

# Spiritual Dictionary

**Abracadabra:** A magical formula that was used by the Gnostics to invoke the aid of spirits to ward off disease and illness. It is derived from the abraxas, a word that was engraved on gems and amulets or was variously worn as a protective charm. Handed down through the Middle Ages, the abracadabra gradually lost its occult significance, and its meaning was extended to cover any hocus-pocus.

Alternatively a word of Kabbalistic significance that was, and still may be, used for incantations. It was used in a ritual to ward off any ailment. It is derived from the Hebrew phrase abreq ad habra, meaning "hurl your thunderbolt even unto death"

**Adept:** Someone who has attained; in theosophical literature, one who has attained mastery in the art and science of living, an initiate or mahatma.

**Adyar:** A suburb of Madras, India, where Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott established the headquarters of the Theosophical Society in 1883. One of the Theosophical Societies continues to make its international headquarters there.

**Aeon(s):** An age, a period of time; used alone, equivalent to the word logos, but the usual meaning includes a spiritual being considered as an emanation from the divine essence and also a period of time which is brought about by the existence of this spiritual being.

**Agape:** Christian. Christian love as contrasted to erotic love. It can also mean charity.

**Aka:** The cord between the astral body and the physical body. Also known as the astral cord or the silver cord. This concept may be derived from the biblical reference to a "silver cord" connected the body and the soul.

**Akashic Records:** An Edgar Cayce concept which states that somewhere there is a universal hall of data / records. Records containing all the information about our past lives. It does not exist on the physical plane but rather on a more psychic level. Some believe it can be accessed on the astral plane, others feel it can only be accessed through a visualization journey the mind.

**Alchemy:** A form of magick which stems from the middle ages. It is noted by the attempts of alchemists to make lead turn into gold. A practioner of alchemy is an Alchemist. Turning metal into gold was symbolic of the process of self transformation in which the Alchemist changed his negative energy into the divine spritual energy (gold) this was done through a variety of methods.

**Amon:** (also known as Amon-Ra, Amen and Amun) The Egyptian god of wind, fertility, and secrets. Sometimes refered to as 'The Invisible One'. The word or root amen means 'what is hidden', 'what is not seen', 'what cannot be seen' and the like. Not only is the god himself said to be 'hidden', but his name is also 'hidden', and his form is said to be 'unknown'.

Amon was represented on five forms:

1. As a man, when he is seen seated on a throne, and holding in one hand a sceptre, and in the other the ankh.
2. As a man with the head of a frog
3. As a man with the head of a cobra.
4. As an ape
5. As a lion crouching upon a pedestal

**Amen:** (religious) The word 'amen' is similar to and comes from the same Hebrew root word for 'believe'. The translation of amen might best be expressed as 'let it be so', or 'I believe'.

**Amenti:** (from Ancient Egypt) The abode of the dead where the souls of the deceased are judged by Osiris and rewarded or punished for their deeds.

**Angel:** A generic term to describe heavenly beings / messengers from beyond the material realm. Often seen as protectors.

**Ankh:** The symbolic representation of both Physical and Eternal life. It is known as the original cross. The loop of the Ankh represents the feminine discipline or the (Womb), while the elongated section represent the masculine discipline or the (Penis). These two sacred units then come together and form life.

In ancient Egypt it was believed the Ankh symbolized eternal life and bestowed immortality on anyone who possessed it. Everyone of the gods possessed an ankh and ancient Egyptians believed each god's life force was maintained through their ankh. The ankh also held power over all evil spells.

It is believed that life energy emanating from the Ankh can be absorbed by anyone within a certain proximity. An Ankh serves as an antenna or conduit for the divine power of life that permeates the universe. The amulet is a powerful talisman that provides the wearer with protection from the evil forces of decay and degeneration.

Sometimes known as the Crux Ansata, it is derived from two hieroglyphs, and literally means "everlasting life" or the "life which cannot die."

**Anthropomorphism:** Anthropomorphism is the assigning of human attributes to God in order to describe God. Eg: phrases such as 'the breath of God', 'God hears', etc. This does not mean that God actually has lungs and ears, it is just a figure of speech. Describing God with human characteristics may make it easier to communicate the incomprehensible.

**Archangel:** heavenly beings / messengers. Archangels are from the order / family above angels. We are most familiar with the archangel Michael who is the protector of the christian church. He is usually depicted holding a sword and scales.

**Arche:** (Of Greek Origin) This word is in the opening sentence of the gospel of St. John and has been translated to mean "In the beginning". Alternative interpretations however would translate it to mean "an elementary condition" or "a first principle", "a chief source". The significance of the alternative interpretation comes to the fore if we discuss the nature of our beginnings.

Opening sentence of the Gospel of St. John: "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and God was the word."

