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A

abandon **1.** To give oneself up, devote oneself to (a person or thing); to yield oneself without restraint. **2.** To withdraw one's support or help from, especially in spite of duty, allegiance, or responsibility; desert: leave behind. **3.** To give up; discontinue; withdraw from. **abandons, abandoned, abandoning.**

abandoned **1.** Given up, deserted, forsaken, cast off. **2.** Left completely and finally, without help or support. **3.** *adj.* Deserted. *abased* Lowered, humbled, degraded in condition, character, feelings, etc.

abdicate To renounce (a throne, power, responsibility, rights, etc.), *esp.* formally.

aberrations **1.** Deviations or divergences from a direct, prescribed, or ordinary course or mode of action, *esp.* moral or proper.

abhorred Regarded with extreme repugnance, aversion or disgust; detested; loathed. **abhorring.**

abide **1.** To wait, stay, remain. **2.** To remain in residence; to sojourn, reside, dwell. **3.** To remain with; to stand firm by, to hold to, remain true to. **4.** To continue in existence, endure, stand firm or sure. **abides, abode, abiding.**

abject Utterly hopeless, miserable, humiliating, or wretched.

ablaze **1.** Burning; on fire. **2.** Gleaming with bright lights, bold colours, etc.

abnegation Denial, negation; refusal, formal rejection (of a doctrine, etc.).

abode A dwelling-place, place of ordinary habitation; house or home. (Also *pt.* of **abide**.) **abodes.**

abolish To put an end to, to do away with; to annul or make void; to demolish, destroy or annihilate. **abolished, abolishing.**

abortive Terminated before completion.

abounds Present in overflowing measure; plentiful; prevails widely.

abroad **1.** Broadly, widely, at large, over a broad or wide surface; widely apart, with the parts or limbs wide spread. **2.** At large; freely moving about.

abrogate To do away with, put an end to.

abrupt **1.** Characterized by sudden interruption or change; unannounced and unexpected; sudden, hasty. **2.** Precipitous, steep. **3.** Of strata: Suddenly cropping out and presenting their edges.

absence The state of being away (from any place) or not being present; also the time of duration of such state.

absent **1.** Being away, withdrawn from, or not present (at a place). **2.** Of time: Not present, distant, far off.

absolute

absolute *adj.* **1.** Free from all imperfection or deficiency; complete, finished; perfect, consummate. **2.** Of degree: Complete, entire; in the fullest sense. **3.** Having ultimate power, governing totally; unlimited by a constitution or the concurrent authority of a parliament; arbitrary, despotic. **4.** Existing without relation to any other being; self-existent; self-sufficing. **5.** Capable of being thought or conceived by itself alone; unconditioned. **6.** Considered independently of its being subjective or objective. *n.* **7.** Something that is not dependent upon external conditions for existence or for its specific nature, size, etc. (opposed to *relative*). **Absolute, Absolute's, absolutes, absoluteness.**

Sri Aurobindo: "We mean by the Absolute something greater than ourselves, greater than the cosmos which we live in, the supreme reality of that transcendent Being which we call God, something without which all that we see or are conscious of as existing, could not have been, could not for a moment remain in existence. Indian thought calls it Brahman, European thought the Absolute because it is a self-existent which is absolved of all bondage to relativities . . . The Absolute is for us the Ineffable." *The Life Divine*

"Stability and movement, we must remember, are only our psychological representations of the Absolute, even as are oneness and multitude. The Absolute is beyond stability and movement as it is beyond unity and multiplicity. But it takes its eternal poise in the one and the stable and whirls round itself infinitely, inconceivably, securely in the moving and multitudinous." *The Life Divine*

"First, we affirm an Absolute as the origin and support and secret Reality of all things. The Absolute Reality is indefinable and ineffable by mental thought and mental language; it is self-existent and self-evident to itself, as all absolutes are self-evident, but our mental affirmatives and negatives, whether taken separately or together, cannot limit or define it." *The Life Divine*

