

Mandîr

(sk): palace, prince's residence, or large public building.

Mara

the god who rules over the world of desire, enemy of the Buddha.

Mariea

the demon transformed into a deer or gazelle to distract **Rama**.

Mayavati

the reincarnation of Rati, the wife of Kama.

Mebon

(kh មេបុណ្យ): ceremonial place, always built as an artificial island in the center of a water reservoir.

Meru, Mount Meru

(kh មេរុ ភ្នំមេរុ): in the Hindu worldview, the center of the universe, home of the gods. This mountain of Indian cosmology has five peaks, hence the five towers of **Angkor Wat**.

Mesa

(kh មេសា): the month of April.

Methea

(sk medhii): wisdom.

Metreypheap

(kh មេត្រីភាព): female Khmer given name, meaning "friendliness".

Metrey, Maitreya

(sk maitreya kh មេត្រី): name of a famous bodhisattva.

Minea

(kh មីនា): the month of March.

Mitona

(kh មិថុនា): the month of June.

Mitthapeap

(kh មិត្តភាព): Khmer given name, meaning "friendship".

Modaka

a type of sweetmeat favored by **Ganesha**.

Mohodara

a rakshasa from the Battle of Lanka.

Mokot

(sk mukuta kh មកុដ ឬ មង្គដ): conical head-dress worn by the apsaras. Crown, tiara.

Mon

(pa ramanna kh មន): large ethnic group initially inhabiting parts of modern Burma and Thailand. **Mon-Khmer** (kh មន-ខ្មែរ) is a linguistic group of Austroasiatic languages.

Monorom

(kh មនោរម្យ): Male Khmer given name, meaning "delightful".

Montrei

(pa, sk **Mantrin**, kh មន្ត្រី): minister, or some sort of high-ranking office. Via the Portuguese language, it gave the Western idioms the word 'mandarin'.

Mony

(kh មណី, មនី): Khmer given name, from មណី ("precious stone") or មនី ("scholar").

Monsoon

(fr mousson, from pt monção, from ar. mawsim 'season' [from wasama 'to mark, brand']: known in Khmer as ខ្យល់ម្លប់ ម្លប់, kchyal mousong, "the wind of monsoon".

Muchalinda

the **naga** king who sheltered the Buddha while he meditated.

Mudra

(sk): hand or body gesture.

Muka

a demon.

N

Naga

(sk naga, kh ណាហ្គា): mythical serpent-guardians of the nether regions and eternal foes of the garuda. The most prominent enjoy semi-divine status such as Shesha, companion of Vishnu, and Vasuki who acts as the rope in the [Churning of the Milk Ocean](#). Ubiquitous in Khmer art, the naga is portrayed as a cobra with five or seven heads. Their female equivalents are the nagi (water-nymphs with human bodies and snake-tails).

Nagar

(sk): city, kingdom. **Nagara: Angkor**.

Nalgiri

mad elephant sent to kill the Buddha by his jealous cousin.

Nandi

the sacred bull of **Shiva**.

Naraka

a demon slain by **Indra**.

Narantaka

one of Ravana's sons.

Nataraja

(sk “the lord of dance”): a representation of Shiva.

Natyashastra

Natyashastra, Nāṭya Shāstra (Sk नाट्य शास्त्र, lit. "Treatise on Acting, Representing") is the oldest known Sanskrit treatise on the performing arts ascribed to sage **Bharata muni**.

Navagraha

(sk “nine celestial bodies of the Universe”): the nine celestial bodies-deities in Hindu astrology: **Surya** or Ravi (the Sun), **Chandra** or **Soma** (the Moon) **Mangala** (Mars), **Budha** or Budh (Mercury), **Dev Guru** or **Brihaspati** (Jupiter), **Shukra** (Venus), **Shani** (Saturn) **Rahu** (Ascending Lunar node), **Ketu** (Descending Lunar node).

Nbom

(pa): name of a prince.

Neak

(kh ង្គក់): human being. **Anak sanjak** (men) seems to be a specific term to describe some sort of 'royal praetorian guard'. Angkorian kings' female guards are called in Khmer ឆ្មាមស្រី (chhman srei).

Neak-ta

(kh ង្គក់តា): local deities associated with particular places.

Neang Neak

(sk soma ch liuye kh នាងនាគ): in Khmer mythology, the daughter of the King of the Nagas whose union with **Preah Thaong (Kaundinya)** gave birth to Cambodia. According to Chinese chronicles, as Queen Soma or Liu Yeh in Chinese, she was the first ruler of **Funan**.

