GLOSSARY

- **Advaitism** - The “non-dualist” school of Vedanta founded by the 8th Century Indian philosopher Sankaracharya.

- **Angira** - Is a Vedic sage who has formulated (“heard”) most of the fourth Veda called Atharvaveda.

- **Atharva Veda** - This word is a compound of Atharvan, an ancient Rishi, and Veda, meaning “Knowledge”. It is a sacred text of Hinduism and one of the four Vedas, often called the “fourth Veda”.

- **Atmiya Sabha** - A friendly society, founded by Raja Rammohan Roy in 1815.

- **Avatar** - The incarnation of a God.

- **BangaDut** - A Bengali weekly newspaper, published in May 1829. It was actually the Bengali edition of the English newspaper, Bengal Herald.

- **Bengal Hurkaru** - The word Harkaru means messenger. It was a free trading English liberal newspaper, which began its publication at 1798.

- **Bhagavad Gita** – It is a Hindu scripture in Sanskrit, which was a part of the Hindu epic Mahabharata.

- **Bhashya** - In Sanskrit literature, “Bhashya” means “commentary” or “exposition”.

- **Brahma** - Brahma is the deva (God) of creation in Hinduism.

- **Brahmajnan** - It is the supreme knowledge a Hindu can attain after exploring our mind completely.

- **Brahman** - The Supreme or universal soul.

- **Brahmins** - Brahmin is a Varna in Vedic Hinduism and also caste of people who are members of it.

- **Brahmo Balika Shikshalaya** - Established in 16 May 1890 by the Sadharan Brahmo Samaj on the 12th anniversary of its foundation. It was the second school for girls in Calcutta.

- **Brahmo** - An adherent of Brahmoism. Brahmoism does not forbid its followers from retaining other faiths like Hinduism, Islam or Christianity.

- **Brahmo Samaj** - Is the societal component of Brahmoism, a monotheistic reformist and renaissance movement in Hindu religion. It was started at Calcutta on 20th August 1828 by Raja Rammohan Roy.
- **Brahmo Sammilan Samaj** - This is a new name to all the three sections Adi, Navabidhan, and Sadharan Brahmo Samaj proposed to be adopted by one of the founders of the Sadharan Brahmo Samaj, barrister Chitta Ranjan Das.

- **Brahma Sutra** - It is also known as the Vedanta Sutras. It is an early exposition of the Vedanta interpretation of the Upanishads. It consists of 555 sutras, in four chapters.

- **Brihaspati** - A Hindu God and a Vedic deity.

- **Darshana** - Means philosophy. It implies our vision as to how we look at the world and our self.

- **Dayabhaga** - A Hindu law treatise written by Jimutavahana on inheritance procedure.

- **Dharma** - The principle that orders the universe; one’s conduct in conformity with such a principle.

- **Dharma Sabha** - This was a rival association of Brahmo Samaj, formed by the orthodox Hindu circles under Raja Radhakanta Dev.

- **Fauzdari Adalat** - Courts of criminal justice in Mughal and British India.

- **Gaudiya Vyakarana** - The first complete Bengali grammar authored by Raja Rammohan Roy and published by the Calcutta School Book Society.

- **Ghat** - The term refers to a series of steps leading down to a body of water, particularly a holy river.

- **Gurukuls** - It was a type of school in India, residential in nature. They had existed since the Vedic age.

- **Hindus** - Of or relating to Hinduism, or to Hindus and their culture.

- **Isopanishad** - The word Isha literally means “ruler, master, lord.” The concept “Isha” exhibits monoism in one interpretation, or a form of monotheism in alternate interpretation, It is a Mukhya Upanishad.

- **Jains** - The word is derived from the Sanskrit word Jina (conqueror). Followers of the path practised and preached by the Jinas are known as Jains.

- **Jnan** - Knowledge, as acquired through meditation, that one’s self (atman) is identical with Ultimate Reality Brahman.

- **Juggunu** - “Lord of the Universe”, is a deity worshipped by Hindus and Buddhists.

- **Kalpa Sutra** - Is a Jain text containing the biographies of the Jain Tirthankaras, notably Parshvanath and Mahavira, including the latter’s Nirvana.
- Katha Upanishad - Katha literally means “distress”. It is one of the mukhya Upanishads, embedded in the last short eight sections of the Katha school of the Yajurveda. It asserts that “Atman (Soul, Self) exists, teaches the precept “seek self knowledge which is Highest Bliss.”