"The Absolute is beyond personality and beyond impersonality, and yet it is both the Impersonal and the supreme Person and all persons. The Absolute is beyond the distinction of unity and multiplicity, and yet it is the One and the innumerable Many in all the universes." *The Synthesis of Yoga*

". . . the Absolute is not a void or negation. It is all that is here in Time and beyond Time." *The Upanishads*

"The Absolute is in itself indefinable by reason, ineffable to the speech; it has to be approached through experience." *The Life Divine*

absolute reality Sri Aurobindo: "I would myself say that bliss and oneness are the essential condition of the absolute reality, and love as the most characteristic dynamic power of bliss and oneness must support fundamentally and colour their activities; . . ." *Letters on Yoga*

absolutism An absolute standard or principle.

absolve **1.** To free from guilt, blame or their consequences; discharge (from obligations, liabilities, etc.). **2.** To set free, release. **3.** To clear off, discharge, acquit oneself of (a task, etc.); to perform completely, accomplish, finish. **absolves, absolved.**

absorbed **1.** Engrossed or entirely occupied; preoccupied. **2.** Swallowed up, or comprised, so as no longer to exist apart.

abstract *adj.* **1.** Withdrawn or separated from matter, from material embodiment, from practice, or from particular examples; theoretical. **2.** In the fine arts, characterized by lack of or freedom from representational qualities. *n.* **3.** Something that concentrates in itself the essential qualities of anything more extensive or more general, or of several things; essence.

abstractions Things which have no independent existence, which exist only in idea; visionary and unrealistic.

abstruse **1.** Concealed, hidden, secret. **2.** Hard to understand; difficult, recondite.

abusing Using improperly, misusing; perverting, or misemploying; taking a bad advantage of.

abysm An abyss. **abysm's, abysms.**

abysmal **1.** Of, pertaining to, or resembling an abyss; fathomless; deep-sunken. **2.** Extremely or hopelessly bad or severe.

abyss **1.** The great deep, the primal chaos; the 'bowels of the earth', the supposed cavity of the lower world; the 'infernal pit'. **2.** A bottomless gulf; any unfathomable or apparently unfathomable cavity or void space; a profound gulf, chasm, or void extending beneath. **Abyss, abyss's, abysses.**

accent **1.** The way in which anything is said; pronunciation, tone, voice; sound, modulation or modification of the voice expressing feeling. **2.** A mark indicating stress or some other distinction in pronunciation or value. **accents.**

accentuating Marking strongly, emphasizing.

accept **1.** To take or receive (a thing offered) willingly, or with consenting mind; to receive (a thing or person) with favour or approval. **2.** To take formally (what is offered) with contemplation of its consequences and obligations; to take upon oneself, to undertake as a responsibility. **3.** To agree or consent to. **4.** To regard as true or sound; believe. **accepts, accepted, accepting.**

acceptance The act of assenting.

accepted **1.** Received as offered; well-received; approved.

access **1.** The ability, right, or permission to approach, enter, speak with, or use; admittance. **2.** A way or means of approach; an entrance, channel, passage, or doorway.

accident **1.** Any event that happens unexpectedly, without a deliberate plan or cause. **2.** A fortuitous circumstance, quality, or characteristic. **3.** An unfortunate event, a disaster, a mishap. **accidents.**

acquainted Laid claim to, claimed; demanded as one's own or one's due; sought or asked for on the ground of right.

accompany **1.** To go in company with, to go along with. **2.** To add as companion; to associate; to add or conjoin to. **accompanied.**

accomplice An associate in guilt, a partner in crime, often as a subordinate. **accomplices.**

accomplished Fulfilled, completed, finished, perfected. **accomplishing.**

accord Agreement or harmonious correspondence of things or their properties, as of colours or tints. Of sounds: Agreement in pitch and tone; harmony.

account *n.* **1.** A record of debts and credits, applied to other things than money or trade. **2.** A particular statement or narrative of an event or thing; a relation, report, or description. *v.* **3.** To render an account or reckoning of; to give a satisfactory reason for, to give an explanation.