**Ascension:** Ascension is a change in the focus of consciousness. The souls acceleration into higher consciousness. It is the natural, on-going evolutionary process of all creation. As eternal, spiritual beings, we were created by God to expand through experience. When we choose to incarnate third dimension, (physical) we descend. We come to Earth repeatedly in order to experience, learn, and master this dimension with unconditional love. Ascension is thus the returning to spiritual realms with added wisdom and experience.

**Ascended Masters:** A dimension of the brotherhood of light, they are perfected beings who have mastered third dimensional incarnations with love. They have evolved beyond the need to return to physical incarnations. They have ascended into higher levels of consciousness. Many Ascended Masters decide to return as teachers and guides for their younger brothers and sisters along the

evolutionary path. Some of the better known Ascended masters are Jesus, St. Germain, Kuthumi and El Morya.

**Astral Body:** Also known as the emotional body. It carries your feelings, emotions and character traits. It occupies the same space as the physical body but it's aura extends approximately one meter further.

**Astral Cord:** The cord between the astral body and the physical body. Also known as the silver cord.

**Astral Plane:** A plane parallel to the physical world, traveled through by the astral body during projection.

**Astral Travel:** Also called soul travel and astral projection and out of body experience. The phenomena in which the nonphysical or astral body disengages from the physical body and in that state consciously experiences other physical realities or distant astral planes. This is probably why witches were thought to be able to travel on broomsticks, they were in effect astral traveling.

**Astrology:** The most basic aspect of astrology, star signs or sun signs has been popularised in horoscopes that appear in daily newspaper columns and magazines.

Astrology is about the interaction between the Planets (including the Sun and Moon) and the Signs. The relationships between them and their interactions are mathematically based, and Astrology studies these mathematical cycles. Each Sign represents a different aspect of the whole human. Aries starts the cycle, representing the Self, and Pisces completes it, representing the mass unconscious of all mankind. In between, each other Sign carries the energy of a different phase of man's evolution within the universe.

Your sun sign/star sign represents the Sign of the Zodiac that the Sun was in at the time of your birth. The Sun rules will power and ego. It is the core of your potential and uniqueness as an individual; who you are and what you are about. The forces between the Planets involved in Astrology can be simplified into one word: gravity. The Sun has the greatest gravity and the strongest effect in Astrology.

**Aura:** An energy field which surrounds living beings. An aura is most often visible only to those born with the skill to see it, or those who developed this ability. A visible aura contains various colors and tells about the spiritual and emotional persona of the plant, human, or creature surrounded by it. However, an aura can also be felt, heard, or sensed through other means.

**Avatar:** An avatar is a person who is fully god realized at birth and therefore needs no spiritual training. In Hinduism it is the manifestation of a deity in human or animal form.

**Avalon:** Avalon is the mythical (celtic) dead warriors paradise. King Arthur was taken there after he was mortally wounded.

**Belief:** The mental act, condition, or habit of placing trust or confidence in another. The mental acceptance and conviction in the truth, actuality, or validity of something.

Belief vs. Faith: 'Beliefs' are existing ideas that one holds to; 'faith' looks toward what is to come. 'Belief' relates most to knowledge and understanding; 'faith' relates most to hope and trust. 'Belief' may or may not imply that the believer is certain, whereas 'faith' does.

**Bodhisattva:** This is a buddhist term. A bodhisattva is an enlightened being who having no further need to be reincarnated into the physical, decides to do so to help other achieve enlightenment.

**Brahm:** The Hindu entity who is the union of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.

**Brahma:** Brahma is a Hindu god, one of the members of the Hindu Trinity, along with Shiva and Vishnu.

He is regarded as the creator of the universe. His consort is the goddess Saraswati, who provides him with the wisdom and knowledge needed to create the universe. As creation is the greatest work of the mind, Brahma symbolizes the concept of the universal mind, as well as the individual intellect. Because of this, he is worshipped mostly by those seeking understanding or knowledge, like students and teachers.

**Buddhism:** Buddhism is a religion & philosophy founded in India in the 6th century B.C. by Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha). It teaches the practice of meditation, observance of moral precepts. Buddhism declares that by destroying greed, hatred and delusion which are the causes of all suffering, man can attain perfect enlightenment.

Buddhism defines reality in terms of cause-and-effect, accepting the doctrine common to Indian religions of samsara, or bondage to the repeating cycle of births and deaths according to one's physical and mental actions.

**Celestial:** Relating to the sky; for occultic purposes, usually relating to the sky at dusk, night, and dawn. Otherworldly; heavenly.

