

**A POSTERIORI:** Literally meaning "after." A statement, concept, or idea that is determined after the fact, based on experience or observation.

**A PRIORI:** Literally meaning "before." A statement, concept, or idea that is a given and does not need to be based on experience or observation. (E. Kant)

**ABSOLUTE:** George W.F. Hegel's name for the ultimate reality.

**ABSTINENCE:** We have to abstain or refrain from doing certain things if we are to make progress in our spiritual development. We must abstain and refrain from injuring others; from telling lies, theft. We must avoid theft because it alters the "material balance" of another person. Sensuality is an impure form of sex. While natural and pure sex can elevate one, sensuality can ruin one's spiritual development. We should not be guilty of greed. People are "lent" (by God's grace) money or abilities in order that we may help others. If we refuse to share or help in a time of need, then we may be sure that we may not receive in our time of need. The five fundamental abstinence are: injuring others, lies, theft, sensuality, and greed.

**ACHAMANA:** This is a rite of Hinduism in which the worshipper purifies him/her self by thinking pure thoughts while sipping water and sprinkling water around him/herself. It is similar to the sprinkling of water during a Christian ceremony of baptism. This is done before meditation.

**ACHARYA:** This is a word for spiritual teacher or guru. It is used as a suffix to a revered religious-spiritual teacher.

**ADHARMA:** The lack of virtue, lack of righteousness.

**AESTHETICS:** The school of philosophy that ponders the nature of art and beauty. Schopenhauer recommended it as one of the ways to keep earthly passions at bay.

**AGAMA:** A scripture, or in Tibet, a "tantra" used to indicate a work in mystical or metaphysical worship.

**AGAMI KARMA:** A more correct term for karma. The physical and mental acts performed by a person which affects one's future incarnations, i.e., ye shall reap what ye sow. Future karma is stored in the subconscious mind.

**AHAMKARA:** Ahamkara is the controlling or directing factor in the mind which receives sense impressions and establishes them in the form of facts which we can also "recall" later at will.

**AHIMSA:** The policy of non-violence and peace. The refraining of harm to another by thought, deed, or word, or "do as you would be done by" (the main policy of Gandhi).

**AI:** The equal love for all without discrimination in any form. The spiritual attainment of this word (condition) means we are free from physical birth again, because of our "most purest" state of mind.

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AJAPA: A "special" mantra.

AJNACHAKRA: The sixth of the commonly accepted charkas or yogic centers of consciousness. Some ancient spiritual sects claim as many as nine centers. It is the center at the eyebrow level. The mechanism of the sixth-sense and clairvoyance, internal visions, and knowledge of other worlds (dimensions) and "prophecy."

AKASHA: Ether, or that which fills all space between worlds, molecules, and everything. The "matter" or stuff from which everything is formed .

AKASHIC: (Akashic record). Every past event and possible future combination in the mind of God for creation and expression. Past, present, and possible future events.

ALIENATION: The feeling of isolation, of not being part of society. Expressed by Hegel, Kierkegaard, and the Existentialists.

ALTRUISM: Looking out for the next fellow and trying to do good works. Some philosophers believe altruism is impossible, because all actions, even charitable ones, are motivated by self-interest. The Objectivists think it is a downright foolish practice.

AMRITA NADI: Amrita Nadi, in Sanskrit, means literally "Nerve (or Current) of Immortal Bliss." In the Awakening of Divine Self-Realization, the Spiritual Current of Divine Being is felt to move in an S-curve out from the seat of the Divine Self associated with the right side of the heart, then forward and up the front of the chest, through the throat, and then up the back of the head, and forward to the Spirit-Matrix of Love-Bliss at and above the crown of the head. From there, the Living Spirit-Current circulates in a "Circle" of life-sustaining Spirit-Energy, down the front and up the spine of the human body-mind.

ANAHATA CHAKRA: The chakra at the heart level. The fourth of the commonly known yogic centers.

ANAHATA SHABDA: A sound not heard but perceived during meditation when one has reached a certain level. It is the sound of "om" (or "Amen" by Christians), i.e., I believe because I have experienced.

ANANDA: *Spiritual joy*, not associated with the body-mind consciousness, freedom.

ANATMA: *This is* the world of illusion, *this* earth; *this* world is an illusion, patterns of energy, a secondary reality.

ANGST: Deep anxiety, which many philosophers, including Hegel, Kierkegaard, Sartre, and Camus, believe is an unavoidable emotional state for any thinking man or woman.

ANNAMAYA KOSHA: The *physical body* that encases the spirit, our physical body.

ANTAKHKARANA: Eastern philosophy, Vedanta philosophy. The use of the mind to control the physical body.

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**ANTHROPOMORPHISM:** Assigning human qualities and characteristics to nonhuman things, including nature and God.

**APEIRON:** The Greek word for Boundless, this was Anaximander's way to describe the ultimate reality, as opposed to the other Monists who made one of the elements the basis for all reality.

**APHORISM:** Nietzsche's main technique for philosophizing. A pithy observation that can vary in length from a few lines to a few paragraphs.

**APOCALYPSE:** The Greek word for "revelation" has come to mean the time when the world as we know it will be destroyed.

**ARCHETYPES:** In Jungian psychology, patterns of images for different approaches to life.

**ARETE:** The ancient Greek term for the highest personal excellence, the integrity to do what must be done.

**ASANA:** Any sitting posture for meditation. Lotus or non-lotus.

**ASAT:** All things unreal or illusionary. This is the world of illusion. The world of spirit is the real world.

**ASCETICISM:** The practice of denying oneself physical comforts and necessities, usually in order to get focused beyond material things.

**ASHRAMA:** The place where teachers and pupils reside – a hermitage.

**ASMITA:** Conceit, egoism, pride of an unevolved human.

**ASSOCIATIONISM:** The view that our ideas are formed by combining sense perceptions that resemble one another or that we experience together.

**ASTRAL:** Not of this world; an in between place or dimension, but *not* heaven (Christian term is "purgatory").

**ASTRAL TRAVEL:** When the soul or oversoul travels to the astral plane while the body is in deep rest.

**ATARAXIA:** The ancient Greek term for mental tranquility.

**ATMA – ATMAN:** The oversoul or super consciousness in human beings in vedantic philosophy (Holy-spirit in Christianity).

**ATOMISM:** The belief of the Presocratic philosopher, beginning with Leucippus and Democritus, that everything could be broken down to tiny, indivisible particles called atoms. It turned out to be true (until scientists learned that the atom could be split onto subatomic particles.)

**AURA:** Multi-colored force lines that surround the body (similar to a magnetic field). Not to be confused with the "etheric double" of bluish-gray color.

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**AUTHENTICITY:** The existentialist concept of leading your life on your own terms, refusing to accept the assumptions others make.

**AVATAR or AVATARA:** A rare person with no karma and not necessarily human. But one who adopts human form (incarnates in order to teach). Avatar (male) avatara (female) is always higher than any human. An angel, shien (Taoism), Jesus the Christ. They appear when the world is in danger or humanity is in danger as a species. An avatar is one who teaches and "restores" to *present-day* requirements ancient teachings.

**AVESHA:** The entering of an avatar into another person's body to do some special work. But only if the "host" agrees.

**AVIDYA:** Ignorance. To mistake life on the earth as the only life that matters. Earth is a classroom or training ground, a boot camp of the soul.