Nikumba

rakshasa son of **Kumbhakarna**.

Nikaya

'collections' of discourses in the **Pali Canon**.

Nilaphat

the monkey general of **Sugriva**'s army. 'Black Monkey' (kh ង្គក់ខ្មៅ) in the **Reamker**.

Nirrti

(kh នីរតី): god of misery, guardian of the Southwest.

Nirvana, nibbana

(sk निर्वाण *nirvāṇa*, kh និព្វាន *nippean*): the liberation of the repeating cycle of birth, life and death, **samsara**.

Niyamas

the bodily and psychological disciplines which are a prerequisite for yogic meditation.

Nokor

(sk nagara kh នគរ): town, royal town, Angkor.

O

Obareach, Oppariij

(sk upa+rrija kh ឧបរាជ): title of the elder brother of the king, or second king.

Oknea, Oknya

(sk ukna, kh ឧកញ៉ា): title of a grandee.

Oksakphear

(kh ឧសភា): the month of May.

Omreth

(kh អម្រឹត្ត: "immortal").

Ongkiir, Ongkara

(sk om + kiira): sacred word, royal order.

Ong, Ang

(sk 'oil'): title of a grandee.

Outey

(sk udaya, kh ឧទ័យ): sunrise, name of a king or prince.

P

Pa

(sk Pii, kh បា): father.

Pabbajja

'Going Forth', the act of renouncing the world in order to live the holy life of a monk. Later, the first step in Buddhist ordination.

Pachem

(kh បស្ចឹម): west.

Pâgan, Bakong

(okh *vakori* បាគង): species of lily, *Crinum asiaticum* (Amaryll.); ancient name given posthumously to the Indresvara temple, found by Indravarman I.

Pâgo, Bako

(kh ព្រះគោ): Shiva's bull, Nandin ; name given to the Bako temple.

Pákhaeñ, Bakheng

(kh brah khaeñ): sacred manhood, Shiva's linga ; name given to the temple founded by **Yasovarman I** (Yasodhareévara (sk) or Vnam Kantal (old kh)).

Palanquin

(sk palyanka, pa pallanko, 16th century Portuguese 'palanquim'): couch, litter carried on shoulders or domesticated animals

Pali

(kh បាលី): best-known among a group of Indian languages known as the **Prakrits**, **pali** is the religious language in the canon of Theravada Buddhist scriptures used in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.

Palmette

(fr palmette): a motif in decorative art resembling the fan-shaped leaves of a palm tree.

Pandava

found in the name of a king; also, the name of Srei Santhor.

Pandavas

the tribe who fought the **Kauravas** in the Battle of Kurukshetra.

Pandà, Banteay

(kh បន្ទាយ): outer wall, fortification, fortress, military barracks. For instance in Banteay Kdei.

Pandita, Pandit

(sk): sage, man of letters.

Pandu

father of **Arjuna**, head of the **Pandava** tribe.

Panha

(pa pañña kh ប្រាណ): knowledge, wisdom.

Parashurama

(sk 'Rama with an axe'): **Vishnu**'s sixth avatara and the brother of **Rama** and **Balarama**. He descended to earth to put an end to the oppression of the Kshatrya (the 'nobles' caste). His weapon is the axe, a gift from **Shiva**.

Paramavisnuloka

(sk.): posthumous name of Suryavarman II, founder of Angkor Wat then named **Bisnulok**.

Parinibbana

the 'Final Nibbana', the ultimate rest of an enlightened person achieved at death, since he or she will not be reborn into another existence.

Parvati

(sk 'She from the mountains'): daughter of Himavan, god of the Himalayas, Parvati, also known as **Uma** or **Devi**, is Shiva's main consort.

Patimokkha

(pa pati 'protect' + mokkha 'liberation'): Summary in form of 227 rules of the **Vinaya**, the Theravada canon. Also, a ceremony whereby the early monks came together every six years to recite the Buddhist Dhamma; later, after the Buddha's death, this became a recitation of the monastic rule of the Order and a confession of transgressions, which was held once a fortnight.

Pancha Yatana

in Hindu religious architecture, a temple with a main central sanctuary surrounded by four other shrines and connected to them by cloisters.