**Chakras:** The seven vital energy centers of the body. The chakras extend from the base of spine to the crown of head. Located in the rectal area, near the genitals, behind the navel, at the heart, at the neck, between the eyebrows, and on the crown of the head. Each chakra corresponds to certain colors, emotions, organs, nerve networks, and energies.

**Channelling:** Mediumship; a word for an entity talking through a human to convey a message to the physical plane.

**Chi:** A Chinese term for the all-encompassing universal life force.

**Christianity:** The doctrines and religious groups based on the teachings of Jesus. In the West, the growing power and corruption of the church contributed to the Protestant Reformation, which splintered Christianity into numerous sects. In the 20th century the ecumenical movement was begun to promote Christian unity.

**Clairaudience:** This is hearing so-called "voices" of unseen beings. This power can be confused with your own thoughts.

**Claircognizant:** (clear knowing) A knowingness that is very clear and makes itself known in your consciousness. This could be a thought or idea and can also be in the form of a profound revelation.

**Clairsentience:** (Clear Perception) is to actually see beyond the usual sensory range. This usually means feeling or knowing something about an object. This is often done by feeling sensations in your body. Examples of this are intuition, gut feelings and hunches.

**Clairvoyance:** involves "seeing" over distances, with the mind's eye.

**Confucianism:** (551-479 BC). for more than 2,000 years the Chinese people have been guided by the ideals of Confucianism. Its founder was Confucius who tried to bring people to a virtuous way of life and a respect for the teachings of the wise men of older generations. Though Confucianism is

called a religion, it is a system of moral conduct. Confucius did not talk of God but of goodness. He was centered on making people better in their lifetime, and his Analects are wise sayings similar to the Bible's Proverbs.

**Cosmic:** The word cosmic refers to the whole of the universe. You might hear this in the context of 'cosmic laws' which are the same as 'laws of the universe' or 'universal laws' - there is some overlap with spiritual laws universal laws.

**Daemon:** A Greek word for spirit.

**Death:** The permanent end of physical life.

**Discipleship:** A disciple is one who undertakes the discipline of his/her teacher. Thus, discipleship is about learning what that discipline is, learning how to follow. It's part education, part mentoring, part apprenticeship, but it goes a step beyond it. Disciples not only take in what they are taught and what they learn from being with the teacher, they take it into their core identity, so that it defines who they are.

**Divination:** A method of inquiring into a situation through tools, some examples of divination are scrying, tarot and runes.

**Divine:** Divine means from God or God like. In other words something heavenly.

**Dogma:** A teaching in a religion that is seen as part of that religion's core tradition, spelled out in some specific way that is considered definitive or authoritative. Dogmas are common to most religions, and sometimes non-religious systems. The Roman Catholic Church still believes it can declare Christian dogma; other Christians do not accept that any one body can issue dogma, or even that there is such a definitive thing as 'dogma'. Today, the word 'dogma' has a negative feel to it, because dogmas have been used by those in authority to limit freedom.

**Dreams:** A mental process, usually in the form of a series of imagined events occurring during certain phases of sleep. A dream is an interface between the process of life and our conscious personality. Dreams can be an expression of what is happening in the physical body. They can be a source of insight and information derived from our memory, experience and subconscious. Dreams can be a means to the solving of problems and can be used to access a world beyond our physical realm.

**Dreamtime:** The Shamanic concept of a world which parallels this one.  
The mythology of the Australian Aboriginal people, a mythical golden age of the past.

**Duality / Dualism:** In philosophy and theology it is a system that explains all phenomena in terms of two distinct and irreducible principles, e.g., ideas and matter (as in Plato, Aristotle, and modern metaphysics) or mind and matter (as in psychology). In theology the term refers to a concept of opposing principles, e.g., good and evil.

**Ecumenical:** Relating to the unity of the Christian Church, initiated by the non Catholic Churches in 1910 and embodied since 1937 in the World Council of Churches.

**Elemental:** A spirit formed of one of the elements. The 5 elementals are salamanders (fire), sylphs (air), undines (water), gnomes (earth), and spirit (akasha).

Elemental: Alternate definition. They are the essences of plants. they are evolving entities and are not restricted to their physical form like humans and animals are. They can sometimes be seen as

fairies and elves and similar creatures.

**Elements:** The 5 major elements in nature and magick. Earth, water, fire, air, and akasha (or spirit) which encompasses all of the other elements and is not visible.

**Energy:** The capacity of a body or system to do work. The intensity or vitality of action or expression, a measure of this capacity.

**Enlightenment:** In Buddhism it is the awakening to the ultimate truth and therefore liberated from the cycle of reincarnation. In Hinduism it is a state of divine experience which is represented by Vishnu. It is regarded as the goal of all religion. A practical article on enlightenment.

