

'Reflections from an Indian Diary'

GLOSSARY OF TERMS : English version of foreign words italicised in text. (in addition to titles of books, films etcetera.)

<u>AMBASSADOR</u>	4-door sedan produced in India from Third Series Morris Oxford dies and tooling imported from England under licence.
ASHRAM	place of retreat and study under guidance of spiritual master.
ACCHA	'I understand. Okay! I agree!'
<u>ANGLO-INDIAN</u>	person of both Indian and English blood. Previously; an English person resident in India.
<u>AVALOKITESVAR</u>	incarnation of The Buddha. Patron god of Tibet.
AYAH	a 'nanny' or child's carer.
BAJRA	millet.
BAKSHEESH	gratuity.
BARADARI	pavilion.
BEARER	male servant who attends to and supervises household duties and waits on table.
BEATERS	men who, on foot, flush out game in forests.
BED-TEA	tea upon waking in bed.
<u>BHAGAVAD GEETA</u>	(also <u>GITA</u>), a segment of <i>The Mahabharata</i> : ' <i>The song of the Blessed Lord</i> '; a spiritual, yogic instruction given by the Supreme Self in the guise of Lord Krishna to Arjuna, as the latter, a charioteer awaiting battle, yearns to understand the truth of being.
BHAJAN	devotional song.
BHAKTA	devotee of God through love.
<u>BHAKTI</u>	love and devotion for The Divine, and the joy of divine love.
BHISTI	servant who carries water.
BHOPA & BHOPINI	male and female wandering minstrels of Rajasthan.
BIKKHU	Buddhist monk
<u>BON</u>	ancient, animist religion of Tibetan region, including Ladakh.
<u>BRAHMA</u>	the Hindu trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva; the Creator.
<u>BRAHMAN</u>	The Absolute or Supreme Being; Infinite Being; the One without a second.
<u>BRAHMIN</u>	member of the highest, priestly and most erudite caste of Hinduism.
<u>BRAHMINISM</u>	the culture and philosophy of Brahmins. (Adj. Brahminical)
BURQA	loose garment that enshrouds a Muslim woman from head to foot
BUND	raised earth division between fields or canals and surrounding terrain.
BURRA-PEG	large measure of alcohol in a glass, as against a tot or 'little' measure: a chota-peg.

CHAI-WALLAH	tea-seller.
CHAKRAS	centres of consciousness in one's subtle body that relate to the physical, ordinary workings of mind and emotion.
CHAPPALS	sandals.
CHARABANC	(Fr.) a vehicle used as a bus.
<u>CHARANA</u>	a bard of Rajasthan.
CHARPOY	light wooden bed with string webbing.
CHHANG	a beer made from barley.
CHHATRI	Rajput cenotaph.
CHHORTEN	a type of stupa, often a reliquary.
CHOOK	domestic fowl. (English colloquial.)
CHOWKIDAR	watchman - who sometimes doubles as caretaker and cook.
CHULLO!	'Let's go! Off you go! Get lost!'
CHURIDARS	Bengali-style trousers with tight-fitting, accordion-like legs.
<u>CONSCIOUSNESS</u>	(with a capital 'C') Infinite Mind; the substance of all things. (see 'Sachchidananda')
DACOIT	thug; violent robber; ritual murderer.
DADRA	light-hearted songs.
<u>DAKOTA (DC3)</u>	two-engine propeller-driven 'Douglas' passenger and freight aircraft.
DARSHAN	blessing from a revered spiritual person through personal contact.
<u>DEVADASI</u>	consecrated female temple dancer.
<u>DEVI</u>	a goddess.
<u>DHARMA</u>	moral, spiritual and social laws drawn from Scripture.
DHOBI-WALLAH	laundryman.
DHOLAK	wood and goat-hide drum.
DHOTI	male wrap-around and folded lower garment.
DHURRI	loose cotton floor rug.
DONGA	small live-in Kashmiri boat.
<u>EXISTENCE-CONSCIOUSNESS-BLISS</u>	Sachchidananda: the nature of supreme, Infinite Being.
<u>GADARIA LUHARS</u>	itinerant Rajasthani blacksmiths.
<u>GANESH, SRI</u>	elephant-headed god of artifice and wisdom.
<u>GANGA</u>	the sacred Ganges river.
GHATS	steps lining a river bank.
GHAZAL	Persian song-form.
GOMPA	Tibetan Buddhist monastery.