accountable Subject to the obligation to report, explain, or justify something; answerable, responsible.

accountant One who inspects and audits accounts.

accurate **1.** Exact, precise, correct, as the result of care. **2.** Free from error or defect; consistent with a standard, rule, or model; precise, exact.

accursed Lying under a curse or anathema; ill fated; doomed to perdition or misery.

accuse To charge with a fault; to find fault with, blame, censure. **accused.**

accustomed

accustomed **1.** Customary, habitual, usual. **2.** Habituated; acclimated (usually followed by *to*).

ache A continuous or abiding pain, in contrast to a sudden or sharp one. Used of both physical and mental sensations.

achieve **1.** To bring to a successful end, to carry out successfully (an enterprise); to accomplish, perform. **2.** To succeed in gaining, to acquire by effort, to obtain, win. **achieves, achieved, achieving.**

achieved Completed, accomplished; attained, won.

achievement Something accomplished, *esp.* by superior ability, special effort, great courage, etc. **achievements.**

aching **1.** Having the sensation of continuous or ever-recurring pain, throbbing painfully. **2.** Full of or precipitating nostalgia, grief, loneliness, etc.

acknowledged Recognized the existence, truth or fact of; admitted as true, valid, or authoritative.

acolyte An attendant or junior assistant in any ceremony or operation; a novice; follower. **acolytes.**

acquaint To furnish with knowledge; inform; to make cognizant or aware.

acquiescing Assenting tacitly; submitting or complying silently or without protest; agreeing; consenting. **acquiescence.**

acquired Gained for oneself through one's actions or efforts.

acquittance Release from a debt or obligation; discharge.

acres Extensive lands.

acrid Bitterly irritating to the feelings; of bitter and irritating temper or manner; sharp, biting, caustic.

action **1.** The process or condition of acting or doing (in the widest sense), the exertion of energy, influence, power or force. **2.** A way or manner of moving. **3.** A thing done, a deed. **action's, actions, self-action.**

Sri Aurobindo: "Action is the first power of life. Nature begins with force and its works which, once conscious in man, become will and its achievements; therefore it is that by turning his action Godwards the life of man best and most surely begins to become divine." *The Synthesis of Yoga*

"In the subconscious knowledge or consciousness is involved in action, for action is the essence of Life." *The Life Divine*

"Action is a resultant of the energy of the being, but this energy is not of one sole kind; the Consciousness-Force of the Spirit manifests itself in many kinds of energies: there are inner activities of mind, activities of life, of desire, passion, impulse, character, activities of the senses and the body, a pursuit of truth and knowledge, a pursuit of beauty, a pursuit of ethical good or evil, a pursuit of power, love, joy, happiness, fortune, success, pleasure, life-satisfactions of all kinds, life-enlargement, a pursuit of individual or collective objects, a pursuit of the health, strength, capacity, satisfaction of the body." *The Life Divine*

actionless Void of action, inactive.

active Originating or communicating action, exerting action upon others; acting of its own accord, spontaneous.

actual In action or existence at the time; present, current, real. **Actual's.**

acute Penetrating, keen, sharp-witted, shrewd, clever, intense.

adamant *n.* **1.** Any impenetrably or unyieldingly hard substance. **2.** A legendary stone of impenetrable hardness, formerly sometimes identified with the diamond. *adj.* **3.** Unshakeable, inflexible, utterly unyielding. **4.** Incapable of being broken, dissolved, or penetrated; immovable, impregnable. **adamantine.**

adamantine Utterly unyielding or firm in attitude or opinion.

addict One who is attached by one's own inclination to an activity, habit or substance; devoted, given up to.

adept One who is completely versed (in something); thoroughly proficient; well-skilled; expert. **adepts.**

adjoining **1.** Adding, annexing, attaching, or appending. **2.** Lying next, contiguous, adjacent; neighbouring.

adjourned Deferred, postponed; held over to another time.