**BEHAVIORISM:** The name for an approach to the study of psychology in vogue for much of the first half of the twentieth century. Behaviorists weren't particularly interested in the mind as a conscious, reflective entity, but rather as something largely conditioned, or determined, by external stimuli.

**BHAGAVAD GITA:** The eighteen chapters of the "Gita" deal with one "aspect" of human life and shows how, by using the physical, emotional, mental, ethical, and spiritual abilities of one's being, one can attain true harmony of body and spirit. The Tao Teh Ching is also the same integration process which forms an "*integral being*," or "shien." Only through true harmony and true integration can mankind progress to "divinity" (i.e., atonement), heaven, Satori, Nirvana, etc., etc.).

**BHAGAVAN:** One's personal God regardless of name, but with attributes of power, might, glory, wisdom, etc.

**BHAJAN:** The worship of God through singing or chanting. This is called "Psalms" in the Christian religion.

**BHAKTA:** A "follower" of God, a "devotee" in any religion.

**BHAKTI:** The act of "devotion" to one's God. The act of identifying one's self as a child of God. To be subservient and obedient to God on which the Christian church is based, founded.

**BHAVA:** This is being, feeling, existing, emotion of humans of which there are three types:

1. PASHU-BHAVA: The lowest group; selfish; do evil to others; greedy; never help others; the bottom of evolution.
2. VIRA-BHAVA: The middle group; have the desire to be better; high energy; are do-gooders – but have an ego about it and need much evolution.
3. DIVYA-BHAVA: Highest group; are unselfish; thoughtful; truly help others without reward or self-gain.

**BODHA:** The "knowledge" given to another person *about* wisdom and understanding.

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**BRAHMIN or BRAHMAN:** One who has achieved God-self-realization (in Christianity, a "Christ.")

**BRAHMA:** The name of God in Hinduism.

**BOHDI:** A Buddhist word for one who "appreciates" the nature of what is beyond this life. Perfect knowledge and perfect understanding of the spiritual condition.

**BOURGEOIS:** Middle-class and conservative. Karl Marx contrasted the bourgeoisie to the proletariat workers who are exploited by capitalism. The bourgeoisie, on the other hand, are content under capitalism and are generally considered unsympathetic to the plight of the laborers.

**BRACKETING:** Husserl's process of setting aside assumptions about things that stem from scientific thinking. The point is to look at things with fresh eyes.

**BRAHMACHARI:** One who has taken the first monastic vows. Or, a devoted person to the observance and practice of a form of religion without monastic vows.

**BRAHMALOKA:** The plane of existence where those who have succeeded in the earth life go to commune with others on the same level (an astral plane, not heaven).

**BRAHMA-SUTRAS:** Very famous aphorisms which place before one the principal teachings of the Upanishads.

**BUDDHA:** Not a God, but a person who has *attained* freedom, enlightenment, "*Nirvana*" (i.e., heaven, Christhood, Tao, Satori, super consciousness, etc.). The Buddha's real name was Siddhartha Gautama (lived 2500 years ago in India).

**BUDDHI:** A word meaning wisdom, i.e., wisdom derived from stillness, as in insights.

**BUDDHISM:** Philosophy founded in India during the fifth century B.C.E. by Siddhartha Gautama. It stresses the transcendence of self and of desire.

**CALCULUS OF FELICITY:** Jeremy Bentham's strange mathematical formula wherein we can calculate the pain/pleasure factor of an act before indulging in it.

**CAPITALISM:** The economic practice of producing goods and selling them at a profit. Also the economic system based on this practice.

**CASTE SYSTEM:** Social stratification into distinct groups based on the idea that everyone is born to hold a particular position in society. It defined the social structure in India for centuries.

**CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE:** A moral law posited by Kant that says an act is good if it can be described by a rule that is universally applicable. Thus it holds true for everybody and forms the basis of our "practical reason," or moral understanding.

**CAUSAL BODY:** Also called "Anandamaya-Kosha" or "Karana Sharira." The inner most body which commences the processes where we gain experiences in the flesh body. The causal body is the body of incarnation, the one which causes all the troubles with the flesh, lusts, desires, greed, selfishness.

**CAVE OF SATAN:** Also called the "pit of pseudo-emancipation." This is a stage in zazen where one experiences absolute serenity and is bedeviled into believing it to be Self-realization. It requires an inspired effort to break out and go beyond this state.

**CHAITANYA:** A state when spiritual consciousness has just been awakened, ready for deeper meditation and more progress inward.

**CHAKRAS:** Sometimes called "lotuses" or "wheels." There are six chakras along the spine and the seventh is in the center of the cerebrum; there two others, making nine in all. The first chakra is at the base of the spine near the excretory organ (the serpent). The second is at the genitalia level. The third at the umbilicus. The fourth approximately at the heart level. The fifth at the throat. The sixth at the eyebrow level. Most humans live in the lower parts of the spine. Not until man is able to raise the kundalini, powers into the heart chakra is he able to be aware of spiritual progress. And to the sixth chakra to be able to make any satisfactory progress. (The eighth and ninth center of consciousness can be found after one reaches God-self-realization.)

**CHAN or CH'AN or CHANNA:** This means "meditation" in Japanese Zen Buddhism. Channa also means "truth seeker." A person who has had "channa" has experienced a "revelation."

**CHANG:** The opposite of artificial. The opposite of abnormal, i.e., to be "normal," "sane" (from Taoism).

**CHANISM:** The *seeking* of "sudden" enlightenment or revelation during meditation.

**CHENG:** The honesty and sincerity inherent in one's true self, "Cheng" must be developed and allowed to grow to make progress in life.

**CHI:** This is vital force (Taoism). The Holy Spirit (consciousness) in Christianity.

**CHITTA:** The lower mind. The three parts of the mind: first is "manas." Second is "Buddi." Third is "Ahamkara." (Manas is lowest.)

**CITY OF NINE GATES:** The *physical body* which has nine main openings, eyes, ears, nostrils, etc.

**CLAIRVOYANCE:** *True* clairvoyance means that one's astral body can "leave" the physical body and "see" other dimension which cannot be seen while "*in*" the body. It can be naturally developed in all humans.

**COGITO, ERGO SUM:** Descartes's famous "I think, therefore I am" proves that you can be certain of at least one reality in this crazy world: You exist because you are thinking thoughts right now.

**COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS:** In Jungian psychology, the body of symbolism and mythic images inherited from early humans that people have in their unconscious mind.

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**COLLECTIVISM:** The view that the stability of society is more important than individual rights and freedoms.

**COMPLEXITY:** A crucial, though slippery, concept applied to the systems studied by Systems Theorists. Features that contribute to a system's complexity include the ability to respond to internal changes and changes in the environment, and a high degree of inter-relatedness among internal elements, especially nonlinear (parallel) connections.

**CONCEPTUALISM:** The view introduced by scholastic philosophy that universals exist as concepts in the mind.

**CONFUCIANISM:** Philosophy of ancient China founded by Kun fu-tzu that stresses social harmony and respect for others.

**CONNECTIONISM:** Also called "parallel distributed processing," the study of artificial neural networks used to model mental processes. It stems from the key insight that the brain functions as a self-adjusting, nonlinear system for processing information.

**CONSCIOUSNESS COLLECTIVE:** According to Durkheim, the set of ideas that are shared by an entire society, making it possible for individuals to communicate and do all the things they do as members of the society.

