GLOSSARY

**Amalaki**  The emblic myrobalan, green berrylike fruit.
**Aman**  Autumnal crop of paddy rice.
**Andamans**  A group of islands in the Bay of Bengal, formerly used by the British Government in India as a prison for criminals and also for political revolutionaries.
**Anna Brahma**  The Lord in the form of food; food conceived as the Lord.
**Anubhuti**  Feeling, perception.
**Apipasa**  Without desire, absence of thirst or desire.
**Arjun, Arjuna**  A legendary warrior and one of the principal heroes of the epic, Mahabharata, for whose benefit Lord Krishna is said to have uttered the discourses of the Bhagavat Gita.
**Aryan**  Fair-skinned Caucasian invaders of India; their descendants.
**Ashram, Ashrama**  One of the four stages or orders of life of a Hindu; a hermitage; a monastery; a refuge.
**Aswath**  Sanskrit: aswattha; the holy fig tree, the peepul; *ficus religiosa*.
**Avatar**  Manifestation; incarnation of a deity.

**Badshah**  A king (generally used in India for Muslim kings).
**Baitarani**  In Hindu mythology, a river of hell; also name of a river in Orissa.
**Balhic**  Balkh, in Afghanistan.
**Bara Lok**  Belonging to the upper or rich class.
**Bhagavat-Gita**  The standard classic of Hindu philosophy of life (in Sanskrit verse), popularly attributed to Lord Krishna.
BHACAVAT PURANA  One of the eighteen puranas, or sacred legends; consists of 18,000 verses.

BHACAVATAS  Beings devoted to the Supreme deity; godly.

BHARAT-VARSHA  The ancient name of India, still in use in Indian languages.

BHARGU  A Vedic sage, founder of the race of the Bhrigus or Bhargavas.

BRAHMA  The all-pervading Divine Essence; the universal spirit; the Supreme Being; God.

BRAHMIN  Belonging to the supposed highest caste among the Hindus.

BULBUL  The Indian nightingale.

CHAITRA  The last month of the Bengali year (March-April).

CHAMAR  A kind of deer; the yak; a long brush made of the tail-hair of the yak and used as a fan.

CHAMAR  Belonging to a “low caste” among the Hindus; a cobbler.

CHAMPA  Name of a flower; Michelia Champaka.

CHANDAL, CHANDALA  The “lowest caste” among the Hindus, regarded by the orthodox as outcaste.

CHANDALIKA, CHANDALINI  A chandal girl.

CHATUS-PATHIS  A college where the four Vedas are taught; a school of Sanskrit learning.

CHETANA  Consciousness; an awakening.

CHOTO LOK  People of “low caste”; poor people; humble folk.

CHITRAGIRI  Legendary hill.

COWRIE  Small shell used as a token of money; used also as ornament.

DADA  Elder brother; also used to address a person older than oneself.

DADA MOSHAY  Grandfather.

DADA OF PHALGUNI  A character in Tagore’s play Phalguni (Eng. the Cycle of Spring).

DAK  Bungalow  Halting place; a rest house provided by the government for its officers and other visitors.

DAL  Split peas or pulses; soup of split peas or pulses. In Bengali it also means a branch of a tree when the word is pronounced with d hard.

DARWAN  Gatekeeper.

DHARMA  Righteousness; religion; law; duty.

DHARMA-YUDDHA  “A war for a holy cause”; a crusade.

DHOTI  A common form of male dress in India consisting of a long piece of cloth worn round the waist.

DHRUVA-TARA  The Pole Star, signifying steadfastness, brightness.
**Dravidians** The original inhabitants of India before the advent of the Aryans.

**Dwija** “Twice born”; spiritually reborn.

**Ektara** One-string instrument greatly in favor with India’s wandering minstrels.

**Ela** Character in Tagore’s novel *Char Adhyay*.

**Fakir** Muslim mendicant.

**Gamelan** Musical instrument used in Indonesia.

**Gandhar, Gandhara** Ancient name for Afghanistan; name of the art in that area and in North India, influenced by Greece.

