

# MADE IN NEW JERSEY

## VAIŚRAVAṆA VOCABULARY

The following table consists of terms in Sanskrit, Sinhalese, and English that are used in the spoken word parts of this production and to describe the practice and performance of the Bharatanatyam and Kandyan dance styles from India and Sri Lanka, respectively.

TERM	DEFINITION	PRONUNCIATION
abhinaya	expressive & theatrical aspect of dance using hand gestures, facial expressions, and body language for narrative, poetic, or abstract interpretation	Audio <a href="#">abhinaya</a>
Alaka	Kubera's kingdom and refuge for South Asia's indigenous tribes in the foothills of Mount Meru; numerous Hindu & Buddhist kings attempted to penetrate & ransack this paradise	Audio <a href="#">Alaka</a>
Aryan Āryan	archaic term for the "white" peoples of Central Asia & Indus Valley who migrated to the Indian subcontinent due to climate change & natural disasters; first settled along the Ganges River in Northern India & eventually migrated south to Sri Lanka by the 5th century BCE	Audio <a href="#">Aryan</a> <a href="#">Āryan</a>
asūra	"non-god" or "demon" in Sanskrit; often depicted as dark-skinned/black, hedonistic, & violent in Hindu, Buddhist, & Jain mythology; can be used as pejorative term against Dravidian & indigenous peoples & culture in modern vernacular; Kubera & Rāvaṇa are labelled as <i>asūras</i>	Audio <a href="#">asūra</a>
bharatanāṭyam	classical dance style from the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu; reconstructed & modern dance style from earlier traditions of hereditary female court & temple dancers	Audio <a href="#">bharatanāṭyam</a>
bhāva	emotional/physical state of being that is intentionally depicted by performer, stage set, lights, music, etc.	Audio <a href="#">bhāva</a>
dēva	Sri Lankan indigenous tribe of scholars, legislators, & lawmakers; associated with education	Audio <a href="#">dēva</a>
Dravidian Drāviḍa	indigenous people of the Indian subcontinent prior to the arrival of the Aryans; mainly refers to "darker-skinned" South Indians & Sri Lankans in modern vernacular	Audio <a href="#">Dravidian</a> <a href="#">Drāviḍa</a>
geṭa beraya	most important drum for Kandyan music & dance	Audio <a href="#">geta beraya</a>

goḍasaramba	second set of 12 foundational steps in Kandyan dance which emphasize jumps, spins, undulations, & graceful hand movements	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">goḍasaramba</a>
hasta mudra	hand gesture in Sanskrit; used with & without dramatic or expressive intention; <i>hasta</i> is used mainly for dance & <i>mudra</i> for yoga & rituals	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">hasta mudra</a>
Kubēra	Hindu, Buddhist, & Jain deity/guardian of wealth in the form of natural resources; a powerful Yaksha who is transformed into a subservient demi-god; also known as Vaiśravaṇa & by many other names	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">Kubēra</a>
Kuvēni	Yaksha queen who fell in love with Vijaya & betrayed her people; banished by Vijaya after Sri Lanka falls to Buddhism; often depicted in mythology as a “reformed cannibal” but modern literature & oral history reframes her story	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">Kuvēni</a>
magul beraya	ceremonial drum used in rituals to invoke the auspicious blessings of deities	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">magul beraya</a>
meṇḍiya	foundational stance in Kandyan dance; legs are open wide and the feet turned out to the sides; similar to the demi-plie in second position in ballet; hands are held out at chest or shoulder level	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">meṇḍiya</a>
Mēru	mythical sacred mountain with 5 peaks nestled in the Himalayas; represents the center of the universe in Hindu, Buddhist, & Jain cosmology	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">Mēru</a>
nāga	Sri Lankan indigenous tribe of merchants, fishermen, & sailors; associated with trade/commerce	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">nāga</a>
namaskāraya	ritual dance sequence dedicated to the Earth; performed at the start & end of practice/performance	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">namaskāraya</a>
nāṭya	drama/dramaturgy	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">nāṭya</a>
nṛtta	Dance movements without a specific dramatic or expressive intention	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">nṛtta</a>
nṛtya	Dance movements used with specific dramatic or expressive intention (nṛtta & abhinaya combined)	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">nṛtya</a>
pāsaramba	first set of 12 foundational steps in Kandyan dance that emphasize percussive footwork, rhythm, and basic stances; traditionally taught using a <i>dandiyama</i> (like a ballet barre)	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">pāsaramba</a>
raksha	Sri Lankan indigenous tribe of farmers & cattle-herders; associated with agriculture/husbandry	<i>Audio</i> <a href="#">raksha</a>

Rāma	mythical prince endowed with superhuman abilities & believed to be an incarnation of Hindu God Vishnu; his wife Sita is kidnapped by Rāvaṇa; he invades Sri Lanka with an army of powerful monkeys, defeats Rāvaṇa, & rescues Sita	Audio <a href="#">Rāma</a>
rasa	intense emotional, physical, & aesthetic experience by spectator in response to what is being performed	Audio <a href="#">rasa</a>
Rāvaṇa	mythical Raksha king of Lanka in the Hindu epic <u>Ramayana</u> ; often depicted as a powerful & handsome man with 10 heads	Audio <a href="#">Rāvaṇa</a>
sarama kurta	traditional attire for Sri Lankan men; <i>sarama</i> is Sinhalese for sarong; kurta is a long tunic top worn in North Africa, Middle East, & South Asia	Audio <a href="#">sarama kurta</a>
silambu	special anklets worn for Kandyan dance & other dance styles of Sri Lanka & South India	Audio <a href="#">silambu</a>
uḍaraṭa naṭum	collective term in Sinhalese for the Kandyan dances of central Sri Lanka's hill country; originally performed only by men in the temples & courts of Kandy; evolved into a classical dance in the 20th century performed by males & females	Audio <a href="#">uḍarata natum</a>
Vaiśravaṇa	Vedic Sanskrit name for Kubera derived from <i>vi-śru</i> ("to hear distinctly/become famous"); pan-Asian name for Kubera in Hinduism, Jainism, & Buddhism	Audio <a href="#">Vaiśravaṇa</a>
vannam	a foundational Kandyan dance with some text & specific emotional intentionality; inspired by nature, folk traditions, rituals, & sacred Hindu/Buddhist scriptures; depicts animals & extols kings & deities; there are 18 <i>vannams</i> that students have to learn	Audio <a href="#">vannam</a>
ves	ceremonial costume for male Kandyan dancers; primarily in white, red, and silver	Audio <a href="#">ves</a>
Vijaya	Sri Lanka's traditional first king of unknown Indian origin, he and his followers were exiled from India; arrived in Sri Lanka in 543 BCE shipwrecked but conquered the island with the help of Kuveni	Audio <a href="#">Vijaya</a>
Yakdessāgala	540-meter tall rock formation in central-west Sri Lanka; meaning "the rock from which the Yaksha woman cursed" in Sinhalese; legendary site of Kuveni's suicide	Audio <a href="#">Yakdessāgala</a>
yaksha	Sri Lankan indigenous tribe of healers, shamans, & miners; gatekeepers of Earth's secrets & treasures; associated with magic/alchemy	Audio <a href="#">yaksha</a>