**CONSEQUENTIALISM:** Another name for the Utilitarian philosophy. The consequences of an action determine its value. From a Utilitarian perspective, this philosophy means seeking pleasure and avoiding pain.

**CONTEMPLATION:** Contemplation is *not* meditation. "Cognitive contemplation," in which a material object is thought "about," non-cognitive contemplation; when one dwells upon the "things" of the spirit beyond material perception.

**COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS:** The highest form of Savikalpa Samadhi, in which bodily, or at least psycho-sensual, awareness remains intact and operating, but psycho-physical, or cosmic, existence is otherwise (or simultaneously) perceived in Consciousness as an Infinite Unity.

**COSMOGONY:** The study of the origin of the world.

**COSMOLOGY:** The study of the nature and order of the world.

**CULT:** Half true or false teachings by a person, teacher with little or no spiritual perception and pretends to be a "great teacher," master, for selfish reasons, i.e., money, sex. If the "*teacher*" is *more important* than the "student," then it is a cult. Some of the world's most truthful and honest spiritual groups were called "cults" by *competitive* religious organizations in order to destroy them. **CONSCIOUSNESS:** Another name for spirit or soul.

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**DA CHI GONG:** A primary form of "conscious exercise" in the Way of the Heart. The traditional Chinese practice of Chi Gong (also sometimes spelled "qigong" or "chi kung"). Da Chi Gong is a devotional practice, performed in feeling-Contemplation.

**DAMA:** The quieting of the ten organs of sense and action. Must be attained before true meditation can begin.

**DARSHAN:** In Sanskrit, the word "Darshan" means "seeing," "sight of," "vision of." In the Indian traditions, such seeing also involves feeling. Thus, "to have Darshan" of a saint, a holy image, etc., is a participatory, feeling act, not merely a visual witnessing of an object.

**DASEIN:** Heidegger's word for what he called "Being There," a fully realized conscious approach to life, more than merely "stayin' alive."

**DECONSTRUCTION:** The practice of unraveling meaning from written language to show how it is put together out of assumptions that can't be true.

**DECONSTRUCTIONISM:** The process of breaking down a thing (in Jacques Derrida's case, language) to show that what is being stated is in fact inherently false.

**DEDUCTION:** The process of determining what is necessarily true based on what is already known to be true.

**DEISM:** The belief in an unknowable God who set the world in motion at the beginning of time but has done little to interfere with nature since that time.

**DEHA:** "One who has a body." Humans have three basic bodies: the dense, the subtle, and the causal. The body is a "temple" whereby the soul or overself, consciousness spirit being can gain experience from the physical life.

**DETERMINISM:** The idea that what happens has to happen as a result of natural laws, a divine plan, or human nature. A classic philosophical problem concerns whether determinism is compatible with the notion of individual freedom.

**DIACHRONIC:** A view of language, in structural linguistics, that considers language as it develops through time.

**DIALECTIC:** The Socratic Dialogue, a series of questions and answers to help the person discover the truth for themselves, rather than simply telling them. The method of reasoning that moves back and forth between opposites.

**DIETY:** All scriptures state in one way or another, "thou shalt not worship graven images." In its *deepest* sense, the worshipping of one's "own" *mind* (i.e., thoughts, concepts, and opinions *about* God).

**DIFFERENCE:** Derrida's term for the characteristic of writing that gives it meaning by referring to other words that mean something different. Difference involves both differing and a deferring.



DEVA: A divine being, beyond the human state, or any human who attains enlightenment and purity and has transcended the physical plane.

DEVILS: The most "egoic" mentality in a human, with all the negative emotions of greed, hate, selfishness, lying, killing, etc.

DHANURASANA: The "bow" posture for meditation, with the stomach facing downward.

DHARMA: Has several meanings, universal law, truth, doctrine of the teacher, instructions of a teacher.

DYANA: Deep meditation or concentration.

DIKSHA: The act of initiating a student into spiritual life by a guru or teacher.

DIMENSIONS: Nine dimension, in all.

DIVINITY: An old Sanskrit word which means to "*shine*." "The shining one," "the bright one." An actual visible light emitting from a holy being. Moses "veiled" his face after coming down from the mountain of God.

DOGMA: An idea or way of thinking that is accepted as true on authority. It comes from an ancient Greek word meaning "belief."

DUALISM: The view that each person is two entities, a mind with mental attributes and a body with physical attributes, instead of a single entity with attributes of both sorts.

DWESHA: This is aversion; dislike, as opposed to like.

ECRITURE FEMININE: A French feminist writing style that tries to set itself apart from male philosophical writing by being creative and playful, sometimes making fun of the ideas of male philosophers.

EGO: (Narcissus in Greek mythology). (Anti-Christ in Christianity). The separate individuality apart from the "*over self*" or *consciousness*. An imaginary concept and fixation of mind. - The psychological - personality. According to Buddhism, the notion of an ego, i.e., awareness of oneself as a discrete individuality, is a delusion. It arises because, misled by our bifurcating intellect (the sixth sense) into postulating the dualism of "myself" and "not-myself," we are led to think and act as though we were a separated entity confronted by a world external to us. Thus in the unconscious the idea of "I," or selfhood, becomes fixed, and from this arise such thought patterns as "I hate this, I love that; this is mine, that is yours." Nourished by this fodder, the ego-I comes to dominate the mind, attacking whatever threatens its domination and grasping at anything which will enlarge its power. Antagonism, greed, and alienation, culminating in suffering, are the inevitable consequences of this circular process.

ELEMENTALS: A type of thought form which have a sort of half life of their own. A form of life brought into being by humans, formed from etheric substance which was the origin of all complex forms.

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**ELEMENTS:** In metaphysics, they are ether, air, fire, water, and earth (the five *forces*).

**ELEUTHERIOS:** Greek for "Liberator." A title by which Zeus, the supreme diety, was venerated in the Spiritual esotericism of ancient Greece. The Designation "Eleutherios" indicates the Divine Function of the spiritual teacher as the Incarnation of the Divine Person, "Whose Inherently Perfect Self-Brightness" Liberates all conditionally Manifested beings, Freely, Liberally, Gracefully, and Without Ceasing."

**EMPIRICISM:** The philosophy that maintains that all knowledge is gathered through sensory experience alone. The opposite of Rationalism.

**EPICUREANISM:** Hellenistic philosophy founded by Epicurus in the third century B.C.E. that stresses the avoidance of mental pain.

**EPISTEMOLOGY:** The study of knowing. Epistemologists want to know what we mean when we say we know something.

**ETERNAL RECURRENCE:** Nietzsche's proposition that we live the same life, without variation, over and over again. He probably did not mean this literally. He was suggesting that we should make our lives such that we would not mind repeating it time and again.

**ETHERIC DOUBLE:** The substance existing between the physical body and the aura. A gray-blue color sometimes left on earth after death, called a "ghost."

**ETHICS:** The study of moral and social behavior. Ethical philosophers want to know what it means to be a person and how people can and should act.

**EXISTENTIALISM:** The philosophy that expresses the belief that life is meaningless and absurd, and the best that we can do is try to lead authentic, heroic lives in a cold and uncaring world.

**FEMINISM:** Philosophy and political movement that exposes and resists the systematic exclusion of women and women's best interests from male-dominated thinking and society.

**FEUDISM:** The economic structure in which the nobility owns the land that is farmed by the serfs, or peasants, who support the nobles in exchange for protection.

