

DICTIONARY OF EARLY INDIAN HISTORY



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CONTENTS

Preface	vii
Note on Transliteration	ix
The Dictionary	1
Bibliography	98

DICTIONARY OF EARLY INDIAN HISTORY

Acharakkovai. Post Sangam Tamil literary work belonging to the Pathinenkizhkanakku anthology, written by poet Peruvaayin Mulliyaar.

Aalaazhukku. An instrument used for measuring grains in Tamil region.

Abbutadharma. Buddhist literature on Buddha stories of miracles in Pali.

Abhidhamma Pitaka. Buddhist scripture, one of the three parts that make up the Tripitaka of Buddhist canon or collection of teaching, work on Metaphysics and Philosophy with seven sections viz. Dhamma Sangani, Vibhanga, Dhatu-Katha, Pugala-panmatti, Katha-vatu, Yamaka, Pattana.

Abhipala. Shepherd in the Rig-Vedic period.

Abhisekha Anointing. Ceremony in which sacred substances such as milk, yogurt, and sandalwood water are ritually poured over a *murti*, or image of a deity; modelled on ancient Indian coronation rituals.

Acara. Elite.

Achara-anga. One of the twelve Agamas of Jainism literatures. This *agam* describes the conduct, behaviour of ascetic life, and the penance of Lord Mahavir. It contains 18,000 Madhyama Padas; this is the oldest *agam* from a linguistic point of view.

Acharya. Teacher, leader of a Jain or Hindu ascetic lineage; a Christian equivalent might be a bishop.

Adhaka. Incarnation of Kali goddesses, 2 a unit of time of water to flow out of a pot through a hole of the same diameter as that of a wire four inches long made out of four Mashas of gold.

Adhavaryu. Aryan priest, performer of *yajna*, priest well-versed in Yajurveda.

Adhikaranas. It consisted four representatives of the four sections of people during Gupta period i.e (1) Nagararesthin (2) Sarthavaha (3) Prathama-Kulika

(4) Prathama-Kayatha who assisted the different regional officials.

Adhikari. He was official recorder or scribe who drew up documents and prepared sale-deeds. It came to be used as a title and issued as much in the Panji of the Fourteenth century A.D.

Adhikrita. Village lowest official according to Prasnapanishada during the later Vedic period.

Adhipati. An officer who was the in charge of 1000 villages during the Epic age.

Adhishthana. Basement of a *vimana*, a *mandapa*, or similar structures, forming a distinct architectural feature supporting walls and plasters or pillars and consisting of distinct moulded tiers.

Adhivasa. Type of garment which was used to cover an upper portion or part of body i.e. head e.g. cap of turban during the Rig Vedic Age.

Adhyaksha. Head of the department in Mauryan administration.

Adhyakshas. It means 'overseers', during the later Vedic Age; ruler delegated some power to decide the people disputes and impart justice.

Adhyakshas. Referred to the Magistrates, who were also given the

task of different departments of village and town administration during the Mauryan period.

Adimaitiral A group of slaves during Sangam period.

Adinatha 'First lord', an epithet of Rishabhanatha, the first Tirthankara of our current cosmic epoch.

Aehaiang First Greek-speaking people of Greece appeared in the scene around B.C 1200.

Agama. Scripture; literally coming down from the past, being passed on from one generation to the next; what has been passed down from the enlightened beings of the past; a term used by many Indic traditions for their collections of scripture, including the Jains. Canonical texts of Jainism considered the sacred books of the Jain religion, according to the Jains, the canonical literature originated from the first Tirthankara Rishabhanatha. Agam literature is divided into two groups: *Ang-agams* or *Ang-pravista-agams*. These texts contain the direct preaching of Lord Mahavir. These were compiled by Ganadharas. *Ang-bahya-agams* (outside of *Ang-agams*) these texts are expansions of *Ang-agams*. These were compiled by *Srut-kevalis*. *Ang-agams* or *Ang-pravista-agams* are written in the Prakrit language.

Aganaanuru. One of eight of Ettuthokai classical Tamil poetic work, it is the seventh book in the anthology of Sangam literature poems dealing with matters of love and separation. Other names for Akananuru include Neduntogai or Nedunthokai, Ahappattu, it was compiled by Rudrasarman at the behest of the Pandya king Ukkiraperuvazhuthi.

Agattiyam. Tamil literary work believed to be written by Saint Agathiyar who is considered to be 'father of the Tamil language', it was one of the earliest books on Tamil grammar which was lost and is believed to be compiled in the first Sangam.