Pediment

(fr 'fronton'): triangular structure above a lintel, the external, decorated surface of which is called **tympanum**.

Phalla

(kh ផល្គ, sk. Phala): fruit.

Phanet

(kh ផាណិត): sugarcane.

Pheakdei

(kh ភក្តី): devotion, respect, loyalty.

Phkeak

(kh ផ្កាក): a billhook, characteristic Khmer weapon, long handled club with two blades inserted at an angle.

Phnom

(kh ភ្នំ): mountain, hill, hillock.

Phum

(kh ភូមិ): village.

Pilaster

square- or rectangular-sectioned pillar that is actually engaged in the wall, becoming a projection.

Pinda

(sk) ball of rice offered to the ancestors.

Piñ Mâlâ, Beng Méaléa

derivative name of a temple east of Angkor.

Pisnuka

or **Bisnukar** (kh ពិស្នុកា, ពិស្នុការ (Preah Pisnuka)), Khmer derivative from Sanskrit **Visvakarman**: the "celestial architect" (son of the apsara Tep Soda Chan and the old sage Lim Cheng, according to some legends), the deity of all artisans. According to Saveros Pou, "Angkor has been called *Brah Bisnuloka*, a metonymical name to be understood as 'That of Paramavisnuloka', the name Suryavarman II was given after his death."

Plauv, Plu, Pleuh

(or Thnal) (kh ផ្លូវ): road – or street in modern Khmer -, Old Khmer term ascribed to the royal roads leading from Angkor to other parts of the Khmer Empire, such as **Pimai** to the north-west and **Wat Phu** to the north-east.

Ponhea, Pnhea

(kh ព្រហ្ម): princely title, referring to pre-Angkorian times.

Portico

a columned hall at the entrance of a building.

Pradakshina

(sk): ritual circumambulation of a temple or statue, in India and Southeast Asia, always keeping the venerated object to one's right.

Pradymna

son of **Krishna** and **Rukmini**, the goddess of fortune.

Prahasiteshvara

(sk 'The Smiling Lord'): one of **Shiva**'s many names.

Prajnaparamita

(sk 'prajna' (wisdom) 'paramita' (perfection), kh ប្រាជ្ញាបារមីតា): the 'Perfection of Wisdom', a collection of some 40 **sutras** considering the transcendent wisdom and its personification as 'God Mother'. Among the oldest known

Mahayana sutras. **Prajnaparamita** was revered as a goddess. The **Ta Prohm** temple near Angkor Wat is dedicated to her, and her representation there is believed to reproduce the facial traits of **Jayarasudamani**, Jayavarman VII's mother.

Prajiaparamita

the female version of the **bodhisattva**.

Prajnyaparamita

(sk 'Perfection of Insight'): the female personification of the Bodhisattva's qualities.

Praktri

nature, the natural world.

Pralamba

a mystic mountain.

Prali

roof finial.

Pranayama

the breathing exercises of yoga, which induce a state of trance and well-being.

Prang

(kh ប្រាង្គ ta prang): tall spire, usually elaborately carved, characteristic of Khmer devotional architecture. With its many niches ornated with devotional statues, the **prang** is characteristic of the rise of Theravada Buddhism in the Angkorean sphere. Several **prasats** (Brahmanic temples) have been modified into **prangs** in the last centuries of the Angkorean era (end of 12th-15th centuries). Also, a large **stupa**.

Prasat

(sk prasada kh ប្រាសាទ): sanctuary or palace in form of a tower, architectural style from South India widespread around Southeast Asia. **Prasat Andet** (syn. **Biman**) is the temple or palace floating in the air. **Prasat Krol Ko** (temple-stables) is the name of a smaller temple northeast of the Bayon, reputedly having housed the sacred bull, first guardian of Angkor.

Prasathani

(sk raja + dhani): royal town, in the name of a king.

Prasavya

a funerary rite.

Prataw

(kh ប្រតិដៅ): to teach, to discipline.

Pratyahara

in yoga, a 'withdrawal of the senses,' the ability to contemplate an object with the intellect alone.

Preah, Prah, Pra

(kh ព្រះ): pertaining to anything sacred, holy. As a noun, associated to 'Put' in 'Preah Put', the Buddha's name in Khmer.

Preah Ket Maelea

(kh ព្រះកេតមាលា): 'Blossoming Light', name given to the first sovereign of Angkor, Jayavarman II who, according to a Khmer legend, was sired when Indra let drop a 'rain of flowers' over the body of his childless mother, fecundating her.