**FORCES:** Four force groups:

1. Natural forces: physics, heat, light, sound, electricity, magnetism.
2. Etheric forces: included is the power of the kundalini.
3. Metaphysical forces: include thought forms generated from the mind and can last for centuries, often called an "Egyptian tomb curse(s)," etc.
4. The "power" of love (and hate) can generate the forces of telepathy, clairvoyance, psychometry, levitation, teleportation, etc. Astral travel is not a force, but an ability.

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**FORM:** An ideal concept that, for Plato, actually exists in its own separate, ideal reality. This ideal reality influences the imperfect reality in which we live by lending it shape. (Spirit-Consciousness)

**FUNCTIONALISM:** Emily Durkheim's theory that a society, in essence, takes on a personality of its own and can be objectively viewed the way a scientist or physician may regard a living organism.

**GAYATRI:** The most important Hindu mantra, "Om, bhur, bhuvah, swah. Tat savitur varenyam bhargo devasya dhimahi. Dhiyo yo nah prachodayat. Om." In English means, "We meditate upon the ineffable effulgence of that resplendent sun. May that sun direct our understanding for the good of all living."

**GENDER:** Refers to ideas about sex differences, as opposed to sex differences themselves. Gender roles are thus the different positions society assigns the different sexes.

**GHOST:** An etheric force or etheric double of a human person.

**GREAT PATH OF RETURN:** The traditional religious and Spiritual paths of the first six stages of life as the "great path of return," because the traditional methods of the un-Enlightened stages of life seek to regress, or return, to a specific, or absolute, Goal, which is often termed God, Truth, Reality, and so on. Previous to Divine Enlightenment in the seventh stage of life, practice of the Way of the Heart does not seek to fulfill any stage of life but is lived (progressively) in the context of the first six stages of life. In such uniquely self-transcending, or "radical," practice, all goals and all motivated methods are to be persistently observed, understood, and transcended.

**GUNAS:** Three qualities which we must enter into in this life and then discard to be free.

**GURU:** Often called master, i.e., he is the master of his/her own evolution and/or destiny, *not* the master (controller) of others. Means "light over darkness."

**GURU BHAI:** A "*student*" studying under a spiritual teacher.

**HIGHER SELF:** The oversoul, super consciousness, holy spirit (*not* the inflated egoic self).

**HABIT:** An action or series of actions which have become impressed upon the subconscious mind so that a person may perform even intricate operations or maneuvers without conscious effort or the intervention of the conscious mind.

**HATHA YOGA:** A series of exercises, or physical exertion for spiritual or mental discipline. It is for the body and mind, more than for spiritual realization (i.e., self control).

**HEDONISM:** The belief that the pursuit of pleasure and the avoidance of pain is the greatest goal of mankind. Social Hedonism was at the foundation of the Utilitarian philosophy.

**HINDUISM:** Indian religious thinking based on the ideas of dharma, or duty, and karma, or action.

**HUMANISM:** Renaissance philosophical attitude toward human beings and human activity as an expression of divine purpose.

**HUME'S FORK:** The idea that facts do not exist in any necessary logical relationships and relationships do not presuppose any particular facts. Facts and relationships are joined only through association. Hume used his "fork" to criticize metaphysical notions, including causality.

**HUME'S LAW:** *See* naturalistic fallacy.

**HYPNOTISM:** Should never be used except under the most stringent conditions. Causes brain damage.

**HYPOTHESIS:** A theoretical statement that explains things but that may be refuted or confirmed by new evidence.

**ICHCHHASHAKTI:** Means "will power." Special will power, to see the future, the probable future, levitation.

**IDA:** A column of sensory or motor nerves on the *left* side of the spinal cord. They have a special relationship between the body and the astral body.

**IDEALISM:** The belief that everything is "in the mind," and physical reality does not exist. Made famous by George Berkeley.

**IDEOLOGY:** A system of beliefs or ideas that reinforce the values of a particular class or group of people.

**ILLUMINATION:** Divinely inspired insight and wisdom. St. Augustine believed that this was a necessary ingredient to true knowledge.

**ILLUSION:** Earth is an illusion, earth is one of the "hells." It is where we get the hellish physical experiences and illusions. "The *worst* thing about hell is that you don't know you are *already* in it."

**IMMANENT:** Something that is directly experienced. The opposite of "transcendent."

**INCARNATION:** A person comes to earth in order to have experiences which can be analyzed by the oversoul for its development. *Each* incarnation is in a *different* sign of the zodiac in order to get balanced knowledge.

**INDIVIDUALISM:** The view that individual rights and freedoms should form the basis of society.

**INDRIYAS:** The "ten" indriyas or ten organs in the body by which the oversoul, super consciousness receives specialized information. The organs of hearing, sight, smell, taste, touch, and organs of more direct action, excretion, generation, propulsion (feet), touch (hands), and taste (tongue).

**INDUCTION:** Drawing general, probable conclusions from particular evidence; if certain things are true in particular, we can induce that things of the same kind will be true in general.

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**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Includes the aspects of society that have to do with economy and what Marx called "the relations of production," centered around money, labor, and material goods.

**INNATE IDEAS:** Thoughts are observations that can come without the benefit of sensory experience. This was the belief of the Rationalists, and the opposite viewpoint of the Empiricists.

**INTENTIONALITY:** According to Husserl, both the attitude you bring with you whenever you think about something and what it is you are thinking about. In other words, it's the relation between the thing you're thinking of and the manner in which you are thinking.

**INTUITION:** A process occurring in stillness of mind or meditation, under which the physical body is given a glimpse of something which normally in the physical body could not be known. Women have greater intuition than men.

**ISHVARAKOTI:** An inferior type of avatar which deals with people on a minor level.

**ISHWARA:** Actually means "divine willer." A spiritually perfect being who has compassion for struggling humanity because he/she has gone through the same pain and suffering themselves.

**JAGRAT:** Being "awake" as opposed to sleeping (*not* spiritual awakening).

**JAPA:** Means repetition. It has nothing to do with meditation. The repetition of a word, for example, repeating the name of God, over and over, for help.

**JEN:** (Chinese). The art of being human. Love and kindness towards others. "Jen" is the basis of the teachings of Confucius.

**JIVA:** A name for the individual living unit complete with body, mind and various senses. A human being.

**JNANA:** Knowledge and awareness of life beyond the life in this world. Knowledge of the overself. Knowledge of what one has to experience and learn on the earth.

**JNANI:** A person who understands or follows the road of spiritual knowledge to attain liberation.

**KAMA:** (Not karma). Means desire or craving.

**KARMA:** The law of universal energy response to one's thoughts and actions. Cause and effect. Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. This is not a "request." It is a statement of laws!

**KOAN:** From Zen Buddhism. A peculiar statement which apparently is without logic and which makes no sense. Sometimes it is used to "stump" or "stall" the brain, so self realization can occur or be experienced (i.e., sudden enlightenment).

**KOSHA:** A covering or sheath. There are five koshas described in certain Upanishads, each located within the other:

1. The body physical Annamaya Kosha
2. Prana body Pranamaya Kosha
3. Mind sheath Manomaya Kosha
4. Intellect or wisdom Vijnanamaya Kosha
5. Bliss body Anandamaya Kosha

**KOWU:** (Chinese). To study or investigation of spiritual matters and the rectification of misunderstandings of previous studies.

**KRIYAS:** Spontaneous, self-purifying physical movements. Kriyas arise when the natural bodily energies are stimulated by the Divine Spirit-Current.