**Eschatology:** The study of matters relating to the end times. This would include talk and ideas about resurrection, heaven and hell, what the Kingdom of God is like in its fullness, and what is meant by eternal life or death. The Christian knows next to nothing about it. Even Jesus Himself claimed no special knowledge of when or how, even though He described some things about it. With so little data from God, the only kind of language that can even begin to take on the task is that of imagination, the making of vigorous images to catch the feel and pulse and fuzzy shape of it. That's what led to apocalyptic writings like Daniel, Ezekiel, and Revelation. People speak of it with terms such as the Rapture, the Millenium, the Reapers, Armageddon, the Bowls of Wrath, the Bottomless Pit, the Horsemen, the Final Trumpets, the Remnant, the Great Getting-Up Morning, the Judgement Day, the Lake of Fire, the Death of Time, and the New Jerusalem.

**ESP:** Extrasensory perception means that you can acquire facts without the use of your own usual 5 senses.

**Esoteric:** Restricted to or intended for an enlightened or initiated minority.  
Ascension & the Esoteric Path

**Faith:** A confident belief in the truth, value, or trustworthiness of a person, an idea, or a thing. A belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence. Loyalty or allegiance to a person or thing; esp. fidelity to a promise. the theological virtue defined as secure belief in God and a trusting acceptance of God's will. Faith indicates unswerving action, devotion, and direction of self, and is often charged with emotion.

**Feng Shui:** An ancient Chinese practice of configuring home or work environments to promote health, happiness, prosperity. Feng shui consultants may advise clients to make adjustments in their surroundings, from color selection to furniture placement, to promote a healthy flow of chi, or vital energy

**Gnosis:** Gnosis usually refers to the 'secret' or 'special' knowledge that is said to set one free from the 'illusory' material world. [from Greek gnosis (knowledge)].  
It is spiritual wisdom that is acquired through direct personal experience of the divine. This is different to intellectual knowledge that you can acquire from reading a book and it is not emotional. It is a knowledge that is a deep knowing within your soul.

**Gnosticism:** From a scholars point of view it is a religious movement (early christian) characterised by a belief in the esoteric spiritual knowledge through which the spiritual element of man could be released from it's bondage in the physical. Gnostics can be of any faith tradition; they recognize almost all religions as valid paths to God and Gnosis. Gnosticism is the opposite of Literalism or Fundamentalism.

**Ghost:** The spirit of a dead person that has remained on the earthly plane, often unaware of the fact that death has occurred. Often responsible for 'hauntings' of physical locations.

**Grace:** God's unmerited favor. It's given to all, freely.

**Grounding:** This means to be in your physical body and conscious of your surroundings. Grounding is essential for those that are seeking spiritual development. You need to be grounded, in your body, to deal with your fears and clear low frequency emotional energy.

**Guru:** A Hindu or Sikh religious teacher or leader giving personal spiritual guidance to his disciples.

**Heptagram:** A seven-pointed star drawn with one unbroken line. Symbolic of the number seven, which is important not only to the seven traditional astrological planets but also to the seven planes and subplanes and the seven chakras.

**Hexagram:** A geometric figure formed by two overlapping triangles, traditionally Jewish and called the Star of David. It is used as a spiritual symbol and also in modern magick to invoke or banish spirits.

**Higher Self:** An aspect of yourself. Your non-physical, true self. The enlightened, 'actual' persona of the individual as opposed to what the person seems to be or thinks they are.

**Hinduism:** This is a western term for the religious beliefs and practices of innumerable sects to which the majority of the people of India belong. Hindu belief is generally characterized by the acceptance of the Veda as sacred scripture. The goal of Hinduism, like that of other Eastern religions, is liberation from the cycle of rebirth and the suffering brought about by one's own actions.

**Holistic:** Sometimes spelt wholistic. It means targeted to the whole person - mind, body, and spirit. Holistic medicine considers not only physical health but also the emotional, spiritual, social, and mental well-being of the person.

**Horus:** An ancient egyptian god, the son of Isis and Osiris. God of the all-seeing eye. 'the eye of Horus'

**Initiation:** Spiritual Initiation is the process of Ascension. This is the process of living and mastering ones self through the successes and failures of this and / or other lives.

**Isis:** An ancient egyptian goddess. It was Isis who retrieved and reassembled the body of Osiris after his murder and dismemberment by Seth. Because of this she took on the role of a goddess of the dead and of funeral rites.

Isis impregnated herself from the corpse and gave birth to Horus. She gave birth secretly and hid the child from Seth in the papyrus swamps. Horus later defeated Seth and became the first ruler of a united Egypt. Isis, as mother of Horus, was revered as the mother and protectress of the pharaohs. The relationship between Horus and Isis may have been an influence on the Christian relationship between Jesus and Mary. Icons of Isis holding the infant Horus as he suckled are quite reminiscent of such images of Jesus in Mary's arms. Statues of Isis and Horus were gradually disallowed by the Christian churches.