**Ghazals** A popular form of poetry in Urdu, which can also be sung.

**Ghee** Clarified butter used in Indian cooking.

**Guhaka** King of the hunter tribe who befriended Rama in his exile.

**Guru** A religious teacher; a spiritual preceptor or guide.

**Henna** White flowered evergreen; dye made from it (Arabic).

**Hilsa** Sablefish, a favorite dish in Bengal.

**Hunas** A race belonging to the Middle Asia who invaded India frequently during the Gupta and Harsha periods.

**Isopanishat** One of the principal Upanishads.

**Jalataranga** Literally “water waves”; a musical instrument consisting of porcelain bowls of various sizes which are filled with the requisite quantity of water to produce musical notes when struck with wooden ladles.

**Janaka** King of Mithila, and father of Sita, the heroine of Ramayana.

**Janamejaya** A great king, son of Parikshit and great-grandson of Arjuna, the famous character of Mahabharata.

**Jatras** Bengali folk plays played on open-air stage; a pilgrimage; procession.

**Kabab** Roasted meat.

**Kailas** Fabled abode of Siva in the high Himalayas; the name of a mountain pilgrimage in the Himalayas.

**Kajri** A type of folk song and dance in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh, India.
KAMBOJ  Ancient geographical name of an area in the Punjab.
KAMYAK  Name of a forest in the ancient Indian legends.
KARMA  Literally "action." Generally used in connection with the common Indian belief that the fruit of one's action persists through many lives.
KARTAVIRYA  Son of Krita-Virya, King of Haiheya. This is his patronymic, by which he is best known; his real name was Arjuna (not to be confused with the hero of Mahabharata).
KARTIK  Bengali month corresponding to October-November; name of a deity.
KASHI  Benares, pilgrim city.
KIRATAS  Foresters and mountaineers living in the east of Hindustan.
KIRTANS  A particular type of devotional songs in Bengal.
KRISHNA  The legendary hero of Bhagavat, worshiped by some Hindus as a divine incarnation.
KSHATRIYA  Belonging to the "second highest caste" among Hindus, traditionally warriors.
KUMARA SAMDHAVA  A Sanskrit epic written by the great poet Kalidasa, dealing with the birth and exploits of Kartikeya, son of the god Siva and Parvati.
KUNDA  A character in one of the novels of Bankim Chandra Chatterji.
LABANGALATIKA  A creeper with delicate white flowers; name of a Bengali sweetmeat.

MAHABHARATA  The great epic poem of the Hindus, dealing with the conflict between the Pandavas and the Kauravas, said to be composed by the sage, Vedavyasa.
MAHAJANI  Of the rich, of the banker; usury, money-lending business.
MAHAVIRA  Literally, "the great warrior." Epithet commonly used for the "monkey-god" Hanuman who served Rama. Also the name of the founder of the Jain religion.
MALATI  A kind of jasmine creeper.
MANTRAS  Sacred couplets and hymns in Sanskrit scriptures.
MANU  Name of the first lawgiver of the Hindus. Also the mythological progenitor and ruler of mankind.
MARICH  A demon in the Ramayana who metamorphosed himself as a golden deer and was killed by Rama; name for chili.
MASTER-MASHAI  A respectful term for the teacher.
MAYA  Literally "illusion," or partial reality. Popularly used as a concept in Indian philosophy applied to appearance as against reality.
Mayavin Person having power of illusion or spell; a charmer.
Mehedi Name of a plant the leaves of which are crushed and applied on the palms and the feet as aids to beauty.
Mela A fair; a crowd.
Moghlai Of the moghals; generally applied to richly cooked meat dishes favored by Muslim aristocracy.

Nag Serpent; mountain, elephant.
Naga Name of a tribe in East India.
Nahabat Originally, kettledrum. Generally used for ceremonial playing of music in a king's palace.
Namaz Prayer offered by the followers of Islam.
Narghileh Pipe with flexible tube and attached vase of water through which smoke is drawn (Persian).
Nirvana Final deliverance of self in Buddhist and Jaina philosophy; transcendence.