**KUM BHAKA:** A special form of breath retention between inhaling and exhaling.

**KUNDALINI:** Life force, energy, coiled up at the base of the spine, often called the "*serpent*" in the Bible, sexual energy. As this force surges up through the chakras it makes a person aware of esoteric things. Bible, "Revelations," it awakens clairvoyance, telepathic and psychometry, and enables one to live between two worlds. This energy is dangerous. It can lead to madness if one is untrained. The story of Adam and Eve, the serpent was the kundalini (sexual energy) released. The apple represents the "fruit" of knowledge and the creation of the ego or separate mentality, which was the "fall," and casting "themselves" out of heaven. Vipassana, Kriya breathing and Taoist breathing type meditations are easy to practice and start with.

**LAO-TZU:** Though Lao-tzu is commonly regarded as one of China's greatest sages, little is known about his actual life. He is said to have been born about 604 B.B. and to be the author of the *Tao Teh Ching*, which is the bible of Taoism, as the religion which grew up around this book came to be called. The Tao has been defined as the ground of all existence, or as the power of the universe.

**LAW:** Essentially the law of God. That law is non-separation, i.e., do not create a false self which opposes the true inner Self.

**KUTHASTHA:** The true overself, soul, individualized universal spirit consciousness.

**LANGUE:** The French word for language. In Saussure's terms, langue is language understood as a system that exists independently of individual speech acts.

**LAYA:** "Laya yoga" is the system of yoga which specializes in "the raising of the kundalini." It can raise the I.Q. if one is properly trained or it can cause insanity and death.

**LEVITATION:** Accomplished by very special breathing which raises the frequency of the body's molecular oscillations so as to produce a form of "contragravity." Note: If a person can raise the rate of his molecular

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oscillations then it may be possible to raise the molecular oscillations of an object as well, such as a large stone block so it could be transported and then assembled into a giant pyramid. So called modern science seems to overlook the simple fact of the power of the human mind (spiritual mind).

LI: (Chinese). Word has two meanings; one is ritual or standard of conduct. The second is "the eternal verities," the great truth, the eternal truth.

LIBERALISM: The belief in social freedom and tolerance. Liberals are criticized by radicals because their "live-and-let-live" attitude doesn't help bring about change.

LIBERATION: The eastern word is "moksha." Means enlightenment, at-onement, God union.

LILA: The play or sport of God, in life, and *as* life.

\*Note: Internet search - Vipassana or Kriya Yoga for more information.

LOGO-CENTRISM: Derrida's term for the attempt of philosophical writing to suggest meaning that is not simply produced by writing. The term is based on the Greek word for word, "logos" and is modeled after the word "ethnocentrism," which refers to the tendency to look at things with a biased cultural perspective. In other words, logocentrism is the tendency for philosophy to think it is special and better than other kinds of writing such as fiction.

LOKA: A plane of existence. A complete world to the one who lives there.

LOGICAL ATOMISM: Russell and Wittgenstein's theory that language and concepts could, like physical elements, be broken down to their smallest particulars and thereby logically analyzed.

LOTUS: The lotus is a plant which grows on the dirtiest or muddiest of water. It grows in the foulest surroundings, and yet no matter how foul those surroundings, the lotus remains pure and unsullied and quite uncontaminated by that which is around it. It represents spiritual development or spiritual evolution, being untouched by the world.

LOVE: A feeling. *Not* one of the emotions. The "harmony" between two or more creatures of any kind. (It does *not* mean sex.)

MACHIAVELLIANISM: A term that is often used to describe ruthlessness and deception in politics. More generally, the term is used to refer to anything someone doesn't like about anything political.

MACROCOSM (big universe): The world as a whole understood as a reflection of the human body.

MANAS: This is the "*thought power*" of a person. When "thought power" is tapped into one can do quite a lot of difficult things, like telepathy, clairvoyance, psychometry, astral travel, etc.

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**MANIPURAKA:** One of the chakras, at the level of the navel. The third of the common seven yogic centers of consciousness. (Some teachings indicate there are "nine" levels of consciousness.)

**MANTRA:** A particular vibratory name for God to attain purification of thought. A form of a "prayer." All sounds and words can influence what is called "matter," i.e., mind over matter).

**MARXISM:** Philosophy based on the economic and political thinking of Karl Marx that says ideology, or the way people think, depends on the relations of production, or the way people make and use things.

**MATERIALISM:** The belief that existence is entirely physical and that thinking and knowing are effects produced by the physical process of sensation in the brain.

**METAPHYSICS:** A branch of philosophy that studies the makeup, working, and organization of reality in general. Metaphysics is also used more specifically to refer to whatever aspects of reality there may be that cannot be observed and measured, such as God and virtue.

**MAUNA:** Being quiet, not talking about their esoteric studies or experiences.

**MAYA:** The power of illusion. Our own earth and universe is an illusion, i.e., not material at all, but condensed energy.  $E=MC^2$ .

**MEDITATION:** A system of putting one's mind in order, to train it, to develop it. The process of enlightened spiritual evolution. "True meditation" has nothing to do with thoughts or visualization, but deals with the development and cultivation of consciousness awareness, which is the only reality (truth).

**MICROCOSM (little universe):** The individual human being understood as an image of the world as a whole.

**MING:** (Chinese). Destiny or fate, or an order from God above.

**MING CHIA:** The science of vibrations and of creating important *words* or *names* for things.

**MIRROR STAGE:** In Lacanian psychology, a crucial moment in the formation of the subject's awareness of himself as a person.

**MITHYA:** The "bonds" created by this world of illusion, a state of ignorance.

**MOKSHA:** Liberation, enlightenment, freedom from illusion, spiritual attainment, self realization. The same as Satori, Nirvana, cosmic consciousness, etc.

**MONADS:** According to Leibniz's philosophy, simple substances that cannot be broken down any further. They do not take up space and can perceive reality.

**MONISM:** The belief that one element or thing is the basic stuff of reality. The Presocratic philosophers were Monists. The belief that the natural world is all connected into a single whole.



**MONOTHEISM:** The belief in a single all-powerful God.

**MUNDRAS:** Basically exercises of Hatha Yoga to obtain a certain result.

**MULADHARA:** A chakra below the base of the spine, *not* the kundalini. The exact location of the kundalini is "between" the excretion and reproductive organs.

**MUMUKSHUTWA:** The very, very strong desire to be free of the body and its bonds. The desire to "return" to the "true" spiritual condition.

**MUNI:** One who never speaks about his/her spiritual matters, experiences.

**MYSTICISM:** The study and understanding of things which are beyond the physical human experience. Has *nothing* to do with black magic or spells, etc. The ideas that we can have direct experience of God. This may come in the form of dreams and visions, or may come through meditation or artistic creativity.

**NADAS:** The sound or voice within telling you what to do or what not to do (conscious).

**NATURAL SELECTION:** Charles Darwin's theory of Evolution. Members of a species that are the "fittest" survive and reproduce, altering the species over time as those unable to adapt die off.

**NATURALISTIC FALLACY:** The mistaken idea that we can say how things ought to be, based on a knowledge of how things are. It is also known as "Hume's law."

**NATURE SPIRITS:** The spirit or consciousness in nature which directs the growth of plants, trees, flowers, and animals.