**Islam:** Religion, an adherent of Islam is a Muslim. In 1990 there were some 935 million Muslims worldwide, less than one fifth of whom were Arab. Its salient feature is its' devotion to the Koran,

(or Quran), a book believed to be the revelation of God to Muhammad.

**Judaism:** The religious beliefs and practices and the way of life of the Jewish people. Central to these is the notion of monotheism, adopted by the biblical Hebrews. Out of these beliefs grew both Christianity and classical, or rabbinic, Judaism. Reconstructionist Judaism, a 20th-century movement, accepts all forms of Jewish practice, regarding Judaism as a culture rather than a theological system.

**Karma:** A basic concept common to Hinduism, Buddhism, and New Age groups. The doctrine holds that one's state in this life is the result of physical and mental actions in past incarnations and that present action can determine one's destiny in future incarnations. Karma is a natural, impersonal law of moral cause and effect.

**Ki:** Japanese word for the universal life force, synonymous with the Chinese term, Chi.

**Koran:** Sometimes spelt Quran. Muslims believe that God revealed the contents of the Koran to Muhammad through the angel Gabriel and that the Koran is the eternal and infallible word of God & ultimate authority in all religious, social, & legal issues. Considered the finest example of classical Arabic prose.

**Kundalini:** Hindu feminine aspect serpent force.

**Levitation:** The supernatural phenomenon involving suspending a body in midair without any physical help or support.

**Logos:** (Of Greek Origin) Reasonable thought (we say logic)

**Mandala:** The word comes from the Sanskrit and means sacred circle. The circle symbolizes the womb of creation.

Mandalas are geometric designs that are made through uniform divisions of a circle. The divisions are symbols that embody the mathematical principles found throughout creation and reveal the inner workings of nature and the inherent order of the universe. Mandalas translate complex mathematical expressions into simple shapes and forms.

Mandalas act as a bridge between the different dimensions or realms. They are gateways that link your consciousness to realms of archetypes. For thousands of years mandalas have served as a means to expanded thinking. The images are beyond language and the rational mind. They bring about wisdom of universal knowledge and a deeper understanding of human consciousness.

Yantras are a particular field of mandala imagery. They are a visual representation of the harmonic tones of mantras. By directing your thoughts to these archetypal planes you can attune your consciousness with the harmony of universal consciousness.

Sri Yantra is the most revered of all the Hindu yantras. It is sometimes known as the Yantra of Creation. The Sri Yantra is believed to be the image of the 'Om' mantra. In the Hindu tradition the sound 'Om' is understood to be the sound of creation. If the sound 'Om' is transformed into a visual representation displayed on a screen (through the use of a tonoscope) it produces a circle. As the tone is completed the circle is filled with squares, triangles and finally as the tone dies away the Sri Yantra

**Mantra:** Common to Hinduism and Buddhism. A word or syllable, usually sacred. It is used as an object of concentration and repeated constantly whilst in a meditative state. It is believed to embody some aspect of spiritual power and bring into being the reality it represents. Use of such mantras



usually requires initiation by a guru, or spiritual teacher.

One of the most popular spiritual mantras is the sound 'Om' (see above)

**Meditation:** A discipline in which the mind is focused on a single point of reference. Employed since ancient times in various forms by all religions, the practice gained greater notice in the postwar U.S. as interest in Zen Buddhism rose. Meditation is now used by many nonreligious adherents as a method of stress reduction; known to lower levels of cortisol, a hormone released in response to stress. Enhances recuperation and improves the body's resistance to disease.

**Medium:** A person who acts as a spiritual intermediary between the living and the dead

**Metaphysical:** It means that which is beyond what can be grasped by the senses. The term comes from Aristotle, who meant by it some form of theological philosophy, but it means something else in today's world. The modern media often use the word to mean the same thing as 'spiritual'. There is lots of overlap, but the two words refer to different things. 'Spiritual' refers to the realm of spirits. 'Metaphysical' refers to that which underlies everything, of which spirits are a part. Metaphysics' deals with questions like, "what is real?", "what is important?" and "what is true?".

**Metaphysics:** A field of abstract thought and philosophy about topics not on the concrete or physical level of understanding. This includes subjects like existence, the soul, being, the supernatural, astral travel and psychicism.