Preah Noreay

(sk niiriyana kh ព្រះនរាយណ៍): name of Vishnu (kh វិស្ណុ), a king or a prince.

Preah Thaong

(kh ព្រះថោង ‘the Prince of Faraway Land’): In some Khmer traditions, name of an Indian prince who came to a new land called **Chroy Sovannapumi** (kh ជ្រោយសុវណ្ណភូមិ ‘Cape of The Golden Coast’), Kampuchea or Cambodia), which was originally known as ‘Norkor Kok Tlok’ (kh នគរគោកត្រក ‘Kingdom of the Dry Tlok Tree’).

Prè Rup, Praeh Rup

(kh ប្រែរូប) : funerary ritual aimed at recreating the form (*rup*) of the deceased with his or her ashes after cremation; name given posthumously to the monument erected by Rājendravarma, probably in tribute to his ancestor Visvarūpa.

Proh

(kh ប្រុស): man.

Prolang

(kh ព្រលឹង): soul or spirit (according to Cambodian tradition there are 19 major and minor souls which inhabit the human body).

Puri, Borey

(sk), (kh បុរី): space enclosed by a fence or outer walls, by extension a village, a small town or a fortified temple.

Purohita

(sk 'superintendent'): the king's closest assistant. Also, the **brahmin priest** in charge of royal rituals.

Purusa

the Absolute Spirit that pervades all beings in the philosophy of Samkhya.

Purvaranga

(sk पूर्वरङ्ग): the “preliminaries”, the prologue of a drama or dance performance, including flower offerings in the Indian tradition of **Natyashastra**. Also known as **shtapana**.

Put

(sk **buddha** kh ពុទ្ធិ): the Buddha.

Q

Quincunx

architectural arrangement of five objects in which four occupy the corners and the fifth the centre. Also **Pancha Yatana**.

R

Rahu

(kh រាហូ): mythical demon said to cause eclipses of the sun or moon by eating it, assuming the shape of a meteor.

Raja

(sk 'King', kh រាជា): as used by the Khmers, it refers to a minor potentate.

Rajaputra

(sk 'king's son'): used to designate the male offspring of the supreme king as well as that of other royal lineages.

Rajahota

royal priest.

Rajalalisatan

a way of sitting with one knee propped up, used mainly by princely people.

Rakshasa

demon.

Rakshini

female rakshasa, demoness.

Rama

(kh រាម Ream): the seventh and one of the best known of Vishnu's **avatara**.

Ramayana

(sk, kh 'Reamker' រាមកេរ្តិ៍): Major Indian epic poem which remains very popular in Southeast Asia, narrating the adventures of **Rama** and his spouse **Sita** whose kidnapping by the demon **Ravana** and imprisonment in (Sri) Lanka sparks a ferocious war with Rama and his monkey army commanded by its semi-divine general, **Hanuman**. Generally attributed to Maharisi Valmiki ('Adi Kavi', 'the first poet'), it is one of the two major Sanskrit epics with the **Mahābhārata**. While the Cambodia version is known as the *Reamker* or *Ramakerti*, the Thai one is the *Rāmakien*, the Laotian one *Phra Lak Phra Lam*, and the *Rāmāyana Kakawin* in Javanese.

Rambha

a nymph with whom **Viradha** fell in love.

Rapala

guardian deities of doors and entrance ways.

Ravana

the demon king of **Langka**. As a powerful demon-king he is depicted with six, eight or ten heads and twelve, sixteen or twenty arms. Brahma had granted him immunity from the gods but he had been too proud to ask also for immunity from men and animals. This was to prove his downfall, dramatically narrated in the Ramayana epic.

Rattha

(pa rattha, sk rastea, kh រដ្ឋា): country, land, kingdom.

Reach, Reachea

(sk raja, kh រាជ, រាជ្យា): kingdom, king.

Reamea

(sk rama, kh រាមា): **Rama**. Also, name of a king or prince.

Reamker, Ramakerti

(kh រាមកេរ្តិ៍, 'the glory of Rama'): Khmer version of the **Ramayana** epic.

Redenting

architectural treatment of a structure in plan whereby the corners are indented (cut back) into successive right angles.

Rig Veda

collection of sacrificial hymns dedicated to a pantheon of gods, composed from 1200 BCE.

Rishi

a great sage or illuminated being.