adjunct Joined or added (to anything); connected, annexed; subordinate in position, function, character, or essence. **adjuncts.**

administration ('s) A body of executive officials collectively entrusted with the execution and administration of laws.

admirable Worthy of admiration; inspiring approval or respect; excellent.

admires **1.** Regards with pleased surprise, or with wonder mingled with esteem, approbation, or affection; and in modern usage, gazed on with pleasure. **admired, admiring. adj. 2.** Regarded with admiration; wondered at; contemplated with wonder mingled with esteem, etc.

admit **1.** To allow to enter, let in, receive (a person or thing). **2. Fig.** To allow a matter to enter into any relation to action or thought. **3.** To accept as true, or as a fact, to acknowledge, concede. **4.** To allow, permit, grant. **admits, admitted, admitting.**

admonishing **1.** Reproving or scolding, especially in a mild or good-willed manner. **2.** Urging to a duty; reminding.

adopt To choose or take as one's own; make one's own by election or assent. **adopts.**

adopted Taken voluntarily or admitted into any new relationship; *esp.* that of a child.

adorable Worthy of worship or divine honour. **Adorable.**

adoration **1.** The act of paying honour, as to a divine being; worship. **2.** Reverent homage. **3.** Fervent and devoted love. **adoration's.**

Sri Aurobindo: "Especially in love for the Divine or for one whom one feels to be divine, the Bhakta feels an intense reverence for the Loved, a sense of something of immense greatness, beauty or value and for himself a strong impression of his own comparative unworthiness and a passionate desire to grow into likeness with that which one adores." *Letters on Yoga*

adore **1.** To worship as a deity, to pay divine honours to. **2.** To reverence or honour very highly; to regard with the utmost respect and affection. **adores, adored, adoring, adorer, adorer's.**

Adored The One who is worshipped, (referring here to Krishna).

Adorer The One who worships, (referring here to Radha).

adorn To beautify as an ornament does; decorate; to add beauty or lustre to. **adorned.**

advance *n.* **1. Fig.** Onward movement in any process or course of action; progress. *v.* **2.** To move or go forward; to proceed. **3. Fig.** To go forward or make progress in life, or in any course. **3.** To move, put, or push (a thing) forward. Also *fig.* **advances, advanced, advancing.**

advent Any important or epoch-making arrival. In modern usage applied poetically or grandiloquently to any arrival. **advent's, advents.**

adventure

adventure *n.* **1.** Any novel or unexpected event in which one shares; an exciting or remarkable incident befalling any one. **2.** The encountering of risks or participation in novel and exciting events; bold or daring activity, enterprise. **adventure's, world-adventure, world-adventure's.** *v.* **3.** To take the chance of; to commit to fortune; to undertake a thing of doubtful issue; to try, to chance, to venture into or upon. **4.** To risk or hazard; stake. **adventuring.**

adventurer One who seeks adventures, or who engages in daring enterprises. (Sri Aurobindo also employs the word as an *adj.*) **adventurers, Adventurers.**

adversary A person, group or force that opposes or attacks, or acts in a hostile manner; an opponent, antagonist; an enemy, foe. **adversary's.**

Adversary.

Sri Aurobindo: "When there is some lowering or diminution of the consciousness or some impairing of it at one place or another, the Adversary -- or the Censor -- who is always on the watch presses with all his might wherever there is a weak point lying covered from your own view, and suddenly a wrong movement leaps up with unexpected force. Become conscious and cast out the possibility of its renewal, that is all that is to be done." *Letters on Yoga*

The Mother: "To conquer the Adversary is not a small thing. One must have a greater power than his to vanquish him. But one can liberate oneself totally from his influence. And from the minute one is completely free from his influence, one's self-giving can be total. And with the self-giving comes joy, long before the Adversary is truly vanquished and disappears."