**Metempsychosis:** A belief in which the soul goes from one body to another, until either time ends or the soul is made pure or complete. This belief is older than recorded history, and was probably a feature of the early religions of the Indo-Europeans and South Asians. It is fully present in Hinduism and Buddhism. In Judaism, medieval Kabbalists developed a limited form of it. In Greek philosophy, Plato was its best-known supporter; it was Plato's followers who first used the term. Through Plato, it influenced some early Christians, including Origen. Yet, Augustine of Hippo argued vigorously against it, and it was eventually condemned at the Council of Florence in 1439. Metempsychosis conflicts with Christian belief in resurrection of the entire person, a belief that does not separate the body and the spirit from the soul. Metempsychosis treats the body as a 'container' that's not an essential part of who we are. Thus it stands with gnosticism in not treating the physical world and bodily life as being real or of any ultimate value.

**Monad:** The Monad is the spark of god within each person. In the beginning the Monads were the divine sparks of the Creator. Each Monad created twelve souls. Each soul then created twelve personalities or soul extensions. The soul extension is that which is able to be birthed into three dimensional existence.

**Monism:** The belief that all that exists is rooted in one single essence or reality: all is one, we are united with each other, and the essence of that oneness is what we call 'god'.

**Monotheism:** The belief in one God. The term is applied particularly to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

**Mysticism:** A belief that beyond the visible material world there is a spiritual reality which may be called God that people may experience through meditation, revelation, intuition, or other states that takes the individual beyond a normal consciousness.

**Namaste:** (Hindu Greeting) "May the Divine Essence in me embrace the divine essence in you as a divine essence of one."

**Nirvana:** In Buddhism, Jainism, and Hinduism, a state of supreme bliss; liberation from suffering and from samsara, one's bondage to the repeating cycle of death and rebirth, which is brought about by desire.

**Necromancy:** The art of revealing the future through magick and especially through communication with the deceased. It is also the practice of summoning the souls of the dead.

**Numerology:** Numerology is the study of numbers, and the occult manner in which they reflect certain aptitudes and character tendencies.

**Numinous:** Filled with the sense of the presence of divinity. It can also mean the spiritual force of a place, object or being.

**OBE / Out of body experience:** Also called soul travel and astral projection and astral travel. The phenomena in which the nonphysical or astral body disengages from the physical body and in that state consciously experiences other physical realities or distant astral planes.

**Occult:** Study and science of things esoteric, secret, paranormal, and supernatural.

**Oracle:** A person through which otherworldly entities can be communicated with, similar to channeling. People often see oracles to ask questions or to be given insights to their future.

**Osiris:** The ancient egyptian god of life and death. Osiris ruled the world of men in the beginning, after Ra had abandoned the world to rule the skies, but he was murdered by his brother Set. Through the magic of Isis, he was made to live again. Being the first living thing to die, he subsequently became lord of the dead.

**Qaballa:** Jewish mysticism; metaphysical practices based on the Judaic Qabalistic texts.

**Ra:** The ancient egyptian sun god, can be likened unto the Christian God, as a supreme deity and creator. He created the 8 great gods and the human race came from his tears. Usually depicted as a human with a falcon or ram head. The sun was either his eye or his body. He traveled the sky every day, passing over the lands and then going into the underworld. Because of this legend, he is considered to be the god of the underworld. Ra also stopped wars between humans because he was too decent to let them perish.

**Reincarnation:** This is the belief that upon death the physical body the soul is eventually born again into another body.

**Runes:** A tool for divination. There are many types of runes, all of them alphabets of some sort. Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and modern Wiccan runes are just a few. They are usually tossed randomly after deciding a subject, and then deciphered based on their positioning.

**Scrying:** A form of divination by gazing into something, usually a reflective surface.

**Seance:** A meeting in which participants attempt to receive messages from spirits of the dead.

**Sect:** The word comes from the Latin root word, meaning 'to cut into parts'. A sect, in its more general sense, is a group that broke off of (or was thrown out of) another larger group for some specific reason. Such groups are usually small, but that's not always the case. Anglicans were a Roman Catholic sect, Methodists were an Anglican sect, Nazarenes were a Methodist sect. Christianity was a Jewish

sect. The term should not be used after the group has established its own clear identity and place in the society over time. Thus the above examples were sects, but no longer are. In the social sciences, the term 'sect' has a more specific meaning. It's applied to a group that rejects the established social order to form its own community built upon specific principles or persons. 'Sectarian' means that the matter is of concern mostly to those who are either part of the sect or of the group it split from. To others, a 'sectarian' matter can be unimportant or puzzling.

**Set:** Also known as Seth, Seti. The ancient Egyptian god of darkness and evil. Known for murdering his brother, but was also revered as a protector of Egypt. Set was one of the earliest Egyptian deities, a god of the night often identified with the northern stars. He was variously hailed as a source of strength, and a protector, especially from the serpent Apep. Within Egyptian theology, there are conflicting opinions regarding Set's strength and warlike resolution. At first, pictures of a god with two heads- that of Set, as the god of darkness, and that of his brother Horus, god of light, appeared. At first this was a symbol of harmony, the union of polarities. However, later, it was regarded as a symbol of the conflict between dark and light. Set is depicted as being untamed and wild looking with white skin and fiery red hair.