Roloeng

(kh រលើង): uprooted.

Rolung

(sk ralun): grand, imposing. In Khmer, the suffix run, -rung (khm.) means 'large', 'high', 'imposing'.

Roluos

(kh រលួស) : the *Erythrina indica* tree, coral or butterfly tree, present in Indra's paradise; name of the historic site including Bako, Bakong and Lolei.

Rudra

a Vedic god from the **Rig Veda**.

Rup

(pa rupa sk riipa kh រូប): form, shape.

Ryodhalla

the wicked eldest son of King **Ritarashtra** who precipitated a major battle with Bhima.

S

Sabha

(sk): general word for an assembly, of whatever nature.

Sacred Furrow

(kh ពិធីប្រគំព្រះនង្គ័ល): an annual Khmer ceremony in which the monarch ploughs the first furrow to bless and symbolise the beginning of the paddy-sowing season. The rite is also performed in India.

Sak

(sk sakti, kh សក្តិ): rank, honor.

Saka

the Indian era most commonly used in the inscriptions, preceding the Christian era by 78 years.

Sakhi

(sk sakha): monk. Also from sk **saktisiddhi**, 'endowed with spiritual power'.

Sakra

the wheel of the Buddha, signifying immortality and power.

Sakti

the female consorts or feminine energy of the Hindu pantheon.

Sakyamiini

'The Sage of the Republic of Sakka,' a title given to the Buddha.

Samiidhi

yogic concentration; meditation; one of the components of the Eightfold Path to Enlightenment.

Samkhya

(sk 'discrimination'): a philosophy, akin to yoga, which was first preached by the sage **Kapila** in the 7th century BCE.

Samdach, Samdech, Sdach

(kh សម្តេច, ស្តេច): powerful, power holder. Royal title preceding the name of a dignitary or eminent person.

Sampati

the vulture brother of **Jatayus**.

Samphea

(kh សំពះ): salutation, for instance in 'Pithi Samphea Kru', the salutation to the dance masters before a performance.

Sampot

(kh សំពត់): skirt worn around the waist. Also **sarong**.

Sampur, Sambor

(sk): derivative from **Śambhupura**, Shiva's city.

Sampur vraï kuk, Sambor Prei Kuk

name of the pre-Angkorean temple, derivative from Isanapura, Isanavarman I's capital city.

Samsara

(sk 'Keeping going'): the cycle of death and rebirth, which propels people from one life to the next; the transience and restlessness of mundane existence.

Sandstone

The rock most commonly used in pre-Angkor and Angkor statuary and architecture. Petrographic studies have shown three different types of sandstone used through centuries: feldspathic arenite, quartz arenite, and graywacke.

Sangreach, Sangkhareach

(sk samgha+raja, kh សង្ឃរាជ): chief Buddhist monk.

Sangha

Originally a tribal assembly, an ancient governing body in the old republics of North India; later a sect professing the dhamma of a particular teacher; finally, the Buddhist Order of Bhikkhus.

Sankhara

(sk 'formation'): the formative element in **karma**, which determines and shapes one's next existence.

Sanskrit

(kh សំស្ក្រឹត): considered the 'perfect' sacred language of India. The Khmers used it in preference to their native tongue to address the gods.

Sarabhanga

ascetic group visited by **Rama**, **Sita**, and **Lakshmana**.

Sarasvati

spouse of **Brahma**, the goddess of eloquence and arts in Angkor.

Sarnma Sambuddha

'Teacher of Enlightenment', one of whom comes to humanity every 32,000 years; Siddhatta Gautama is the **Sarnma Sambuddha** of our own age.

Sastra

(often in kh សាស្ត្រាស្តីករិក 'sloek rith'): dried palm leaf manuscript, a medium used since medieval times to write down oral traditions, medicinal treatises. In 2009, there were about 4,000 sets of palm leaf manuscripts at the Saravoan Techo pagoda, 2,000 in the National Museum and 2,500 in the National Library, and many more in pagoda or private libraries around the country.

Satha, Sadha

(sk sastar, pa sattha kh សេដ្ឋា): 'he who governs', name of a king.

Satyabhama

wife of **Garuda**.

Satyavati

stepmother of Bishma.

Sedej, Stupa

a funerary or commemorative monument usually containing the remains of incineration.

Sek, Seksa, Ses

(sk sisya): disciple, novice.