"The Adversary will disappear only when he is no longer necessary in the world. And we know very well that he is necessary, as the touch-stone for gold: to know if it is pure. But if one is really sincere, the Adversary can't even approach him any longer; and he doesn't try it, because that would be courting his own destruction." *Questions and Answers 1955, MCW Vol. 7.*

". . . insincerity is always an open door for the adversary. That means there is some secret sympathy with what is perverse. And that is what is serious." *Questions and Answers 1957-58, MCW Vol. 9.*

adversary Kings See **Kings, adversary**

adverse Acting against or in opposition to, opposing, contrary; antagonistic in purpose or effect; actively hostile.

adversity The condition of adverse fortune or fate; a state opposed to well-being or prosperity; misfortune, distress, trial, or affliction.

adytum The innermost part of a temple; the secret shrine whence oracles were delivered; a most sacred or reserved part of any place of worship; hence, *fig.* a private or inner chamber, a sanctum.

aegis Originally the shield or breastplate of Zeus, or Athena. Currently, protection; support; sponsorship; auspices.

aeonic Age-long, lasting an aeon.

aeons Ages of the universe, immeasurable periods of time; the whole duration of the world, or of the universe; eternity. **aeons', aeoned, million-aeoned,** (employed as an *adj.* by Sri Aurobindo), **aeon-rings.**

aerial **1.** Having a light and graceful beauty; airy; ethereal; unsubstantial, intangible; hence, immaterial, ideal, imaginary. **2. Biol.** Growing in the air.

aesthesis The perception of the external world by the senses.

Sri Aurobindo: "By aesthesis is meant a reaction of the consciousness, mental and vital and even bodily, which receives a certain element in things, something that can be called their taste, Rasa, which, passing through the mind or sense or

both, awakes a vital enjoyment of the taste, Bhoga, and this can again awaken us, awaken even the soul in us to something yet deeper and more fundamental than mere pleasure and enjoyment, to some form of the spirit's delight of existence, Ananda." *Letters on Savitri*

"Aesthesis therefore is of the very essence of poetry, as it is of all art. But it is not the sole element and aesthesis too is not confined to a reception of poetry and art; it extends to everything in the world: there is nothing we can sense, think or in any way experience to which there cannot be an aesthetic reaction of our conscious being. Ordinarily, we suppose that aesthesis is concerned with beauty, and that indeed is its most prominent concern: but it is concerned with many other things also. It is the universal Ananda that is the parent of aesthesis and the universal Ananda takes three major and original forms, beauty, love and delight, the delight of all existence, the delight in things, in all things." *Letters on Savitri*

"This universal aesthesis of beauty and delight does not ignore or fail to understand the differences and oppositions, the gradations, the harmony and disharmony obvious to the ordinary consciousness; but, first of all, it draws a Rasa from them and with that comes the enjoyment, Bhoga. and the touch or the mass of the Ananda. It sees that all things have their meaning, their value, their deeper or total significance which the mind does not see, for the mind is only concerned with a surface vision, surface contacts and its own surface reactions. When something expresses perfectly what it was meant to express, the completeness brings with it a sense of harmony, a sense of artistic perfection; it gives even to what is discordant a place in a system of cosmic concordances and the discords become part of a vast harmony, and wherever there is harmony, there is a sense of beauty." *Letters on Savitri*

aesthete A person who has or professes to have refined sensitivity toward the beauties of art or nature.

aesthetic Pertaining to a sense of the beautiful or pleasing; characterized by a love of beauty; tasteful, of refined taste.

afar Far, far away, at or to a distance; *fig.* remotely.

from afar. From a long way off.

affair A thing that concerns any one; a concern, a matter.

affections Emotions; kind feelings, love, fondness, loving attachment.

affiliated Being in close formal or informal association; related.

affinity **1.** Causal relationship or connexion (as flowing the one from the other, or having a common source). **2.** A psychical or spiritual attraction believed by some sects to exist between persons.

affirmed Maintained as true; positively asserted; upheld, supported. **affirming.**

affixed Fastened, fixed, joined, or attached, put or added on; appended to.

