

# Glossary

Most Buddhist terms were originally expressed in Pali and Sanskrit, languages of ancient India. Where they differ, the Pali and Sanskrit versions of terms are given here. Buddhists also use terms in their own languages, or the languages of other traditionally Buddhist countries in Asia.

<b>Sanskrit</b>	<b>Pali</b>	
Anatman	Anatta	The teaching of no fixed or unchanging selfhood
Bodhisattva		In Mahayana Buddhism, an archetypal being bent on Enlightenment for the sake of all beings
Buddha		“One who is awake to the Truth”; who is Enlightened
Dana	Dana	Generosity, giving, sharing; sometimes refers to food offerings made to monks and nuns
Dharma	Dhamma	“The Truth”; also the teaching of the Buddha
Enlightenment		A state of perfect wisdom and compassion; transcendence of self and other; beyond words
Karma	Kamma	“Action”: the Law of Karma states that actions have consequences.
Mahayana		The “Great Way”: the second of the three major phases of Buddhism
Nirvana	Nibbana	“Extinguishing of the fires” of greed, hatred and ignorance. The state of Enlightenment
Pali		The ancient Indian language in which the earliest Buddhist scriptures were preserved
Parinirvana	Parinibbana	The final passing away of the Buddha
Precepts		Ethical undertakings or training principles followed by Buddhists
Puja		Ritual, worship, devotional ceremony
Sangrahavastu	Sanghavadatthu	A means of unification, bringing people together inspired by the Buddha’s teachings
Sangha		Variously used to mean: 1. the community of Buddhists; 2. monastics; 3. all those who have gained Enlightenment since the Buddha
Sanskrit		The ancient Indian language in which many Mahayana scriptures were first written down
Sarnath		The place where the Buddha first taught the Dharma
Taking Refuge		(in the Three Jewels or Triple Gem): acknowledging that only the Buddha, Dharma/Dhamma’ and Sangha provide lasting safety from suffering
Theravada		The “Way of the Elders”: the earliest form of Buddhism existing today
Three Jewels/ Triple Gem		Buddha, Dharma/Dhamma and Sangha (the Three Refuges)
Vedic tradition		Spiritual tradition of the Buddha’s time, out of which Buddhism and Hinduism developed
Vihara		A “dwelling”; south Asian term for a temple or monastery where monks live

# Credits

## Handbook text

Munisha

## Handbook design

Bodhiketu

Munisha

## Illustration

Aloka

Adiccabandhu

## Video camera

Upekshapriya

Aparajita

Padmadhara

## Production

Aparajita

## Video editing

Upekshapriya

## Video directing

Munisha

Upekshapriya

## Script writing

Munisha

## Interactive web content

Kinelco

## Music

Roger Bygott

## Narration

Dominic Berry

Chandana

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### Buddhist volunteer

#### consultants

Chris Cullen (London Insight Meditation)

Joyce Miller (Thai Forest Tradition)

Wendy Ridley (FPMT)

### Specialists in ICT and

#### Religious Education

Sharon Artley

Paul Hopkins

Rosemary Rivett

## Video locations

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[www.clear-vision.org](http://www.clear-vision.org)**

The Clear Vision Trust  
16-20 Turner Street  
Manchester  
M4 1DZ  
UK

Tel 0161 839 9579  
Fax 0161 850 1839  
[education@clear-vision.org](mailto:education@clear-vision.org)  
[www.clear-vision.org](http://www.clear-vision.org)  
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**sabbe satta sukhi hontu**  
**May all beings be happy!**