Padma Name of a great river which flows through East Pakistan.
Palanquin A carriage consisting of a covered wooden box with a pole on either side, carried on the shoulders by bearers.
Palmyra A species of palm tree.
Pan A preparation of betel leaf, betel nut, and some other ingredients, popular with Indians.
Parasu-Rama A character in Hindu mythology, warrior and sworn enemy of the Kshatriyas.
Peepul A common Indian tree. Also held sacred because the Buddha is supposed to have meditated and attained enlightenment under it; known as the Bodhi tree.
Phalgun Bengali month corresponding to January-February; the spring season.
Pillau A popular dish of rice with meat.
Pujah Literally, "worship." The term is used in Bengal for the important festival Durga puja and holiday season (October-November).
Purani Of the past, ancient.

Ragas Melodic patterns in Indian music.
Raghu The mythological king of Ikshwaku dynasty, forefather of Rama.
Racins Subdivisions of musical patterns belonging to one raga or the other.
Rajasthan Literally, "home of the Rajputs"; one of the states in western India.
RAMACHANDRA  The hero of Ramayana.

RAMAYANA  The great Sanskrit epic composed by the sage Valmiki dealing with the story of Rama.

RIG  Earliest of the four Vedas, the most ancient hymns of the Aryans.

SAHEB  A European, or Europeanized Indian.

SAKAS  Name of a tribe in Middle Asia who invaded India; the era founded by King Salivahana seventy-eight years before the Christian era.

SAKUNTALA  Variant of Shakuntala.

SAL  Name of a tree.

SALAM  The Muslim way of greeting; literally, “peace be on you.”

SANAI  A musical instrument (like a bagpipe) used on festive occasions and celebrations.

SANTINIKETAN  Literally “abode of peace”; name of the famous place about a hundred miles from Calcutta, where Tagore founded his school, and later his international University, Visva-Bharati.

SANYASI, SANNYASINS  An order of Hindu spiritual aspirants who have renounced the world; ascetic.

SAREN?  Captain of a ferry steamer.

SATARA  Town in the state of Maharashtra.

SAYANACHARYA  Celebrated commentator on Rig-Veda.

SEP?Y  Indian soldier; infantryman.

SETAR  A stringed musical instrument.

SHAKUNTALA, SAKUNTALA  The heroine of the famous Sanskrit play of that name by Kalidasa.

SHANKARA  Great Indian philosopher of Advaita (monist) school.

SHELI?DAH  Former headquarters of the Tagore estate (now in East Pakistan).

SIRIS, SIRISH  Name of a tree with bright red flowers.

SIVA  One of the Hindu trinity, representing God in his destructive aspect.

SOLA  Indian pith helmet.

SRIJUT  Indian equivalent of Mister.

SUDRA  “Low caste” Hindus.

SURYA  The sun god.

SUSTA  Name of a river.

SUZE?AIN  Sovereign; feudal lord.

TAPASYA  Spiritual discipline; penance.

TAXILA  Seat of learning and sculpture of great antiquity, situated in West Pakistan.
UPANISHADS  The later part of Vedas dealing with the exposition of Hindu ontology and philosophical meditations.

UTTARAYANA  Name of a house in Santiniketan where Tagore lived; at present used for the Tagore Museum.

VAIKUNTHA  Heaven.

VAISHNAVA  Name of a religious sect among the Hindus who emphasize personal devotion to God.

VARNA  Literally, "color"; social division according to profession in the Aryan society, later perpetuated into castes or classes by birth.

VARUNA  Water god of the Hindu pantheon, comparable to the Greek Neptune.

VEDAS  Literally, "to know"; holy books which are the foundation of Hindu religion written in an old form of Sanskrit.

VEDIC-RUDRA  The forerunner of Siva; the god of destruction mentioned in the Vedas.

VISHNU  One of the Hindu trinity; the god of sustenance.

VISWAMITRA  The Vedic sage; father of Sakuntala and preceptor of many Vedic hymns.

YAJNAVALKYA  The Vedic sage; composer of a prominent Smriti; code of behavior.

YAK-TAIL  Tail of the yak, oxlike animal of Tibet.

YAMADAGNI  A Vedic sage, father of Parashurama.

ZAMINDARS  Landlords.

ZENANA  Quarters segregated for ladies.