**NEOPLATONISM:** Medieval philosophy combining Plato's teachings and religious thinking.

**NEW AGE:** Contemporary philosophy that stresses higher spiritual consciousness on a global level.

**NIHILISM:** The ultimate in a despairing, negative worldview. Utter hopelessness.

**NINDRAS:** Ideas which are obtained or relieved during sleep or astral travel, but most often forgotten on awakening.

**NIRVANA:** Liberation from the body-mind, basically the same as enlightenment, self realization, Satori, Samadhi, etc.

**NOMINALISM:** The Middle Ages belief that opposed the Aristotelian theory of Universals.

**NOUMENA:** Kant's name for the metaphysical world, the reality that lies beyond our ability to perceive.

**OBJECTIVISM:** Ayn Rand's popular twentieth-century view that combines rugged individualism and laissez-faire capitalism.

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**OBJECTIVITY:** The idea that knowledge does not reflect personal concerns, but its true for everybody.

**OCKHAM'S RAZOR:** The philosophical version of the slogan: Keep it simple. The simplest solution to a problem or question is also usually the correct one.

**OEDIPUS COMPLEX:** In Freudian psychology, the problem young boys experience when they feel in competition with their father for their mother's love. This complex sometimes persists in later life.

**OJAS:** The highest form of energy in the human body. If expressed as an aura, it would be a golden glow or halo around the head.

**OM or AUM:** And the modern version is now "Amen," means "I believe." The vibration of creation. The "word" of God.

**ONTOLOGY:** The study of being, or existence. Ontologists want to know what we mean when we say something exists.

**"OPEN EYES":** The phrase graphically describes the non-exclusive, non-inward, native State of the Divinely Self- Realized Adept, Who is Identified Unconditionally with the Divine Reality, while also allowing whatever arises to appear in the Divine Consciousness (and spontaneously Recognizing everything that arises as only a modification of That One.) The Transcendental Self is intuited in the mature phases of the advanced stage of life, but It can be Realized at that stage only by the forced (or Grace-Given) exclusion of the phenomena of world, body, mind, and self. In "Open Eyes," that impulse to exclusion is unnecessary, as "the Eyes of the Heart Open" and Perfect Realization of the Spiritual, Transcendental, and Divine Self in the final stage of life becomes permanent and incorruptible by any phenomenal events.

**OTHERING:** Michael Foucault's name for the way people distinguish themselves from other people, usually in a pejorative way.

**OVERSELF:** The soul, super consciousness, spirit. In Sanskrit, called adhyatma.

**PADMASANA:** The "lotus position" used in meditation.

**PANDIT/PUNDIT:** An eastern name for a person who has thoroughly studied the scriptures and various religions, but is *not* a teacher.

**PANTHEISM:** The belief that God is all things. This means that people and Nature are aspects of God and have divine power in and of themselves.

**PARADIGM SHIFT:** A drastic change in the way the human race lives and thinks as a result of an important new discovery or development.

**PARADOX:** A seemingly contradictory concept that, upon close examination, is not contradictory at all.

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**PARAMATA:** The supreme self, the supreme atman. Also called the overself, consciousness prior to the body and mind.

**PAROLE:** The French word for speech. Saussure used the term to refer to individual speech acts made possible by *langue*, or language.

**PATRIARCHY:** The system of thinking and acting that sees fatherhood as a special source of power and authority.

**PENIS ENVY:** A very questionable Freudian idea that women are jealous of men. It has been used to try and discredit women's thinking and behavior.

**PHENOMENAL WORLD:** The world as it appears to our senses.

**PHENOMENOLOGY:** Philosophy founded by Edmund Husserl that says that "intentionality," or attitude, always goes along with consciousness.

**PHILOSOPHER:** One who is in a state of divine-self realization (one's first love) and uses "intuition" along with unconditional love to lead others "back home."

**PHILOSOPHIES:** The philosophers of the French Enlightenment. They believed that philosophy was an important means of bringing about progress.

**PHILOSOPHY:** Literally the "love of wisdom," from the Greek words *philos* and *sophia*.

**PHONEME:** In linguistics, a consonant or a vowel sound that is recognizably different from other sounds used to make words. It is the smallest unit of sound in language.

**PHYSIS:** The ancient Greek word for the natural world.

**PINGALA:** A channel on the right side of the spinal cord. It contains sensors and motor fibers which effect physical life and one's metaphysical life.

**PLEASURE AND PAIN:** These are a form of controlling conditions. With too much pain one seeks pleasure. If one indulges in pleasure, one creates pain again. One begins to develop intelligence by the alternating cycles of pain and pleasure. One learns to control the body which is the foundation for spiritual matters.

**PLEASURE PRINCIPLE:** In Freudian psychology, the idea that all people from birth pursue pleasurable experience in the form of physical and emotional gratification.

**PLURALISM:** The belief that the world is made up of lots of separate, independent things.

**POLIS:** The Greek word for city-state. Athens was a city-state. The words "politics" comes from *polis*.

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**POSTMODERNISM:** The current state of philosophy falls under the label of Postmodernism. Perhaps future generations will have another name for this era.

**PRAGMATISM:** Philosophy founded by C.S. Peirce and William James that says the meaning of anything depends on its practical effects.

**PRANIC:** The Sanskrit work "prana" literally means "life-energy." It generally refers to the life-energy animating all beings and pervading everything in conditional Nature. In the human body-mind, circulation of this universal lifeenergy is associated with the heartbeat and the cycles of the breath. In esoteric Yogic Teachings, prana is also a specific technical name for one of a number of forms of etheric energy that functionally sustain the bodily being. The finite pranic energies that sustain individual beings are only conditional, localized, and temporary phenomena of the realm of cosmic Nature.

**PREDESTINATION:** The belief that your fate is determined before you are born, and nothing you do in this life will make a difference as to whether you go to Heaven or Hell. The Calvinist belief that God has determined ahead of time whether you will go to heaven or hell.

**PREMISE:** A statement given as a reason for an argument's conclusion.

**PRESOCRATIC PHILOSOPHERS:** The group of philosophers, also called Monists, who offered theories that the nature of reality was composed of one thing (water, air, fire, numbers, and so on).

**PROPOSITIONS:** In analytic philosophy, statements that may be asserted, whether or not they are asserted and whether or not they are true.

**PROTESTANT WORK ETHIC:** According to Weber's sociology, the tendency among Protestants to work hard and lead thrifty lives. This work ethic contributed to the development of capitalism.

**PSYCHOMETRY:** The ability to touch or hold an object and receive mental pictures of what this object has been through in its life.

**PURE LAND:** A metaphorical expression for the world of Truth and Purity revealed in enlightenment. (same as holy land)

**PURGATORY:** Not heaven or hell. It is a temporary place you stay in between life times in the physical and decide what you did wrong in the physical life and how to overcome it in the next incarnation into the physical world again. When one finally evolves enough and achieves enlightenment, etc. one is not reborn into the physical world again.

**QUANTIFIER:** In analytic philosophy, a concept that indicates amount. A universal quantifier indicates all of the objects of the kind referred to. An existential quantifier indicates at least one of all the objects.

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**RAJA YOGA:** Raja is royal and so "royal yoga," the special training of self-mastery in meditation, and not to depend on others or a teacher for spiritual progress.

**RATIONALISM:** The epistemological position that we can have knowledge without experience.

**RATIONALIST:** The philosophy of Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz. They believe that there are innate ideas in the mind, and not everything we know must necessarily be gathered through sensory experience.