Aghanya. Cow, cow not to be killed and an indication of economic prosperity.

Aghnya. Referred to not to kill (for Cows only).

Agni Purana. One of the 18 Hindu *Puranas* comprising of 15,400 verses associated with Lord Shiva. Contains the description of Salagrama; Describes the Isana Kalpa and it is one of the Tamo Guna Purana.

Agni. Terrestrial Deity during Rig-Vedic period, Fire-god, symbolized the vital spark, mediator between God and the humans.

Agnihotra. Daily oblation in sacred fire.

Agnyaadheya. Ritual for the establishment of the sacred fire in a house.

Agrahara. The Smallest units or divisions of the village during Gupta period.

Agraharikas. Superintendents of the Agraharas during the Gupta period.

Agrayaniya Purva. One of the Fourteen Purvas, translated as ancient or prior knowledge, are a large body of Jain scriptures that was preached by all Tirthankara's of Jainism, describes Nine realities (Navtattva), six substances (Shad-dravya), etc...

Agromomoi. District administrative officer in Mauryan administration, mentioned by Megasthenes in the Indica.

Ahanadu. Battlefield.

Ahappa. The inner circle of the fort wall.

Ahara. Small administrative areas which were under different classes of Mahamatras.

Aharas. Provinces were sub-divided into districts which were called

Aharas which were administered by Amatya during the Satvahanas and Mauryan period.

Ahars. District in Mauryan and Satvahana kingdom.

Ahavalar. A special class of bards who praised the king's heroic deeds in the battlefields and were often rewarded with horses.

Ahimsa. Nonviolence, absence of even the desire to do harm to any living being; nonviolence in thought, word, and deed; necessary pre-requisite for any spiritual advancement, according to Jainism; the central Jain ethical virtue; also one of the *vratas*; for monks, complete nonviolence to the extent that is humanly possible; for laypersons, avoiding deliberate harm to macroscopic living things and, typically, practicing vegetarianism.

Ahisheka. Sprinkling ceremony with liquids.

Aimperun Kulu. The Purohit the army chief, the ambassador, spies and ministers during the Satvahanas period.

Aimperunkuzhu. Group of official under the king in Sangam period.

Aindra. A sacrifice meant for providing the king superiority and supremacy over all kings.

Ainkurunuru. One of eight of Ettuthokai classical Tamil poetic work compiled by Kudalur Kizhar of 500 erotic poems. At the behest of Chera King Yanaikkatcey Mantaran Ceral Irumporai.

Aintinai-Aimpatu. Post Sangam Tamil literary work belonging to the Pathinenkizhkanakku anthology, written by the poet Kannan-koothanaar who lived in Madurai. It deals with *agam* subjects in detail the situation and emotions specific to each landscape.

Aintinai-Elupatu. Post Sangam Tamil literary work belonging to the Pathinenkizhkanakku anthology, written by the poet Muvathiyar. It deals with *agam* subjects in detail the situation and emotions specific to each landscape.

Aitareya Upanishad. One of the older, primary Upanishads commented upon by *acharyas* such as Adi Shankara and Madhvacharya. It is a Mukhya *Upanishad*, associated with the Rig-Veda. It figures as number eight in the Muktika canon of 108 Upanishads. The Aitareya *Upanishad* is a short prose text, divided into three chapters, containing 33 verses. It comprises the fourth, fifth and sixth chapters of the second book of the older Vedic text, Aitareya Aranyaka. The rishi of the Aitareya Aranyaka and

the Aitareya Brahmana is Aitareya Mahidasa. In Chandogya Upanishad, Aitareya Mahidasa is said to have lived for 116 years (Chhandogya 3.16.7). In the first chapter of the text, Atman, the inner self, is portrayed as a divine creator. In the second chapter, the three births of the Atman are described. The third chapter deals with the qualities of the self or Brahman. It contains one of the most famous expressions of the Vedanta, Prajnanam *Brahma*, which is one of the Mahavakyas Mahavakyas. 2 The first written English translation was published in 1805 by Colebrooke.

Aja. Name of the tribe mentioned in Rig Veda.

AjivaMatter. Substance which lacks awareness (jnana), perception (darsana), bliss (sukha), or energy (virya).

Ajivikas Sramana. Sect that was a major rival of early Jainism and Buddhism; attributed with a doctrine of fatalism which was likely an affirmation that, while one could avoid the accumulation of new karma, one could do nothing to accelerate the fruition or burning off of already present karma; this sect had died out by the year 1000 CE; its ascetics were possibly assimilated into the Digambara Jain community.

