

## Glossary

*Abhidhammapitaka* — The third section of the canonical Buddhist scriptures or *Tipitaka*, comprising a philosophical development of the Buddha's teachings.

*Bhikkhu* (Thai: *Phikkhu* or *Phiksu*) — A Buddhist monk, also used as a suffix in Thai added to the names of monks.

*Bodhisattva* — In Theravada Buddhism, a highly spiritually developed person destined to become a fully enlightened Buddha.

*Cakkavattin* — The ideal Buddhist ruler, regarded as a future Buddha who has delayed his own salvation in order to lead humanity.

*Dhamma* (Thai: *Tham*) — The teaching and practice of the Buddha's message of salvation from suffering. In different contexts *dhamma* may mean either "Buddhist doctrine" or "righteousness".

*Dhutanga* (Thai: *Thudong*) — A term given to a set of severe ascetic practices that Buddhist monks may choose to follow. In Thailand

*dhutanga* practices are traditionally associated with monks of the forest or *aranyavasi* tradition.

*Jau Khana* — The name of a clerical administrative position in the Thai *sangha* given to monks in charge of different geographical groupings of the *sangha*, commonly translated as “Sangha Governor”.

*Kamma* (Thai: *Kam*) — An intentional action which leads to the accumulation of either merit (*puñña*) or demerit (*papa*), depending on whether the intention is moral or immoral, and which subsequently leads to future experiential reactions of the same moral or immoral quality as the original action.

*Khana Winaythorn* — Ecclesiastical Court established under the Sangha Act of 1941.

*Krommamyyin* — A senior title formerly awarded by the Thai king, usually to members of the royal family.

*Mahatherasamagama* (Thai: *Mahatherasamakhom*) — The Council of Elders (*thera*) of the Thai *sangha*, the supreme governing body of the Thai *sangha* under the Sangha Acts of 1902 and 1962.

*Nibbana* (Thai: *nippaan*) — Complete liberation from suffering, the Buddhist salvation.

*Nikaya* — A formally recognised sub-order of the *sangha*. In Thailand two main *nikaya* are recognised, the Thammayut or Thammayutikanikaya and the Mahanikay.

*Parian* — A grade of Pali clerical education in Thailand awarded to monks upon passing an ecclesiastical examination, granted in seven grades from *parian* 3 (basic) to *parian* 9 (advanced).

*Phra* — A title prefixed to the names of Thai monks, temples, holy objects, or members of the royal family.

*Phra Ratchakhana* — A term used collectively to denote the senior clerical titles awarded by the Thai king.

- Rorng Somdet* — Deputy Somdet, a term used to refer to a titled Phra Ratchakhana monk of a rank immediately below that of monks with Somdet titles.
- Saiyaasaat* — Thai supernaturalism and magic, distinct from Buddhism but often incorporating aspects of Buddhist belief.
- Samadhi* — Concentration meditation.
- Samanas'akti* (Thai: *Samanasak*) — The system of clerical titles awarded by the Thai Government and monarchy which determines organisational seniority in the administration of the *sangha*.
- Sangha* (Thai: *Sangkha*) — A collective term for the organisation or institution of the Buddhist monkhood.
- Sanghamontri* (Thai: *Sangkhamontri*) — A Sangha Minister elected under the 1941 Sangha Act.
- Sanghanayaka* (Thai: *Sangkhanayok*) — The Sangha Prime Minister, elected head of the Sanghasabha under the 1941 Sangha Act.
- Sangharaja* — The Supreme Patriarch of the Thai *sangha*, the most senior clerical title and administrative position.
- Sanghasabha* (Thai: *Sangkhasapha*) — The Sangha Council, the elected supreme administrative body of the Thai *sangha* under the 1941 Sangha Act.
- Sanghayana* — A Buddhist council held to resolve practical or doctrinal disputes or to produce a revised recension of the Buddhist scriptures, the *Tipitaka*.
- Sasana* — Literally, the religious teachings or instructions of the Buddha, often used to denote the Buddhist religion as a whole.
- Somdet* — A senior title conferred by the Thai king to both laity and monks. Monks with a Somdet title are called Somdet Phra Ratchakhana and are the most senior titled and administrative monks in the Thai *sangha* apart from the Sangharaja.

*Suttapitaka* — The second section of the canonical Buddhist scriptures or *Tipitaka*, composed mainly of the Buddha's discourses.

*Thera* — An Elder, a Buddhist monk who has been ordained for more than ten years.

*Tipitaka* — The canonical Buddhist scriptures, comprising three main divisions, the *Vinayapitaka*, *Suttapitaka*, and *Abhidhammapitaka*.

*Vinaya* — The clerical code of conduct recorded in the *Vinayapitaka*.

*Vinayapitaka* — The first section of the canonical Buddhist scriptures or *Tipitaka*, dealing largely with clerical practice.

*Vipassana* — Insight meditation.

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