**REALISM:** The belief that universals, or ideas about reality, exist in reality outside the mind.

**REALITY PRINCIPLE:** In Freudian psychology, the idea that our desires are often frustrated by our circumstances.

**RECURSIVENESS:** The degree of interconnectedness of the various elements of a complex system. The more recursive the system, the more unpredictable it becomes.

**REDUCTION:** In Husserl's philosophy, the act of identifying your own intentionality or attitude in the way you see things after you have bracketed out the intentionality of science.

**REINCARNATION:** The re-entering or being reborn into the physical world again and again until a person learns the purpose of this life, which is master or conquer one's physical and mental conditions and to achieve (actually return to) a condition of God-self-realization. Also known as: liberation, kingdom of God, Satori, Nirvana, eternal life (as spirit consciousness), finding the "golden fleece" (Greek).

**RELATIVISM:** The belief that things such as morality vary from society to society and culture to culture, and none is better or worse than any other. The idea that notions of truth and falsehood or good and bad are not universally true, but may be different in different societies. In other words, good and bad may be understood relative to the way society works.

**REPRESSION:** In Freudian psychology, the subconscious inability to face unacceptable wishes.

**SADHANA:** Spiritual disciplines.

**SADHU:** A holy man, a monk, similar to a Christian priest.

**SAHASRARA:** The "seventh" center, or chakra.

**SAMADHI:** Self realization, revelation. Same as Satori, Nirvana, Christhood, heaven, Tao, etc.

**SAMANA:** A "vital force" at the center of the solar plexus.

**SAMATWA:** Tranquility of temperament. Peace of mind.

**SAMSARA:** The many cycles of birth, living, and death needed to achieve liberation from the physical plane.

**SANCHITA KARMA:** Karma that can be set aside to see how a person performs in life. This kind of karma can be forgiven of an individual if one acts correctly in life.

**SANNYAS:** The life style of self denial of a person who enters a monastery and has dedicated their whole life to God/self realization.

**SARASVATI:** Refers to the "divine mother" of any religion, Christian, Hinduism, Lamastic, etc.; "the Goddess of Learning."

**SAT:** Absolute existence or pure consciousness-being prior to creation, i.e., God, reality, truth.

**SATYA:** Truthfulness and abstinences from deceiving others.

**SATYA YUGA:** The first of the four world periods (we now are in Kali Yuga).

**SCHOLASTICISM:** Medieval philosophy based on Aristotle's logic. It became notorious for focusing on irrelevant questions, but eventually led toward a more scientific worldview.

**SELF-POSSESSION or SELF-POSSESSED:** Conventionally, "self-possessed" means "possessed *of oneself*" – or having full control (calmness, or composure) of one's feelings, impulses, habits, and actions. This text uses the term to indicate the state of being possessed *by* one's egoic self, or controlled by chronically self-referring (or egoic) tendencies of attention, feeling, thought, desire, and action. Thus, unless (in every moment) body, emotion, desire, thought, separate and separative self, and all attention are actively and completely surrendered, one is egoically "selfpossessed," even when exhibiting personal control of one's feelings, habits, and actions.

**SHAKTI (SANSKRIT):** The energy of God. That which creates, preserves and ends the universe or G.O.D., generating, organizing, and dissolving. The Living Conscious Force or Divine Cosmic and Manifesting Energy; the generative Power and Motion of the cosmos; Spiritual Power; the Life-Current of the Living God. When capitalized (Shakti), the term refers to the Universal or Perfect Divine Power. When written in lower case (shakti), the term refers to that same Power in the form of various finite energies and activities, high or low, within or associated with the human individual. Traditionally, the Divine Self-Radiance (the "female" aspect of the One Reality), or the All- Pervading Energy that is modified as all conditional forms, has been contacted and worshiped as the Divine Goddess. By Herself, She is "Maya," the Goddess associated with the deluding power of Nature, or the veiling of God.

**SHAKTIPAT:** In Hindu, "Shaktipat" is the "descent of the Power." Yogic Shaktipat, through which Yogic Adepts transmit natural, conditional energies (or partial manifestations of the Divine Spirit-Current), is typically granted through touch, word, glance, or regard.

**SHANTI:** Means "place," at the end of a discourse. In Christian religion, it is the same as Pax Vobiscum (Latin) meaning "peace be with you," i.e., the place of peace, rest, God union, Satori, at-onement, self realization, Nirvana, etc.

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SHATSAMPATTI: A person who is studying with an advanced teacher to achieve enlightenment liberation, Satori, Nirvana, heaven, will be taught six things:

1. Shama: the ability to remain tranquil.
2. Dama: body control.
3. Uparati: non-desire of another's possessions not to be jealous; to be content with what one has.
4. Titiksha: to endure difficulties with patience, and a calm mind.
5. Shradda: to be sincere, to accent one self and others as they are.
6. Samadhana: unwavering concentration in the goal to liberation, self realization.

SHENG JEN: (Chinese). "Wise man," a sage.

SHIEN: (Chinese). Taoism. A human who has achieved (or in actuality, "*returned*" to) his/her *original* angelic condition.

SHENG WANG: A ruler with wisdom, goodness.

SHIH FEI: Means "things opposite," right, wrong, up-down, truth, lies, etc.

SHIVA: Has several meanings. In the Hindu trinity shiva is the destroyer. The "D" in G.O.D., or dissolver, death. The "end" of the "cycle" of creation.

SIDDHA: One who has reached "perfection" through many incarnations, i.e., God realization. Same as Samadhi, Satori, Nirvana, heaven, self realization. The "seventh stage" of spiritual evolution.

SIGNIFIED: In structural linguistics, an actual thing referred to by a word, or signifier.

SIGNIFIER: In structural linguistics, a thing, such as a word or sign, that refers to something. Saussure saw language as a system of signifiers.

SIN: The separation from God union or God realization, and the creating of the psychological egoic mentality. The Greek character of Narcissus is the same metaphor for an egoic person who is separated from God-self-realization. "What does 'sin' mean, anyway? It comes from the Greek word "hamartia," which means 'to miss the mark,' the Mark of God, of Divine Communion. Sin is dissociation from the Divine, not mere acts. All sins are the same. They are all about missing the mark."

SKEPTICISM: The view that we can't be certain of something. It comes from an ancient Greek word meaning "seeking."

SOCIAL CONSTRUCTEDNESS: Refers to the degree that ideas about reality, including ideas about differences between men and women, actually depend on social attitudes, rather than on biological or physical facts.

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**SOCIAL CONTRACT:** A relationship between the government and the people. It could be formally agreed upon or an unwritten, implicit agreement. Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau all had versions of what they felt was the ideal social contract.

**SOCIAL FACTS:** According to Durkeim, things and events that pertain to social existence. As such, they don't need to be explained in terms of nonsocial influences.

**SOLID, PECULIAR and VITAL:** The three distinct character types or patterns - ways individuals tend to dramatize egoity in the first three stages of life - which He calls "solid," "peculiar," and "vital." These character types correspond, respectively, to the reactive and self-protective egoic strategies of a characteristically mental (or chronologically mentally conceptual), a characteristically emotional (and even hysterical), and a characteristically vital (or physically self-indulgent) kind.

**SOPHISTRY:** The frivolous misuse of philosophy to teach how to win arguments and sway opinions via linguistic legerdemain.

