GLOSSARY

Abhyasa Persistent practice
Adhyatma Spiritual
(Adi-purusa The primal Man within and beyond creation)
Advayam Non-dual
Agamas The new scriptures, the Tantras
Ahaṅkāra The principle of egoty
Ahiṃsā Non-violence
Akarma Non-action
Akiṣṇa The possessionless (devotees)
Ananya bhakti Single-pointed devotion
Arcana Worship of God
Asamprajñāta, Nirvikalpa or Nirbiṣa (Samādhi) Seedless or objectless state (of mind), the summum bonum according to the yoga system of Patanjali
Āsana Bodily posture
Āśrama The stage of life
Āstānga-yoga The eight-fold path of yoga also known as Rāja-yoga associated with Patanjali
Ātmā Subjectively, the pure individual soul, also referred to the Supreme Reality
Ātma-nevenadana Self-surrender
Ātma-sakti God's potency responsible for ego sense
Avatāra Incarnation (especially, of God)
Avidyā Ignorance
Bhagavan The qualified Supreme Reality
Bhagavat Dharma The religion of devotion to Bhagavan (God)
Bhāgavat Pertain to God; devotee
Bhāgavatottama The highest kind of devotees
Bhakti Devotion
Bhakti-yoga The discipline of devotion
Bhāva Devotional attitude
Brahmacarya Celibacy
Brahman The Supreme Reality
Cakras The seven plexuses conceptually situated in different parts of body; they are, from up to down sahasrāra, ajña, visuddha, anāhaṭi, manipura, svadhisthan, and mulādhāra.
Citta The mind-stuff
Cittavṛtti Mental mode
Dama The control of the senses
Dāsya (bhāva) Servitude to God
Devā-sakti God's potency responsible for liberation; also called Yogānāyā
dhāranā Concentration or contemplation
Dhyāna Meditation
Dikṣā Spiritual initiation
Ekāntītvan or Ekānta-bhakti Single-pointedness or single-pointed devotion
Ghoṣa The reverberating mystical sound
Guṇa Quality, nature
Hṛt or Hṛdaya Heart, the core of being
Iṣṭa Sacrifice to gods
Īśvara-praṇidhāna Meditation on God
Jāra-bhāva The Beloved-paramour attitude of the devotee also called Madhura-bhāva or Rūdhra-bhāva
Jīva The qualified individual soul
Jīvan-mukta The state of enlightenment while still living
Jñāna Knowledge
Jñāna-yoga The discipline of knowledge
Kāivalya The isolation, liberation, mokṣa, muktī
Kalā Time
Kāmya-karma Motivated action
Kāntī-bhāva Devotional love of the beloved or wife; often referred as Madhura, Rūdhra or Jāra-bhāva
Karma Action
Karma-kāya Vedic section on rituals
Glossary

Karma-sakti God's creative potency; also called Prakṛti
Karma-yoga The discipline of action
Kirtana Chanting of God's name
Kriyā-yoga A set of religious practices
Kṛṣṇa Grace (of God or the great men)
Kundalini sakti The power of consciousness in man
Manana Discursive thinking; contemplation
Manas The mind
Māyā The potency of God, the Matter; the cosmic principle of origination, subjectively, illusion
Mokṣa or Mukti Liberation
Nāda The mystical Sound
Naimittika krama The occasional duties
Naisthika/Naisthiki Unrelenting
Navadhatā or Navavidhā Bhakti Nine modes of Bhakti (śrāvana, kirtana, smanā, pāda-sevana, ārcaṇa, vandana, diṣṭa, sakhya, and ātma-nivedana)
Nididhyāsana Meditation
Nirguna Unqualified
Nivṛtti-marga The spiritual path
Niyama The internal disciplines
Pāda-sevana Service to the lotus-feet of God and His devotees
Parābhakti The supreme love for God
Para Brahman The Supreme Reality
Param The highest
Paramahansa 'The great swan'; wise and totally detached devotee
Paramātman or Param Ātman The Supreme Reality
Prakṛti The primal Matter
Pramāṇa Means of valid knowledge
Prāṇa The group of five vital forces as also one of those; the five are: prāṇa, apana, udāna, vyāna, and samāna
Prāṇava AUM, the symbol of the Supreme Reality
Prāṇāyāma The control of breath
Pratyāhāra Withdrawal of organs from their objects
Pravṛtti-marga The path of motivated religious actions
Pūrta Actions pertaining to general good
Rajas The quality which moves and binds
Rāja-yoga A method of controlling Mind as propounded by Patanjali
Rati Passion for God
Rta Moral order
Rūḍha (bhāva) The Beloved-paramour attitude of the devotee; also called Madhura bhāva
Sādāhaka Spiritual aspirant
Sādhanā Spiritual effort
Sādhu A holy man
Sakhya (bhāva) The attitude of the devotee toward God characterized by friendship
Sakti The power (of God)
Sālokya Staying in the abode of God
Sāma The control of the mind
Samādhi Total cessation of mental modes; the eighth stage of āsāṅga-yoga
Sāmīpya Proximity with God
Santākāra Impressions on the soul
Sannyāsin A renunciate monk
Śānta bhāva The attitude of the devotee toward God characterized by total dependence
Sārṣṭi Attainment of the majesty of God
Śārūpya Attainment of the form similar to God
Satva The pure quality which enlightens and frees
Satya Truth; also the Supreme Reality
Sāyujya Coalescence with God (particularly Viśnu in this context)
Smanā The remembrance of God's name etc.
Sphoṭa The Logos
Śraddhā Faith
Śravaṇa Listening to God's name etc.
Śuddha bhakti Pure motiveless devotion for God
Susūṃsa The conceptual passage through the spinal cord, leading to the final beatitude
**Glossary**

- **Svadharma**: Duties enjoined for man according to his class in the society and station in life.
- **Tamás**: The impure quality which obstructs; the principle of inertia.
- **Tantra or Tantra-yoga**: A ritualistic method of spiritual effort; although it usually refers to the Śakti worship (worship of the Supreme Reality as a feminine principle), it also often refers to the worship of Śiva or Viṣṇu as the Supreme Reality.
- **Titikṣā**: Tolerance.
- **Turiya (avastha)**: The fourth state beyond waking, dream and deep sleep or the transcendental state.
- **Tyāga**: Renunciation.
- **Tyāgā**: Dispassion.
- **Vaiśnava**: Devotee of Viṣṇu or any of His incarnations.
- **Vairāgya**: Renunciation.
- **Vairājya Purusa**: The cosmic Man form of God consisting all creation as its limbs.
- **Vaiśākha**: Prostration.
- **Vānaprastha**: Recluse.
- **Vārṇa**: Class or caste.
- **Vārṇa-srama-dharma**: The codes of one's station and class.
- **Vātsalya bhāva**: The sentiment of parental affection (for God).
- **Vibhūti**: The special manifestation of God's quality in a being.
- **Vidhi**: Scriptural injunction.
- **Vikarma**: Prohibited action.
- **Vīrūṭ or Vairāja Purusa**: The cosmic Man form of God consisting all creation as its limbs.
- **Viṣṇumāyī**: The power of Viṣṇu, the cosmic power of the Supreme Reality; also called Śrī.
- **Viṣṇudvīpa**: Pure Matter.
- **Viveka**: The power of discrimination between real and unreal.
- **Vṛtti**: Mental mode.
- **Vyuha**: God's emanation (Vāsudeva, Saṅkarṣaṇa, Pradyumna and Aniruddha).
- **Yama**: The external disciplines.
- **Yoga**: The attainment; the spiritual effort.