- Kayasthas - It is a caste or community of Hindus originating in India.

- Kena Upanishad - Kena literally means, depending on the object-subject context, “by what, by whom, whence, how, why, from what cause.” It is a Vedic Sanskrit text classified as one of the primary or mukhya Upanishads. It is also significant in asserting the idea of “Spiritual Man”.

- Kulin Brahmans - The word Kulin means ‘highborn’. Kulin Brahmans are the Bengali Brahmans who can trace themselves to the five families of Kanauj who migrated to Bengal.

- Mahabharata - Is one of the two major Sanskrit epics of ancient India, contains philosophical and devotional material.

- Mahavidyalaya - A great seat of learning.

- Maitreyi - Was a philosopher from ancient India who lived during the Vedic period. She was the second wife of the sage and philosopher, Yajnavalkya. She was called a brahmavadini, an “expounder of the Vedas.”

- Manu - A progenitor of humanity being the first human to appear in the world in an epoch after universal destruction.

- Maratha - A member of the princely and military castes of the former Hindu kingdom of Maharashtra in Central India.

- Marwari - An Indian ethnic group originating in the marwar region.

- Maulavi - It is an honorific Islamic religious title.

- Mirat-ul-Akbar- Literally means Mirror of News, was a Persian language journal founded and edited by Raja Rammohan Roy.

- Mitakshara - This was a legal commentary, best known for its theory of “inheritance by birth”. It was written by Vijnanesvara.

- Mohammedan - Muslim, Islamic.

- Moksha - It means liberation, the final goal of human life.

- Muslim - A person who is a follower and believer of Islam.

- Moslem Shariat - It is the Islamic legal system derived from the religious precepts of Islam, particularly the Quran and the Hadith.
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- **Mughol** - A member of the Muslim dynasty of Mongol origin, which ruled much of India from the 16th to the 19th Century.

- **Muktear** - It means “chosen”, refers to the head of a village or mahalle (neighboured) in many Arab countries as well as in Turkey and Cyprus.

- **Mundaka Upanishad** - Mundaka literally means “shaved, shorn, lopped trunk of a tree.” The word as title of the Upanishad possibly refers to “knowledge that shaves, or liberates, one of errors and ignorance.” It is a Vedic text embedded inside the Atharvaveda. It is also one of the mukhya Upanishads.

- **Munshi** - Native secretary, native language teachers employed by Europeans.

- **Mussalman** - A Muslim.

- **Nizamat Adalat** - The chief criminal court of appeal in the Bengal Presidency from courts administering Hindu and Islamic law.

- **Praishitto** – Salvation from sin.

- **Pandits** - A learned person in India; someone with knowledge of Sanskrit, philosophy, religion and law; a Hindu scholar.

- **Puranas** - Name of an ancient Indian genre (or a group of related genres) of Hindu or Jain literature. They are primarily post- Vedic texts containing a narrative of the history of the Universe.

- **Purdaha** - The practice in certain Muslim and Hindu societies of screening women from men or strangers.

- **Rarhi** - Rarhi is a category of Bengali Brahmins. They are from the Rarh region South-west of the Ganges.

- **Rishis** - A Vedic poet and seer who composed Rig Vedic hymns.

- **Sahamarana** - Dying with, i.e. the immolation of herself by a widow upon the pyre of her husband, cremation.

- **Saiva** - A worshipper of Siva or practiser of Shaivism.

- **Sakta** - This word pertains to Shakti. It means a person who worships Shakti as the wife of Shiva.

- **Samachar Chandrika** - A rival newspaper of Sambad Kaumudi, started by Bhabani Charan Bandyopadhyay. It became an organ of the orthodox Hindus.

- **Samachar Darpan** - Was a Bengali weekly newspaper published by the Baptist Missionary Society from the Baptist Mission Press at Serampore in the first half of the 19th century.
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- **Sambad Kaumudi** - It was a Bengali weekly newspaper published from Kolkata in the first half of the 19th Century by Raja Rammohan Roy and actively campaigned for the abolition of the Sati.

- **Sampradaya** - Is ‘tradition’ or a ‘religious system’.

