

**GLOSSARY OF SANSKRIT WORDS**

Adharatha : Half-warrior

Adharma : Against moral law; a term for any form of unrighteous or immoral act.

Apsaras : Nymphs of Indra's heaven

Ardhangini : The other half of man who is incomplete without his female counterpart

Artha : Material success

Arya : Loyal, noble, dependable; name of the invading and settling race in north India in c.2000 B.C.; an Indian man

Aryanari : Wife of an Arya; an Indian woman

Asuras : Titans

Avatara : Descent; an incarnation of God

Bheda : Cunning tricks employed to win a case or to get work done

Brahmastra : A divine, irresistible weapon of Brahma

Dama : Giving money (bribing) to get work done

Danda : Application of physical power to win a case or to get work done

Deva : Demi-god

Dharma : Prescribed code of good conduct; pattern of righteous way of living

Dharma-grantha : Book of code of good conduct

Dwaparayuga : The third age or yuga - at the close of which the Kurukshetra war was fought

Itihasa : Epic history or legend

**Kaliyuga** : The last and fourth age or yuga; the present age, believed to have begun in 3102 B.C.; Kali in dice games is the ace, and a symbol of ill-luck

**Kama** : Love, passion, desire

**Karma** : Hindu theory of birth-rebirth; also, actions performed by men

**Kiratas** : A tribe of forest-dwellers or hunters

**Krtayuga** : The first age or yuga, also known as Satyuga

**Kshatriya** : Warrior; the second, ruling caste in Hinduism

**Kshatriyadharma** : The code of conduct to be followed by a Kshatriya

**Mahakavya** : An epic; a long narrative poem

**Manas** : Excessive personal pride

**Maya** : Asura architect who built the palace of the Pandavas at Indraprastha

**Maya** : Cosmic illusion, the depiction by which the Divine One appears to be the Material Many, and by which the phenomenal world appears to be real

**Moksha** : Liberation from the cycle of birth-rebirth

**Naga** : Snake, Cobra. Mythical creatures with a human face, a serpent tail and cobra neck; also a non-Aryan tribe

**Narayanastra** : Deadly weapon of Vishnu

**Nataka** : Play, Drama

**Niti** : The method or rule of practising or following an accepted norm

**Rajasuya Yajna** : Royal sacrifice undertaken by a king to become an emperor

**Rasa** : Essence, pleasure, taste, sentiment

**Rishi** : Saintly person with highly developed spiritual powers; an ascetic

- Sanatanadharmā : Eternal, ontological Dharma, true for everyone, to be practised by all
- Sandhi : Union, junction, alliance
- Sarga : Cantos of an epic or long poem
- Sargabandha : That which unites various sargas or cantos, that is, an epic or long poem
- Sati : A woman who dies willingly at the funeral pyre of her husband
- Shakti : Female form of the uncreated God
- Sama : To get work done by making the other person see sense through the use of clever words
- Shanta rasa : Sublime and peaceful emotion, one of the nine rasas
- Shastra : Holy book, written principle or precept, any law book
- Shloka : Form of lyrical poetry; verse, not necessarily a single line
- Sthitaprajna : One who is unmoved by passions and emotions
- Suta : A low-caste person
- Suta-putra : Son of the low-born
- Swayamwara : A form of bridal, the bride selects her husband from among suitors
- Tretayuga : The second yuga or age
- Varna : The four classes in Hinduism - Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra
- Vasus : Celestial beings
- Veda : Wisdom, collection of hymns and songs in the four Vedas - Rig, Yajur, Sama, Atharva
- Vira : A hero; one who has exceptional bravery, strength and courage

Vira rasa : The emotion of bravery and courage, one of the nine rasas

Viveka : Discrimination

Vyasa : Arranger, editor, compiler; also, the traditional author of the *Mahabharata*

Yoga: A School of Philosophy in ancient India concerned with development of spiritual power through the control of the senses.

Yuga : A world cycle