**Shaman:** Among tribal peoples, a magician, medium, or healer who owes his powers to mystical communion with the spirit world. Characteristically, a shaman goes into auto-hypnotic trances, during which he contacts spirits. Shamans are found among the Siberians, Eskimos, Native American tribes, in S.E. Asia, and in Oceania.

**Shamanism:** The religion of the ancient peoples of northern Europe and Asia, generally characterised by the ability of the Shaman to communicate with the spirit world. Major facets of Shamanism are animism, possession, prophecy/revelations, shapeshifting, and soul travel.

**Shapeshifting:** A very esoteric practice involving changing the human form. This can be practiced while on the astral plane, this alone is a great accomplishment. It is said that one can also shapeshift on the physical plane, though documented proof of this is nonexistent.

**Shinto:** A system of beliefs and attitudes held by most Japanese about themselves, their families, clans, and ruling powers. The word means the way of kami, and kami refers to superior powers, either natural or divine. The kami are believed to be the source of human life and existence. The kami reveal truth and give guidance to live in accordance with it. Shinto does not have regular weekly services. Devotees can visit the shrines anytime they choose.

**Shiva:** Hindu. Represents the aspect of the Supreme Being which continuously dissolves and recreates. Shiva is both a creator and a destroyer, he is associated with both the changes of the seasons and the balance and constant conflict of good and evil. This is the cycle of the universe; birth-death-rebirth. He is the third member of the Hindu Trinity, along with Brahma and Vishnu. He is also a god of mercy and compassion and protects man from evil.

**Silver Cord:** The cord between the astral body and the physical body. Also known as the astral cord

**Soul:** Part of the spark of God that is you

**Spirit:** An entity which is free of a physical body.

**Spiritual:** Spiritual means that which relates to spirit or 'soul' and that which is intangible as opposed to physical matter. It can also mean relating to sacred things, generally the church or religion. Spiritual can also refer to your mind and / or emotions being of a high or refined quality.

**Spiritism / Spiritualism:** A belief that the human soul survives death and can communicate with the living through a medium sensitive to its' vibrations. The communication may be psychic, as in clairvoyance or trance speaking, or physical, as in automatic writing or ectoplasmic materializations.

**Spiritual / Shamanic Healing:** Practitioners who regard themselves as conductors of healing energy or sources from the spiritual realm. Both may call upon spiritual helpers such as power animals, angels, inner teachers, the client's Higher Self, or other spiritual forces. Both forms of healing can be used for a range of emotional and physical illnesses.

**Sri Yantra:** A particular mandala

**Synchronicity:** Meaningful coincidences, 'designed' to alert one's attention and/or suggest a course of action. Psychologist and spiritualist Carl Jung first coined the term after experiencing a peculiar event. Jung and a friend were in England having a discussion about spiritual symbols in ancient Egypt when out of nowhere, a scarab beetle walked across the table. Synchronicity flies in the face of probability and forms strong evidence of the interconnectedness of existence and divine intelligence.

**Talisman:** An object charged with 'magic', used to attract a certain type of energy or a particular type of person. It can protect the wearer from unwanted influences.

**Tarot:** A form of divination using a set of cards (usually 76).

**Taoism:** A philosophy and religion of China. Derived chiefly from the Tao-te-ching, a book ascribed to Lao-tze but probably written in the mid-3rd century B.C. It describes an ideal human condition of freedom from desire and of effortless simplicity, achieved by following the Tao (path), the spontaneous, creative, effortless path taken by natural events in the universe.

**Tasseography:** Divination by reading tea leaves.

**Telekinesis:** The moving or altering of some object solely by use of concentration of thought.

**Telepathy:** The communication between people of thoughts or feelings by way of the mind or in a way that modern science cannot yet explain. People who have telepathy can read minds if the other person involved has not developed this ability. A mind reader's ability to do so relies on their willpower over the subject.

**Theodicy:** The attempt to rationally justify the belief that God is good despite the presence and strength of evil in the world.

Why would such a good God allow such deep evil, such searing pain, such powerful oppression, such subtle deception, such waste of time, resources, and lives, such murder and mayhem? It is a mystery that has eluded the very best of logicians probably because it is illogical.

**Theology:** The study of existence and the nature of the divine and its relationship to / and influence upon other beings. It can also refer to the study of God's nature and purpose as taught by the Christian church.

**Theophany:** The word comes from the Greek, theo- (God) + -phanein (to show oneself, appear). A theophany is when God shows up in a majestic, God-ish manner; that is, it is rather obvious that it is God who is there. The appearances of gods have been said to provoke awe, quivering, total fear, and falling as if dead, preceded by earthquakes and thunderstorms.