Serna, Sema

(sk sima, kh សីមា): boundary stone, frontier.

Shaivism

(Saivism) (sk hind शैवसम्प्रदाय Śaivasampradāyah) is the major Hindu tradition that worships Shiva, also called Rudra as the Supreme Being, or his consort, Devi ("The Goddess"). One of the largest Hindu denominations, it includes many sub-traditions ranging from devotional dualistic theism such as Shaiva Siddhanta to yoga-oriented monistic non-theism such as Kashmiri Shaivism. Shaivism arrived in Southeast Asia around the 11th century CE, inspiring thousands of Shaiva temples around Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam, and co-evolving with Buddhism in these areas. The scriptural revelations of the Saiva mainstream are called Tantras, and those that act in accordance with their prescriptions are Tantrics (*tantrika*). The term *tantra* means a system of ritual or essential instruction, distinct from the Vedas (direct revelation, *sruti*).

Shambara

the demon of drought, enemy of **Indra**.

Shastra

(kh សាស្ត្រា): Indian treatises.

Shikara

pointed tower in Indian architecture; a tapering superstructure to the chamber of a sanctuary originating from Orissa.

Shiva

(sk 'The Auspicious One' kh ព្រះសិវៈ): god of the ascetics, of cosmic destruction and creation, of the cosmic dance' and dance in general. The Hindu god who creates through destruction, particularly revered among ancient Khmer people. Part of the Brahmanic trinity, the Creator and Destroyer, mounted on **Nandin** (the sacred bull), generally with a third frontal eye and a crescent on the chignon, worshipped in the form of the **linga**.

Shivakamasundari

(sk 'Siva's beautiful desire'): the consort of Nataraja (Shiva as the Lord of Dance).

Shuddhodama

King Father of the future Buddha.

Shurpanakha

rakshini, sister of **Ravana**.

Sinha, Singha, Singh

(sk 'lion blood'(bravery), kh សិង្ហ, ch 獅 (shī): The Guardian Lion, a stone sculpture adorning many palace and temple entrance).

Sikhara, Shikara

(sk. Śikharah), a tall, often beehive-shaped superstructure set above the inner sanctum of a Hindu temple in northern Indian temple design. The towered temple style evolved from one to three, four or six towers.

Sita

(sk 'The Furrow' kh សីតា): wife of **Rama**, daughter of **Janaka**.

Skanda

the god of war, son of Shiva.

Soma

god of the moon, guardian of the Northeast.

Somasutra

gargoyle, or spout, through which lustral water runs outside from the shrine. Often ending with a carved *makara* head at the spout. Indicative of a **Saivite** temple.

Soryotei

(sk siirya + udaya, kh សុរិយោទ័យ): honorific name of a king or prince.

Soryopor

(pa siiryabar, sk surya + varman, Kh សុរិយោពណ៍): name of a king or prince.

Spean

(kh ស្ពាន): bridge.

Srah

(kh ស្រះ, ta 'sa'): pond, water basin.

Srau

(pa srirv, kh ស្រូវ): rice before germination; **sreu loeng tam tuk** (kh ស្រូវឡើងតាមទឹក) rice which rises with the water.

Srei

(sk **sri**, kh ស្រី): woman, girl, princess.

Srī Sundhar, Srey Santhor

(sk): medieval form of Yasodharapura; name of a capital city in the 16th century.

Stele

stone slab standing vertically, with sculptural designs or inscriptions.

Stucco

ornamental plaster covering wall surfaces. Also called **render**, it is a construction material made of aggregates, a binder, and water, which is applied wet and hardens while drying.

Stung

(kh ស្ទឹង): river.

Stupa

(kh ចេតិយ): Buddhist reliquary shrine in the shape of an upturned begging-bowl.

Sugriva, Sukhreeb

(kh ស្វិត្រីវា): a monkey king – ‘Red Monkey’ (kh ស្វិត្រីហម) who allied himself with **Rama** to attack **Ravana**. His half-brother **Valin** had deposed him, but Sugriva regained power by killing him in hand-to-hand combat - a popular episode in the Ramayana, often shown in Khmer and Southeast Asian art.

Sujata

the young girl who presented a gift to the Buddha before his enlightenment.

Sukhanthor

(sk Sugandha kh សុកន្ទដោ): ‘The Fragrant One’, in the name of a king.

Sumadei

(sk sumati, kh សុមាតី): ‘The Benevolent’, in the name of a king.

