



THE MANY MEANINGS *of the*  
SANSKRIT LETTER 'A'



SARVAMANGALA FOUNDATION

*Explanation by Āchārya Vidyābhāskar*

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TEMPLATE AND LAYOUT DESIGNER  
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PRIMARY TYPEFACES  
Cormorant Garamond  
EB Garamond  
Goldenbook  
Monlam  
Sanskrit 2003  
Trajan Pro 3

SPECIAL THANKS TO  
T. Laufer, Julian M. Stuart, Hima Bindu  
Rebely, Dr. Jaimin Shukla, Milan Amin,  
Divya Sagar Kaushik, B. Lustig, A.  
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अकारस्य व्याख्यानम्

Akārasya Vyākhyānam

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SANSKRIT LETTER 'A'



THE SANSKRIT LETTER 'A' IN ANCIENT TIBETAN SCRIPT

*Illustration © Himalayan Art Resources*

## अकारस्य व्याख्यानम्

Akārasya Vyākhyānam

### THE MANY MEANINGS of the SANSKRIT LETTER 'A'

In the Sanskrit scriptures, the vowel A/अ has innumerable different meanings. Only a few of these are given below:

अ = the beginning or first-born of all things, or that which, although it is born first, actually is never born, mukham sarvadharmāṇām, ādyaja, ādyanutpanna

अ = the first sound or svara of the universe, but also the first sound a child makes

अ = the flood or stream of wisdom, consciousness, awareness, knowledge, or jñānaugha

अ = the waking state, wakefulness

अ = Sarveśvara, Parameśvara or Viśveśa, the supreme lord dwelling in the heart

अ = Brahmā, the creator and revealer of all scriptures

अ = Viṣṇu or the All-Pervading One, the sustainer of the world

अ = Śrīkaṇṭha, the one whose throat is splendid, i.e. Śiva after drinking the Halāhala poison due to his compassion for all beings

अ = Keśava or Kṛṣṇa, as Kṛṣṇa says in the Gītā “Among syllables, I am अ” (akṣarāṇām akāro’smi, 10.33)

अ = Indra, the lord of the gods

अ = the area of the forehead or lalāṭa; the skull or mastaka

अ = Intelligence or medhā, the ability to remember what has been learned, to integrate it with one’s personality and conduct

अ = Sarasvatī, also known as Mahābrāhmī, after whom one of India’s first scripts was named

अ = the lord of wealth, Dhaneśa or Kubera

अ = nectar, amṛta

अ = renown, kīrti

अ = liberation or a deep sense of renunciation, nivṛtti

अ = the lord of speech or Vāgīśa (depending on which tradition, this can be either Gaṇeśa, Brahmā or Manju-Śrīkumāra in the Mahāyāna Buddhist tradition)

अ = Kāmeśvarī, a form of Devī dwelling in Kāmarupa, the region of modern-day Assam, and a highly powerful Śaktipīṭha; the region of Kāmarupa itself is also designated by the letter अ

अ = the Sky, Space, or Vīyat

अ = respectful behaviour, pratipatti

अ = to be stable or sthira

अ = the disc of the sun, Arkamaṇḍala

अ = a Brāhmaṇa or Brahmin, a scholar of the Vedas or simply someone who knows the absolute Reality, or who someone seeks to know Reality and live a life of purity and goodness, puṇya.

प्रयोग

HOW to USE *this* ?

प्रयोग

HOW to USE *this* ?

When you think of the letter अ, remember at least three of its many profound meanings. Its foremost meaning is always that it represents and embodies the primordial Reality, the true Nature of all things, the flood of Awareness or *Jñānaugha*:

In the morning when you wake up, you can instantly remember the sacred syllable अ and enter your day by speaking it out loud three times. Consciously connect with its auspicious, vast, infinitely spacious, crystal-like white energy. In the evening, before you fall asleep, you can again remember the sacred syllable अ three times and enter your deep sleep and dream world with it. You will then have clear and auspicious dreams. This instruction is based on the Āgamas.



PRAISE *for the*  
LETTER अ *in the* SCRIPTURES



AMONG ALL SYLLABLES, I AM THE LETTER 'A'  
KṚṢṆA, BHAGAVAD-GĪTĀ 10.33

*Viśvarūpa, the Cosmic Form, Nepali Artwork in Private Collection © Himalayan Art Resources*

PRAISE for the  
LETTER अ in the SCRIPTURES

“Among syllables, I am the letter अ.”

- *Kṛṣṇa, Bhagavad-Gītā 10.33*

“The letter अ is the chief of all things, as it is primordially unborn.”

- *Advayavajra, Amanasikādhāra 10.33*

“The letter अ is Vāsudeva.”

- *Ekākṣara-Koṣa 1*



“O Devī, by reciting the letter अ without bindu and visarga, the great flood of Awareness which is the supreme lord at once rises.”

- *Vijñānabhairava-Āgama 90*