

**COLLATION
OF
THEOSOPHICAL GLOSSARIES**

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Compiled by Scott J. Osterhage

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“Before we can come to an understanding among ourselves, we should lay down definitions – not necessarily hard and fast, but on the contrary definitions which would be elastic – nevertheless definitions which we can understand when we converse together and when we study together.”

– G. de Purucker

LIST OF TEXTS EXCERPTED (In order arranged in text.)

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Reference Abbreviation | **Title of Text - Original Publication Date** | Publisher, Edition Date Used - More info

TUP = Theosophical University Press
TC = Theosophy Company
PLP = Point Loma Publications

HELENA PETROVNA BLAVATSKY

TG | **Theosophical Glossary - 1892** | TC, No Date - Posthumous publication edited by G.R.S. Mead, not H.P.B.
IU | **Isis Unveiled - 1877** | TUP, 1988 - Terms from “Before the Veil,” pp. xxiii-xliv.
KT | **The Key to Theosophy - 1889** | TUP, 2002 - Glossary from end of book.
VS | **The Voice of the Silence - 1889** | TUP, 2015 - Glossary from end of book, and footnotes.
FY | **Five Years of Theosophy - 1885** | TC, 1980 - Glossary from end of book.

WILLIAM QUAN JUDGE

WG | **The Working Glossary - 1892** | Truslove, Hanson & Comba., 1899.
• WGa | Terms from *The Working Glossary* Appendix.

GOTTFRIED DE PURUCKER

OG | **Occult Glossary - 1933** | TUP, 1996.
WS | **Wind of the Spirit - 1944** | TUP, 1997 - Glossary from end of book.
WW | **Word Wisdom in the Esoteric Tradition - 1980** | PLP, 1980 - From a series of lectures given at Point Loma in 1913-14.

STUDLEY & ELOISE HART

ST | **Sanskrit Philosophical Terms - 1975** | TUP, 1975 - Largely culled from *Fountain-Source of Occultism* by G. de Purucker.

GEOFFREY A. BARBORKA

GH | **Gods and Heroes of the Bhagavad Gita - 1939** | TUP, 1939 - Online edition.

JUDITH TYBERG

SK | **Sanskrit Keys to the Wisdom Religion - 1940** | PLP, 1976 - Portions of text where terms are defined.
• SKo | Sanskrit terms from *The Ocean of Theosophy*, by William Q. Judge, 1893.
• SKv | Sanskrit terms from *The Voice of the Silence*, by H. P. Blavatsky, 1889.
• SKf | Sanskrit terms from *Fundamentals of the Esoteric Philosophy*, by G. de Purucker, 1932.
• SKs | Sanskrit terms from *The Secret Doctrine*, by H. P. Blavatsky, 1888.

RAPHAEL GIRARD

PV | **Esotericism of the Popol Vuh - 1948** | TUP, 1979 - Glossary from end of book; compiled by Blair A. Moffett.

ELSA-BRITA TITCHENELL

MO | **The Masks of Odin - 1985** | TUP, 1988 - Glossary from end of book.

GRACE F. KNOCHE, Editor

IN | **An Invitation to The Secret Doctrine - 1988** | TUP, 1988 - Glossary from end of book.

BRUCE CAMERON HALL

SP | **Sanskrit Pronunciation - 1992** | TUP, 1992 - Definitions from booklet.

JOHN P. VAN MATER

SI | **The Secret Doctrine Index - 1997** | TUP, 1997 - *Appendix of Foreign Phrases* only.

COMPILER'S NOTES

This *Collation of Theosophical Glossaries* is not a new set of “definitions” or “explanations,” nor an attempt to crystallize the terms included, but is rather a gathering of some major theosophical glossaries and some indices into one place, collating their entries into an encyclopedic format; thus making a single comprehensive resource for students.

The order of glossaries follows generally the chronology of the personalities responsible for the material. This is partially due to the fact that Blavatsky's *Theosophical Glossary* had the most entries, and therefore was logically placed first. It also seemed valuable to keep the glossaries by the same author next to each other, for those who might want a close comparison.

The order of entries in the text was in many cases revised to provide for two things. First, terms were arranged in alphabetical order disregarding breaks between words, since in places some words are separated or hyphenated, and some are not. Second, the terms were then arranged to allow for common entries to be grouped together, even if out of alphabetical order due to differences in spelling between glossaries. These terms are grouped generally, and is by no means a definitive separation, as ‘all things are related to all things.’

The style and form of each entry follows generally that of the *Theosophical Glossary*, with main words in bold upper and lower case letters. Entries from all other glossaries have been modified to fit this format for clarity and uniformity.

All diacritical marks have been eliminated from this edition. This is due in part to enhance search capabilities. In the case of “Brahma” and “Brahmā,” (Brahma, Neuter – Universe, and Brahmā, Masculine – Solar System) I felt it necessary to distinguish the two, so that these two terms are not confused. I have adopted Brahm/a for the masculine form, which then can be searched. I followed the spelling of the words in the glossaries, even if they may not be correct.

All non-Latin characters (i.e.; Greek, Hebrew, etc.) have been translated into Latin characters. The translations may not be wholly correct, so please consult the originals. Obviously, consult the original text for any changed or missing items, or if you are quoting it in another document.

There were numerous errors and formatting inconsistencies in the original versions, and to make it consistent and more readable, fine formatting and punctuation differences between various sources have been standardized for convention, clarity, and readability. Many abbreviations have also been spelled out and standardized.

The Voice of the Silence was the most difficult glossary to include because of the use of portions of the text as the reference and the glossary definition as the entry. The main word was often not in the text, so it was subjectively entered {in brackets like these} in the entry and bolded for format. Also included is the section and page numbers of the location in the original text where the entry appears. Some footnotes with explanations have been included, where they had definition-like information.

All references with “See **Another Entry**” have the format modified from the original text to stand out. In addition, the Compiler has included in [bracketed text] some information originally referenced within the text, as well as some explanatory items deemed prudent. All other items, such as cross-references, which are not formatted as stated are directly from the original glossaries. Any items added by the Compiler are in {these brackets}.

It has been roughly 23 years since this was first issued. I have worked on refining the text over the last few years. Some significant changes are:

The Secret Doctrine Index was not a glossary, so all but the *Appendix of Foreign Phrases* has been removed.

Wind of the Spirit glossary was added.

Sanskrit Philosophical Terms glossary was added.

The *Encyclopedic Theosophical Glossary* is deliberately kept separate, since it is periodically updated as a living document. This document should be used for a current definition of any term included. You may find it at The Theosophical Society, Pasadena website: <https://www.theosociety.org/pasadena/etgloss/etg-hp.htm>

I trust this version is helpful for those Seekers on the Path.

Scott J. Osterhage

September 17, 2020

Revised 1999 – *The Secret Doctrine Index* added (By Sally Dougherty)

Revised 1998 – *Esotericism of the Popul Vuh* and *The Masks of Odin* glossaries added (By Compiler)

May 18, 1997 – Original issue (By Jean Crabbendam, Sally Dougherty, Doreen Petros, and Compiler)