Sunda

the asura who fought with Upasand and caused havoc on earth.

Surya

(kh ស្វរិយា, សុរិយា): god of the sun, father of **Sugriva**.

Sûryaparvata, Suryâdri

(sk) : hill and temple founded by Suryavarman I, known as **Phnom Chisor** in modern times.

Sushena

monkey general, father of **Tara**, **Valin**'s wife.

Sutta

(pa **Sutta**, sk **Sutra**): a discourse, a reasoning. In Pali language, literally means ‘the common thread’

Swayamvara

a ceremony where a bride can choose her consort.

T

Tanha

(pa, kh លោភលន្ត lophlon): the 'craving' or 'desire' which is the most powerful cause of suffering.

Tantric Buddhism

(also called **Vajrayana**, **Tantrayana**, Mantrayana, and in Japan Mikkyo ‘secret teachings’): originated in medieval India, esoteric spirituality focusing on meditation and visualization of deities and Buddhas. King Jayavarman VII was a preeminent follower. **Cakrasamvaratantra** is one of the main roots texts of the Buddhist esoteric wave.

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

(pa): 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, pa tejo, kh តេជោ): 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 ទេពរាំ): the spirit of dance.

Tep Monorom

(kh ទេពមនោរម្យ): a female group dance with 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**.

Thireach

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

Thom

(kh ធំ): large, big.

Thommo

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

Thupdei

(sk adhi + pati kh ធិបតី): 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

(pa 'Three Baskets'): the three main divisions of the **Pali** Canon.

Tonle

(sk danle, kh ទន្លេ): river.

Toych

(kh តូច): small.

Tral

boat.

Tramak

(kh ប្តូរដំរី moh domrei): mahout.

Trapeang

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

Trei

(kh ត្រី): fish. **Reach sramut** (sk raj sramut ‘king of the sea’, kh រាជសមុទ្រ): 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.

Trimurti

(sk त्रिमूर्ति ‘three forms’): triad of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva; representation of these deities in various positions.

Trivikrama

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

Tuk, Toek

(kh ទឹក): water.

U

Uccaishrava

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

Udom

(kj ឧត្តម, la, from sk uttama): ‘abundant, superior, supreme’ in Lao and Khmer.

Uktyean

(kh ឱស្យាន): ‘garden’.

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, pa vessavana): one of the 'Forth Heavenly Kings'.

Vajra

(sk "weapon"): ritual weapon manifesting the purity and strength of the diamond and thunderbolt.

Vajrayana

(sk "weapon"): the 'Diamond or Thunderbolt Way', is the main spiritual trend in Tantric Buddhism, also called 'esoteric Buddhism'. The Vajrayana cult was instrumental in recycling Hindu and Brahmanic symbols and deities into the Buddhist faith.

Vajrayogini

goddess worshipped in Tantric (esoteric) Buddhism. The vajrayoginis were female figures central in sexual esoterism and the cult of Hevraja-tantra in practice in Khmer temples during the time of Jayavarman VII.

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 វរ្ម័ន៍): '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**'.

Varnnasrama

(sk varnna 'caste' and asrama 'retreat, monastery'): teaching societies in Ancient Angkor, defined by linguist Philip Jenner as 'corporation colleges'.

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 pa 'secluded place', kh វិហារ): an ascetic's cave or retreat, and also a name given to temples or monasteries in Theravada Buddhism. Rectangular building housing a Buddha image.

Vimana

celestial palace of the gods.

Vimaya, Pimai

(sk): name of a mahayanic Buddha; name of a 11th-century Khmer temple in modern Thailand.

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.

Visvakarman

(sk): name of the divine architect, author of numerous celestial and terrestrial residences and palaces. **Pisnukar** or **Bisnukar** is the Khmer derivative name of the legendary architect of Angkor.

Visvampa

(sk): one of Vishnu's names ; name of one of Rājendravarman's ancestors worshipped to these days in the Pre Rup temple; another name of the latter temple.

W

Wat

(or **Vat**) (sk vastu, pa 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.

Yasodharapura

(sk): 'The Glorious City' founded by Yasovarman I: Angkor.

Yassa

(kh ចូលព្រះវស្សា): 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

(sk, kh យូហ្គា): 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

(pa gabbhaseyya 'womb', sk yoni, kh យូនី): 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 យុគៈ): an age of the world.

Yuvaraja

(sk): crown prince.



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