**Theosophy:** The word comes from the Greek theos, meaning god, and sophia, meaning wisdom. Loosely translated = divine wisdom. It is a religious philosophy with strong overtones of mysticism.

**Third Eye:** The psychic eye, not physically visible, but mental. Located in the middle of the forehead.

**Transcendental:** (theology) That which surpasses the natural plane of reality or knowledge. It can also mean supernatural or mystical.

**Transcendentalism:** A system of philosophy that holds to the belief that the key to reality is the critical examination of reason. It can also be a system of philosophy that emphasizes intuition as a means to knowledge or the importance of the search for the divine.

**Uriel:** 'uri'el (Hebrew) Flame or light of divinity; one of the angels stationed about the throne of divinity, according to the ancient Hebrews. Specifically, the angel or divinity of light - not merely of physical light, but of its ultraspiritual origin, implying intellectual illumination.

**Utopia:** A real or imaginary society / place / state considered to be perfect or ideal. It comes from the book of the same title written by Sir Thomas More in 1516 which described an imaginary island representing the perfect society.

**Violet Flame:** The violet flame is spiritual energy which has the power when invoked to make changes to existing energy such as your Karma.

**Vishnu:** Hindu. Lord Vishnu is the aspect of the Hindu Trinity (Vishnu, Brahma, and Shiva) which represents the preservation and sustenance of the universe. He is said to be 'The All Pervading', present and prevalent in all things. It is said that Buddha is an incarnation of Vishnu, however, this does not mean followers of Hinduism follow Buddha's teachings. They do however accept them.

**Vodou:** Also spelt Voodoo. Polytheistic religion derived from worship of gods in African and the beliefs of Catholicism. Practiced mainly by the West Indians.

**Wicca:** Wicca is a religion. It is a neo-pagan reconstruction of witchcraft. Most Wiccans call themselves witches, but not all witches are necessarily Wiccan. Wiccans believe in a God and a Goddess that compliment each other and together make up divinity. The goddess is often associated with the earth, the moon or the mother archetype. The god is associated with the sun and embodies the power of the father. Wiccans celebrate at monthly intervals usually at the time of the full moon. This is done in order to take full advantage of the moon's energy. They also celebrate eight holy days throughout the year known as sabbats. The wiccan religion is based on the concept of cause and effect as opposed to the good and evil of the traditional popular religions.

**Yantra:** A Yantra is a mandala that represents the sound of a mantra

**Yogi:** A master of the Hindi spiritual disciplines (yoga) who teaches those disciplines to others. They are the key to passing these disciplines down through the generations. Modern yogis often introduce their own variations, especially with meditative techniques. Yogis are said to have a spiritual power which is found in the base of the spine.

**Zachar:** (Hebrew) A male; used in "male-and-female (zachar u neqebah) created he them" (Genesis 1:27). This refers not to the formation of a man and a woman, but of an androgyne or bisexual being who was at once male and female conjoined, and thus has reference to the third root-race in

theosophy.

**Zen Buddhism:** Buddhist sect based on meditation rather than on adherence to a particular scriptural doctrine. Founded in China by Bodhidharma (5th century A.D.). Zen was made known in the West by the writings of D.T. Suzuki.

**Zero:** As a mathematical idea, the absolute zero obtained by the subtraction of equal quantities (expressed by  $a - a$ ). In physical measurement, a lower limit or point of origin, as in the zero of a scale or the absolute zero of temperature.

As a symbol, the absence of all number or quantity, necessary in our system of notation in order to preserve the principle of positional value by occupying positions which would otherwise be filled by one of the nine digits.

Its symbol, the circle, represents at once nothing and everything; it is the symbol of boundless infinity; and a circle may be defined either as a single undivided and untermiated line, or as an infinite number of infinitely short lines.

**Zodiac:** The zone extending on both sides of the ecliptic, with a total width of about 16 degrees, so as to include the paths of the planets and moon. It is divided into twelve equal parts or signs, which are counted from the position of the vernal equinoctial point. The position of this point recedes westward along the ecliptic at the rate of about 50" of arc per year. The Hindus call this the fixed zodiac, giving the name of movable zodiac to the zodiacal constellations. The ancient figure for the length of a precessional cycle is 25,920 years, also the length of an important racial unit in human evolution.

Time is marked by the passage of the planets through its signs, by their conjunctions in various positions, and by the movement of the nodes and apsides of planets; so that the whole course of cycles large and small can be calculated and the past and future read by those who understand. The twelve divisions of the ecliptic or fixed zodiac have the same names and significance as the zodiacal constellations.