<u>HANUMAN</u>	king of monkeys who aided Lord Ram in the rescue of Sita from Sri Lanka. (<i>The Mahabharata</i>)
HAVELIS	upper-class sandstone dwellings in Rajasthan: often profusely carved.
<u>HINAYANA</u>	the original, pristine philosophy and teaching of The Buddha.
HOOKAH	paraphernalia for drawing tobacco smoke through water.
HOWDAH	seat on the back of an elephant, usually with canopy and sides or a railing: elaborately embellished for Maharajahs.
<u>JAGANNATH</u>	(Juggernaut): (Orissa) god of <i>The Mahabharata</i> .
<u>JAINISM</u>	non-Brahminical offshoot of Hinduism having great reverence for all forms of life. (Followers: Jains.)
JHANJI	cymbals.
JOHAR	self immolation or sacrifice by fire. (suttee)
JULDI!	'Quickly!'
<u>KALI</u>	the black goddess (Devi); also known as Durga.
KANGRI	small earthenware pot for carrying personal warming coals.
KARMA	the 'fate' experienced in the present as a result of past thoughts, values, and actions. Present action determining future results.
<u>KHAJURAHO</u>	site of eleventh century sexually explicit stone temples.
KHAYAL	a style of drama including song and dance that includes reference to local, contemporary topics. Also, the English translation of word for classical vocal music.
<u>KRISHNA</u>	The Divine embodied as teacher, Lord Krishna, in the <i>Bhagavad Geeta</i> . Also, a representation of The Divine in a more anthropomorphic form; i.e. the Krishna of Vrindaban as cowherd, the divine lover of Radha and her companion milkmaids (gopis).
KUNDALINI	a primal energy said in Hinduism to be coiled at the base of the spine: it rises through the chakras (centres) to lift the being to its spiritual source, and to illumination.
KURTA	long, loose shirt worn as upper garment.
<u>LAMA</u>	senior Tibetan Buddhist monk.
LATHI	longish wooden rod or staff. Used as weapon by Indian police.
LINGAM	roughly phallic-shaped symbol of Shiva, who, in addition to having other attributes, is the god of life and procreation.
MAAND	traditional style of vocal music in Rajasthan.
<u>MAHABHARATA</u>	epic poem telling of the war between the Pandavas and the Kauravas. It includes the <i>Bhagavad Geeta</i> .

<u>MAHALAKSHMI</u>	goddess of wealth.
<u>MAHASARASWATI</u>	goddess of skill and learning.
<u>MAHAYANA</u>	a later, broader concept to Hinayana Buddhism. It has developed as a complex philosophy and embraces rituals, deities, saints and demons.
MAHOUT	elephant keeper and trainer.
MAIDAN	open ground set aside for public, recreational use.
MANDAPA	pillared and canopied hall of a temple.
MANI STONE	stone which bears a written, Tibetan Buddhist mantra.
MANTRA	sacred phrase or invocation.
MELA	a coming together for a celebratory function: festival.
MOFUSSIL	remote rural district, far from a major town or city.
<u>MUGHAL(S)</u>	(Also, Mogul) Islamic, or Muslim invaders and rulers of much of India prior to the British.
NAMASTE	word and/or gesture with hands to indicate, ‘My being is one with yours!, or ‘We are one in The Divine’.
<u>NANDI</u>	the bull which conveys Shiva and stands guard at the door of his temple.
NATA-MANDIRA	the hall of dance in a Hindu temple.
<u>NILGIRIS, THE</u>	the Blue Mountains of south-west India.
NULLAH	gully; natural drainage depression.
<u>ODISSI</u>	classical dance of Orissa.
PADH	portable homespun cloth mural of bhopa.
PAISE	smallest monetary denomination: one-hundredth of a rupee.
<u>PARVATI</u>	female goddess; consort of Shiva.
PERAGH	Ladakhi woman's hat adorned with her wealth in stones (turquoise).
PIDA DEUL	pyramidal temple tower.
PUJA	ritual prayer and worship.
PUNKAH	large stretched, rectangular cloth that hangs from ceiling to create a cooling breeze. It is pulled back and forth by a rope that passes to a servant in an adjoining room.
PYJAMA	(pōijama) loose cotton or silk trousers tied by cord at waist.
<u>RADHA</u>	the milkmaid of Vrindaban who became the principle devotee, lover and consort of the divine cowherd, Krishna.
RAGA (& RAGINI)	a scale or series of musical notes designed for various moods; used by an instrumentalist or singer to compose and perform a piece extempore according to inspiration.