**SOUL:** Not the "ego." The soul of super consciousness, the pure consciousness-awareness, prior to the physical body, mind, and brain. Also known as spirit, or the "holy spirit" *in* each human being.

**SPHOTA:** A thought or word which, when heard, makes the mind suddenly open up in a flash of insight or understanding.

**SRI:** A prefix which means reverend or holy, like the English use "Esquire," or American use, "*Mr.*" A symbol of respect.

**STOICISM:** Hellenistic philosophy founded by Zeno in the third century B.C.E. that stresses emotional detachment from the workings of fate.

**STRUCTURALISM:** The linguistic and anthropological theory that different aspects of thinking, language, and culture are related to one another in a logical pattern.

**SUBCONSCIOUS:** The part of the mind where everything that has happened and everything we have done in life is "stored." It is where our *future* "karma" comes from.

**SUBJECT:** According to post-structuralist theory, the self as it is structured through language.

**SUBJECTIVITY:** The ideas that knowledge stems from personal characteristics and situations.

**SUBSTANCE:** A philosophical term for what exists that can be used in different ways. Some philosophers use it to mean material stuff, others use it to refer to material and spiritual stuff.

**SUPERSTRUCTURE:** According to Marxism, those aspects of society that express beliefs, including religion and the arts.



**SUSHUMNA:** A channel in the subtle body which is in the center of the spine. The path the kundalini flows through from bottom to the top in the brain.

**SUTRA:** A terse sentence where a general doctrine is given, where much truth is compared into little space. Vedanta and yoga sutras are examples.

**SVAHA:** A mantra said after a prayer or religious ceremony. Like "amen" or "so be it."

**SWADHISHTRANA CHAKRA:** A lower chakra in the area of the reproductive organ.

**SWAMI:** Spiritual teacher, a prefix.

**SYLLOGISM:** Aristotle's logical argument that has two premises and a conclusion. The famous example is, "All men are mortal. Socrates is a man. Therefore, Socrates is mortal."

**SYNCHRONIC:** A view of language, in structural linguistics, that looks at language as a system that exists all at the same time.

**TABULA RASA:** Latin for "blank slate." Many philosophers, including John Locke and Voltaire, believed that we are born with an empty mind, ready to have sensory experiences imprinted on our brains.

**TAI CHI:** (Chinese). Taoism. The state of perfect union, union with Tao, God-self-realization.

**TAMAS:** A person who is slow in learning or lazy.

**TANMATRAS:** The five fundamental principles which correspond to the five senses: sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell, which corresponds to the energies of air, fire, earth, ether, water.

**TANTRAS:** Any of the writings or scriptures pertaining to the worship of "shakti." The "force" of God which through correct practice we can obtain freedom, liberation, enlightenment, etc.

**TAO:** Means God, supreme self, pure consciousness being prior to creation, the "way," "truth," "reality."

**TAPAS:** One's daily spiritual disciplines.

**TATHAGATA:** Literally "thus-gone" or "thus-come." One who by walking on the path of reality has reached the ultimate reality, i.e., an enlightened person. The term by which the Buddha commonly referred to himself.

**TE or TEH:** (Chinese). "Virtue."

**TELEOLOGY:** The study of the purpose of things in the natural world. It stems from the ancient Greek word *telos*, meaning end or completion. Teleology has been discredited by modern scientists.

**THINGS IN THEMSELVES:** This is Kant's name for the Noumenal world, the metaphysical reality beyond the limited reality that we can perceive, which he called the phenomenal world.

**TRANSCENDENCE:** Beyond experience. The idealists believed we can have a transcendent understanding of a unified reality.

**TYAGA:** The renunciation of possessions and social activities.

**UNCONSCIOUS:** In Freudian psychology, the aspect of the mind that contains wishes and desires that are not consciously recognized.

**UNIVERSALS:** Aristotle's spin on Platonic Forms. He believed that the Forms were within the physical object, not separate entities in another dimension.

**UNMANI:** The state in which we are *out* of the body such as in "astral travel."

**UPANISHAD:** Certain books which contain the philosophical portions of the "Vedas." There are 108 Upanishads. The main ones are: Isha, Kena, Katha, Prasna, Mundaka, Mandukya, Chandogya, Brigadaranyaka, Aitareya, Taittiriya. The Upanishads brought to a close each of the four "Vedas," and at the end of the vedas was the word "anta," meaning "end" and thusly "vedanta" or "end of the vedas."

**UTILITARIANISM:** A philosophy of moral behavior that says the best actions are those that produce the greatest good for the greatest number.

**VAIDHI BHAKTI:** Extreme devotion to one's God, with much ritual and ceremony.

**VASANAS:** Habits or tendencies, attachments which keep a soul earthbound. They are *not* desires, but only habits and can be overcome.

**VEDAS:** This, the origin of Indian religion, they are the teachings of high mystical function of the human body and the soul, or consciousness-spirit. They existed before the Bible and alkoran and were probably derived from ancient Taoism. All the early spiritual teachings were concerned with self realization and were similar. They all taught "Godism." It is a modern, intellectualized man kind which has fragmented a simple and pure teaching into many beliefs and created "religions" and disharmony.

**VIDEHAMUKTI:** The state during which one is able to attain liberation while out of the body.

**VIDYA:** Any kind of *general* "knowledge."

**VISHUDDHA:** The fifth chakra at the level of the throat.

**VITALISM:** The belief that everything that makes up reality is alive and capable of thinking.

**VITAL SHOCK:** The primal recoil of every individual from the experience of being born - and, throughout the course of egoic life, from the vulnerable condition of bodily existence and of relationship itself.

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WU-HSING: (Chinese). "Five elements," earth, fire, metal, water, wood, i.e., the five energies or great performers of creation.

WU LUN: The basic five relationships from which all other relationships occur:

1. Between king and subject.
2. Between father and son.
3. Between husband and wife.
4. Between brothers (or sisters)
5. Between friends.

YAMA: Self control.

YI: (Chinese). Righteousness.

YIN AND YANG: The original energy of the universe is fathomless and incomprehensible. It is beyond time and beyond space. Contained within it is all existence and non-existence. Yet it is neither existence nor non-existence. The ancient sages in one region of the world named it Tao. Tao, as the Subtle Origin of the universe, brings forth all things, nurtures and sustains them, and then draws them back to return to their subtle source. The ancient achieved ones revealed the subtle truth that the universe has two apparent aspects. One is the unmanifest aspect - the undivided oneness or ultimate nothingness, said to exist "before Heaven and Earth were born." In this aspect, the primal energy of the universe is undifferentiated, absolutely whole and complete. The other aspect is the manifest, perceptible world of multiplicity which is "after Heaven and Earth were born." Although these aspects appear as two, the manifest and the unmanifest are in fact one.

Tao manifests itself through an active process of self-expression. Creation may be viewed as the process in which the organization of the undifferentiated primal energy occurs. This organization brings about a polarization of the primal energy into two distinct categories called yin and yang. Although the active aspect (yang) occurs first, its presence implies the possibility of a relatively static perspective (yin) from which the action may be perceived. It is impossible to directly experience or absolutely define the quality of an action (yang) in space. It can be perceived only in relation to a solidified perspective (yin) which coincides and corresponds with it.

YOGA: Means "union" (union of God and man).

ZEN: (Ch'an). A sect of Buddhism which is only interested in God-self-realization, and does not use ceremonies or rituals. It's ancient origin is from Taoism, not the "folk" Taoism of today.