Ajpala. Goat maintainer in the Rig-Vedic period.

Akaradhyksha. Superintendent of Mines during Mauryan Empire.

Akisines. Ancient name for river Chenab.

Akratuh. People who had no faith in rituals.

Akrishta. Uncultivated wasteland in Mauryan Empire.

Aksapatalika. The word occurs in the Arthasastra of Kautilya and it stood for an officer in charge of records. Aksapatalika was an administrative department under the Palas and is also mentioned in the Panichobh Copper plate of Samudragupta.

Aksavapa. Disk thrower 2 Distribution of land property. 3 Superintendent of gambling.

Akshapataladhyaksha. Accountant General during Mauryan Empire.

Akshavapa. Superintendent of gambling, dicing etc. during the Later Vedic Age.

Alikas. Ploughmen.

Alinas. Name of the tribe mentioned in Rig Veda.

Allangaadi. Evening market in Tamil region and also called Andikkadai.

Alpa nasikam. Projected front end of an apsidal shrine resembling a kudu arch over pilasters, originally functioning as a small opening or fenestrated window *usually inkutas, koshtas* and *panajaras*.

Alpa vimana. Small, one-storeyed vimana. The parts are *adhishtanas, bhittior pada prastara, griva, sikhara and stupi*. It is usually without a *hara*.

Alumbilvel. Officer in charge of revenue matters.

Amachas. The in charge of *Aharas* During the *Satvahanas* reign.

Amaiccar. Ministers.

Amalaka or Amalasa or Amalasila Ribbed, lenticular or globoid part resembling the *amalaka* (Indian gooseberry fruit) crowning the top of the northern style *sikharaas* its characteristics; also adopted as the top of the Kadamba-Chalukya forms, sometimes as an alternative to the *grivasikhara* component of the southern *vimana* form.

Amarakosha. Lexicon written by Amarasimha in the time of Chandragupta II.

Amatryavarga. Appointing authority of the intelligence department in Mauryan administration.

Amatya. Civil governor or highest official of the province During the *Satvahanas*.

Ambanam. An instrument used for measuring grains in Tamil region.

Ambitabh. Immeasurable god.

Amitabha or Amida or Amitayus. Buddhist literary work is a celestial Buddha described in the scriptures of Mahayana Buddhism. Amitabha is the principal Buddha in Pure Land Buddhism, a branch of East Asian Buddhism. In Vajrayana Buddhism, Amitabha is known for his longevity attribute, magnetising red fire element, the aggregate of discernment pure, perception and the deep awareness of emptiness of phenomena. According to these scriptures, Amitabha possesses infinite merits resulting from good deeds over countless past lives as a bodhisattva named Dharmakara. Amitabha means 'Infinite Light' Amitabha is also called 'The Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Light'.

Amitra-Bala. Troops recruited from the territory of the enemy in Mauryan administration.

Amtamahamatta. To govern the frontier people and less civilized tribes were in charge of the areas of frontiers in the Asoka kingdom. In the II Major rock edicts of Asoka expected them to work towards peace and tranquillity of the area.

Anarpita Hara. String of miniature shrines (hara) on the edge of each *vimana tala*, distinct from the body of the upper tala or storey, with intervening space (opposite of arpita).

Anas. It referred to the Wagons during the Rig Vedic period.

Anas. People who did not have prominent nose.

Andanar. An employes recruited for service in the royal court as Purohit during the Satvahannas period.

Andhanar. Priestly class in Tamil region.

Andhikkadai. *see* Allangadi.

Anekantavada. Doctrine of the multi-faceted, complex nature of reality; metaphysical basis for the Jain philosophy of relativity.

Anga. It is an ancient kingdom in East Bihar.

Angadi. Markets.

Ang-agam or Ang-pravista-agam. They orally compiled the direct preaching of Lord Mahavir into twelve main texts (sutras) by Ganadharas. The Twelve are: 1. Achara-anga 2. Sutrakrita-anga 3. Sthana-anga 4. Samavaya-anga 5. Vyakhya-prajnapati-anga 6. Jnatridharma-katha-anga 7. Upasakadhyayna-anga 8. Antakrit-dasa-anga 9. Anuttaropapadaka-dasa-anga 10. Prasna-vyakarana-anga 11. Vipaka-sutra-anga 12. Drishti-pravada-anga.