- **Sankhya** - One of the six astika (orthodox) schools of Indian philosophy. It is described as the rationalist school of Indian philosophy.

- **Sarvattwa Dipika Sabha** - A literary society, formed at the Anglo Hindu School of Raja Rammohan Roy.

- **Sati** - Is an ancient Indian tradition of the immolation of a widow on her husband’s funeral pyre.

- **Shastras** - A scripture. a treatise or text written in explanation of some idea. Especially in matters involving religion.

- **Sheristadar** - Means “record keeper”, was the chief officer in Indian court entrusted with the tasking of receiving and checking court pleas.

- **Shudra** - Is the fourth varna, other three are Brahmins, Kshatriya, and Vaishya.

- **Smriti** - Refers to a specific body of Hindu religious scripture attributed to an author. Smriti is a derivative work.

- **Sruti** - Refers to the body of most authoritative, ancient religious texts that includes the four Vedas.

- **Tantras** - Is an Asian tradition of beliefs and meditation and ritual practices that seeks to channel the divine energy of the macrocosm or godhead into the human microcosm, in order to attain siddhis and moksha.

- **Tantric** - Practitioners of tantra, are worshippers of Shakti.

- **Tols, Chatuspathis** - Special seminar for the study of Brahmins. The medium of instruction was Sanskrit.

- **Tuhufat Ul Muhhiwiddin** - A short treatise in Persian with an Arabic preface, written in 1803, by Raja Rammohan Roy. It is a gift to Monotheists.

- **Upanishad** - These are commonly referred to as Vedanta, The concepts of Brahman (ultimate reality) and Atman (Soul, self) are central ideas in all the Upanishads.

- **Upasana** - Literally it means “worship” and “Sitting near, attend to”.

- **Uroondhooti** - The wife of the sage Vashistha, one of the seven sages (Saptarshi).
Vaidika Brahman - They are a sect of Telegu speaking Smartha Brahmins, followers of Adi Shankaracharya.

Vaishnava - Is one of the major branches of Hinduism. They are the followers of the Vishnu, Nawab- Is an honorific title ratified and bestowed by the reigning Mughal Emperor to semi autonomous Muslim rulers of Princely States in South Asia.

Vaishya - Is one of the four varnas of the Hindu social order.

Vajra Suchi - The word ‘VajraSuchi’ means “A needle that is as hard as a rock/diamond”, a small tract aims at parading arguments against the notion of castes.

Veda - A large body of texts originating in Ancient India. They form the oldest layer of Sanskrit literature and the oldest sacred texts of Hinduism.

Vedanta Chandrika - Is also known as Moonlight of the Vedanta, written by Mrityunjaya Vidyalankar, Head pandit of the Government College, Calcutta in 1817. It was aimed directly against Raja Rammohan Roy’s own view of the Vedanta.

Vedanta Darshana - It is the philosophy of life as revealed in the Vedas, exclusively in the section of Vedas called Upanishads.

Vedanta - Is one of the six orthodox schools of Hindu philosophy, and originally referred to the Upanishads, a collection of foundational texts in Hinduism. Lokasreya- public good.

Vedanta Sar - is one of the best known epitomes (Prakarana Granthas) of the philosophy of the Upanishads, as taught by Sankaracharya.

Vedanta Shastra - Means all philosophical traditions concerned with interpreting three Vedic texts of Hinduist philosophy, namely the Upanishads, the Brahma Sutra and the Bhagavad Gita.

Vedantic - The system of philosophy that further develops the implications in the Upanishads that all reality is a single principle, Brahman.

Vedic - The language of the Vedas, closely related to classical Sanskrit.

Vishnu - One of the Trimurti in Hindu mythology, and the most popularly venerated God in Hinduism.

Vyasa - literally it means “Compiler also sometimes called Veda Vyasa, “the author of the Mahabharata, as well as a character in it.

Yajnavalkya - A sage and philosopher of Vedic India, was renowned for his expertise in Vedic rituals and his unrivalled talent in theological debate.

Yajurveda - This word is a compound of yajus, means “sacrificial formula” and Veda means “knowledge,” it is one of the four Vedas.
“Rammohan was out of proportions to his surroundings but was the man for whom our history had been watching through the night. He brought as a gift to his people a mind that comprehend the best aspirations of the east and the west; a mind that opened itself to the confluence of cultures............”

Rabindranath Tagore