

Acknowledgements

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Ruchi Tiwari

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations have been used within parenthesis in the text. 'Works Consulted' contains the details of these works.

- K - *Kanthapura*
- SR - *The Serpent and the Rope*
- CS - *The Cat and Shakespeare*
- CK - *Comrade Kirillov*
- CMM - *The Chessmaster and His Moves*
- GG - *On the Ganga Ghat*
- CW - *The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda*
- BG - *Bhagavad-Gita As It Is*

Hints on the Pronunciation of Sanskrit and Vernacular Words

Vowels

अ a आ a इ i ई i उ u ऊ u ऋ r लृ l ए e ऐ ai ओ o
 औ au

Consonants

Gutturals -	क ka	ख kha	ग ga	घ gha	ङ na
Palatals -	च ca	छ cha	ज gha	झ jha	ञ na
Cerebrals -	ट ta	ठ tha	ड da	ढ dha	ण na
Dentals -	त ta	थ tha	द da	ध dha	न na
Labials -	प pa	फ pha	ब ba	भ bha	म ma
Semivowels -	य ya	र ra	ल la	व va	
Sibilants -	भा sa	ऩ sa	स sa		
Aspirate -	ह ha				
	क्ष ksa	त्र tra	ज्ञ jna		

The vowels are pronounced as follows:

a – as in but	o – as in go
a – as in far	r – as in rim
ai – as in aisle	r – as in reed
au – as in how	u – as in push
e – as in they	u – as in rule
i – as in pin	
i – as in pique	

The consonants are pronounced as follows:

Gutturals

(pronounced from throat)

k – as in **kite**

kh – as in **Eckhart**

g – as in **give**

gh – as in **dig-hard**

n – as in **sing**

Cerebrals

(pronounced with tip of tongue)

t – as in **tub**

th – as in **thigh**

d – as in **dove**

dh – as in **red-hot**

n – as in **sing**

Dental

(pronounced with tongue against teeth)

t – as in **tub**

th – as in **light-heart**

d – as in **dove**

dh – as in **red-hot**

n – as in **nut**

Labials

(pronounced with the lips)

p – as in **pine**

ph – as in **up-hill**

b – as in **bird**

bh – as in **bub-hard**

m – as in **mother**

Palatals

(pronounced with middle of tongue)

c – as in **chair**

c – as in **staunch-heart**

j – as in **joy**

jh – as in **hedgehog**

c – as in **canyon**

Semivowels

(pronounced with tongue against roof of mouth)

y – as in **yes**

r – as in **run**

l – as in **light**

v – as in **vine**

Aspirate

h- as in **home**

Anusvara

M – a resonant nasal sound

Sibilants

s – as in German word *sprechen*

s – as in **shine**

s – as in **sun**