Ang-bahya-agam. Jainism literature or texts (sutras) expanding the subject matter defined in the Ang-agams. The Collectively texts on Jainism are called Ang-bahya-agams meaning outside of Ang-agams, compiled by The *Srut-kevlis* (Monks who had knowledge of a minimum of ten Purvas) The different Jain sects accept different numbers of Ang-bahya texts. The Digambar sect accepted 14 Ang-bahya-agams, Svetambar Murtipujak 34 Ang-bahya-agams, Svetambar Sthanakvasi 21 and Svetambar Terapanthi 21. And again Svetambar sects has divided Ang-bahya-agams into five categories i.e. Upang-agams, Chhed-sutras, Mool-sutras, Chulika-sutras or Sutras and Prakirna-agams.

Angodi. A market or markets/ Bazar or Bazars in a bigger town during the *Satvahana* Period.

Anguttara Nikaya. One of the five sections of Sutta Pitaka, describes Graduated 2000 ruff statements.

Annapprasana. The first feeding of the child with solid food in the sixth month was known as Annapprasana (a social ritual).

Anta Pala. Chief of the frontier during the Mauryan period and during the Rashtrakuta's period an official who was responsible for the safety and upkeep of the roads and also collected the road tax and tolls.

Antakrit-dasa-anga. One of the twelve Agama of Jainism literature gives an account in detail of the ten ascetics who, in the period of each of the twenty-four Tirthankara's, it tells the stories of ten sacred monks attaining liberation (Moksha) by destroying their karmas by undergo very strict suffering in asceticism and finally set themselves free from the bondage of Karma. It has 2,328,000 Madhyama Padas.

Antapala. Governor of the frontier in Mauryan Empire.

Antara bhitti. Inner wall of multiple-walled *garbha-griha*, or sanctum, or storey.

Antarvamantika. In charge of the harem who attended on the person of the king in Mauryan empire.

Antarvedi. Stands for the Gangetic Doab.

Antarvesika or Antarvansika. The chief of the Harem during the Mauryan period.

Antyesti. Funeral Rites.

Anuloma vivaha. Marriage of a man in his own *varna* or below his *varna*. It was sanctioned by the sacred texts.

Anupa. Narmada valley.

Anus. Name of the tribe mentioned in Rig Veda.

Anuttaropapadaka-dasa-anga. One of the twelve Agama of Jainism literature gives an account of the ten great ascetics who, in the period of each Tirthankara's, practice asceticism of a very high type and in virtue of that take birth in the five Anuttaravimanas, or heavens, such as Vijaya etc. And contains the stories of an additional ten sacred monks who attained the top-most heaven, known as Anuttara heaven. It has 9,244,000 Madhyama Padas.

Anuvrata. Lesser vow somewhat less strict versions, appropriate for laypersons, of the five great vows of Mahavratas undertaken by Jain ascetics: nonviolence (Ahimsa), truthfulness (Satya), non-stealing

(Asteya), chastity (Brahmacharya), and non-possession (Aparigraha).

Anuyogadvara Sutra. One of the two of Chulika Sutras of Jainism literature. This agam provides the description of rights regarding the mode of preaching.

Anuyogas Digambar. Jain Literature with four texts i.e. Pratham-anuyoga or Dharma-Kath-anuyoga with Religious Stories, Charn-anuyoga on Conduct, Karan-anuyoga or Ganit-anuyoga deals with Description of the Universe and last one Dravy-anuyoga on Philosophy.

Apadana. Buddhist literary work literary meaning 'Stories', one of the fifteen booklets or sections of Khuddaka Nikaya, a collection of legends about Buddhist saints.

Aparanta or Pratichya. Name for western India.

Apararajagirika. One of the six schools without identifying listed in Dipavamsa the schools from which they arose in addition to eighteen Buddhist schools.

Aparasaila. Sub schools of Buddhist school Mahasamghika.

Aparaseliya. One of the six schools without identifying listed in Dipavamsa the schools from

which they arose in addition to eighteen Buddhist schools.

Aparigraha. Non-possession, non-attachment; cultivation of a detached attitude toward material objects and physical relationships; none of the vratas; for Jain ascetics, involves non-ownership of anything; for Jain laypersons, involves not being possessive or overly preoccupied with material things.

Apasara. Celestial dancer.

Apha. Water.

Apoop. Mixture of milk and cereal.

Appam. Pudding.

Apranta. North Konkan.

Apupa. Cake type food during Rig Vedic period.

Arakkala. The Vedic sacrifices in the sacrificial hall.

Arakkalam. The royal court of justice.

Arakkalattu Andanar. Judicial advisers also called Aranakuru avaiyam.

Arakkudi. Lower section of the society.

Aranakuru-avaiyam. see... Arakkalattu-Andanar.

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