<u>RAJPUT</u>	pertaining to Rajasthani ruling clans; a member of. . .
<u>RAM (RAMA)</u>	god/king and incarnation of Vishnu in the epic, <i>The Ramayana</i> ; the husband of the faithful and subsequently revered, Sita.
<u>RANI</u>	a queen; wife of a Maharajah.
<u>RINPOCHE</u>	revered lama and teacher in Tibetan Buddhism.
<u>RISHIS</u>	illuminated seers (ascetics: forest dwellers), who revealed the broad and far-reaching philosophy which became the base and substance of the Hindu faith.
<u>SACHCHIDANANDA</u>	Existence-Consciousness-Bliss; the essential nature of the eternal, Supreme Being.
<u>SADHAK & SADHIKA</u>	male and female spiritual aspirants; Students/disciples of a guru.
<u>SADHANA</u>	spiritual path, practice or discipline.
<u>SADHU</u>	a wandering holy man.
<u>SAKYA SECT</u>	the Red Order in Tibetan Buddhism.
<u>SALAAM</u>	Muslim salutation: 'Peace be upon you!'
<u>SANNYASI</u>	(Also, Sannyasin) an ascetic: one who renounces the world for the contemplation of higher things.
<u>SANSKRIT</u>	ancient, classical language of India in which the great epics, hymns and holy works were written.
<u>SARANGI</u>	violin-type instrument held and played vertically while seated.
<u>SARDARJI</u>	respectful term sometimes used for a Sikh.
<u>SASTRAS</u>	(also shastras) spiritually inspired rules.
<u>SCHEDULED CASTES</u>	term embracing the disadvantaged castes, including those previously described as Untouchables; Shudras; Harijans. now, Dalits.
<u>SHAIVISM</u>	facet of Hinduism based on devotion to Shiva.
<u>SHAIVITE</u>	devotee of Shiva. Also, (adj.) pertaining to Shaivism.
<u>SHAKTI</u>	the executrix or creative (female) force of the passive Brahman in action: The Divine Mother.
<u>SHIKAR</u>	an organised game hunt.
<u>SHIKARA</u>	Kashmiri gondola.
<u>SHIKARI</u>	Kashmiri gondolier.
<u>SHIKHARA</u>	a temple tower or spire.
<u>SHOLA</u>	a stand of trees
<u>SHUDRAS</u>	those previously called 'Untouchables', and later 'Harijans', by Mahatma Gandhi.
<u>SIKH</u>	a follower of Guru Nanak and the <i>Holy Granth</i> . Sikhs are mostly centred in the Punjab.
<u>STUPA</u>	cupola- or dome-shaped, solid Buddhist mound originally built to contain sacred relics.

SUTTEE	(also, sati) self-sacrifice by widow on husband's burning funeral pyre.
SWEETMEATS	confectionery.
TABLA	North Indian skin-covered drum played by hand: paired with the banyan drum.
TAMPURA (or TANDURA)	stringed instrument (drone) held upright to repeat tonic note of raga.
TANTRA	non-mainstream Hindu philosophical and yogic system which in itself varies from discipline to discipline. It relies heavily on the Shakti or concept of female energy in creation, and sees spiritual power and transformation also in the union of male and female. (Adj. Tantric)
TANTRISM	doctrine of the Tantras.
THANKA	Buddhist religious iconography painted by monks as temple wall-hangings.
THUMRI	lyrical love songs.
THUNDER-BOX	free-standing toilet used by British Raj that was housed in a range of cabinets to order.
TIRTHANKARAS	the twenty-four principal Jain saints or spiritual teachers.
TONGA	horse-drawn taxi.
TONGA-WALLAH	driver of tonga.
TOPEE	sun helmet; usually of pith.
TSAMPA	a paste made from barley flour.
UPANISHADS	one of Hinduism's sacred texts.
UNIVERSAL TRUTH CONSCIOUSNESS	the author's term for the universal, intermediate plane between Supreme Being and the world manifestation or creation: That reflected by Jesus as The Christ (the 'way' to the 'Father'). The 'Supramental' of Sri Aurobindo.
VEDANTA	non-dualist (monist-adwaita) philosophy attributed originally to Shankara (Eighth Century AD) and based on the end or latter part of the <i>Vedas</i> : the <i>Upanishads</i> , <i>Brahma Sutras</i> and the <i>Bhagavad Geeta</i> .
VEDAS	ancient writings which reflect the spiritual illumination of the Vedic Rishis, and which have formed the basis of Indian metaphysics and philosophy.

<u>VEDIC</u>	(adj.) the culture and thought of the Vedas.
<u>VITAL</u> (The)	the life-nature comprising desires, passions and related energies. A self-involved basic area of consciousness that is largely unresponsive as an instrument for man's higher nature until purified by the psychic touch. (Based on the term defined as such by Sri Aurobindo).
	<u>Lower-vital:</u> vain, petty, seemingly dark and circumscribed area of consciousness or mortal mind that pertains to basic desires; e.g. greed, food, sex, physical sensation (both pleasurable and painful), and instincts such as hatred and anger. The home of distorted imaginings and will that may be taken up by the ego and mislead the being. The mechanical or habitual workings of mind within the above range; dense and often violently resistant to change, with concomitant fear.
	<u>Higher-vital:</u> a somewhat purer Vital allowing a more controlled expression of illumined desire, love, harmony, intelligence: more reflective of the inner being and its state of equanimity, calmness and joy.
<u>VOID</u> (The)	the transcendental, undifferentiated consciousness beyond manifestation as perceived by The Buddha.
YOGA	yoke or union: the realisation of oneness with Infinite Being, the divine Self of all. Also, the path or discipline by which one transcends the ordinary consciousness and attains oneness.
YOGI	(also yogin and (f.) yogini). One who aspires to realisation of The Divine and commits his or her life to achieving this goal by a means most suited to the aspirant's nature.
YONI	the female vagina: often symbolised in stone by a hole surrounded by a raised ring (the vulva) from which the lingam rises.
ZENANA	(or; hareem, hareme, harem) women's quarters.

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