afflatus The miraculous communication of supernatural knowledge; hence also, the imparting of an over-mastering impulse, poetic or otherwise; inspiration. A creative inspiration, as that of a poet; a divine imparting of knowledge, thus it is often called *divine afflatus*.

afflicted Distressed with mental or bodily pain; troubled greatly; grievously depressed, oppressed, cast down; tormented.

afflicting **1.** Grievously painful, distressing. **2.** Distressing with bodily or mental suffering; troubling grievously, tormenting. **self-afflicting.**

affranchised Freed from a state of dependence, servitude or obligation;

affright Sudden fear or great terror, fright.

affront

affront To face in defiance; confront. **affronted, affronting.**

afloat **1.** Floating or borne on the water; in a floating condition. **2.** From the state of a ship or other body floating on the sea, having liberty of motion and buoyancy.

agape With the mouth wide open.

age *n.* **1.** A great period or stage of the history of the Earth. **2. Hist.** Any great period or portion of human history distinguished by certain characters real or mythical, as the Golden Age, the Patriarchal Age, the Bronze Age, the Age of the Reformation, the Middle Ages, the Prehistoric Age. **3.** A generation or a series of generations. **4.** Advanced years; old age. **age's, ages, ages'.** *v.* **5.** To grow old; to become aged.

ageless Lasting forever; eternal; undying.

agencies Active powers or causes which have the power to produce an effect.

agent *n.* **1.** One who does the actual work of anything, as distinguished from the instigator or employer; hence, one who acts for another, a deputy, steward, factor, substitute, representative, or emissary. *adj.* **2.** That which acts or exerts power. **agents.**

aggrandise To make (something) appear greater; to widen in scope, magnify. **aggrandising.**

aging The process of growing old or maturing; showing signs of advancing age.

agonised Suffered extreme pain or anguish; tortured.

agony **1.** Anguish of mind, sore trouble or distress, a paroxysm of grief. **2.** The convulsive throes, or pangs of death; the death struggle. **3.** Extreme bodily suffering, such as to produce writhing or throes of the body. **agonies.**

agree **1.** To be in harmony or unison in opinions, feelings, conduct, etc.; to be in sympathy; to live or act together harmoniously; to have no causes of variance. **2.** To give consent; assent (often followed by *to*). **agreed.**

Agreement A contract or other document delineating an arrangement that is accepted by all parties to a transaction. (Sri Aurobindo capitalizes the word.)

aid *n.* **1.** Help, assistance, support, succour, relief. *v.* **2.** To give help, support, or assistance to; to help, assist, succour. **aids.**

aide An assistant or helper. **aides.**

aided Assisted.

aim *n. Fig.* **1.** A thing intended or desired to be effected; an object, purpose. **Aim, aims.** *v.* **2.** To point or direct a gun, arrow, etc. toward. **aimed.**

aimless Without aim; purposeless. **aimlessness.**

air **1.** The transparent, invisible, inodorous, and tasteless gaseous substance which envelopes the earth. **2. Fig.** With reference to its unsubstantial or impalpable nature. **3.** Outward appearance, apparent character, manner, look, style: *esp.* in phrases like 'an air of absurdity'; less commonly of a thing tangible, as 'the air of a mansion'. **4.** Mien or gesture (expressive of a personal quality or emotion). **air's.**

aisle A longitudinal division of an interior area, as in a church, separated from the main area by an arcade or divided by a row of pillars. **aisles.**

ajar Neither entirely open nor entirely shut; partly open.

akin Allied by nature; having the same properties; near in nature or character.

Alacananda "One of the four head streams of the river Ganga in the Himalayas. According to the Vaishnavas it is the terrestrial Ganga which Shiva received upon his head as it fell from heaven. The famous shrine of Badrinath is situated on

the banks of this stream. (Dow.)" *Glossary and Index of Proper Names in Sri Aurobindo's Works*

alarm *n.* **1.** A warning sound of any kind to give notice of danger, or to arouse or attract attention; *esp.* a loud and hurried peal rung out by a tocsin or alarm bell. *v.* **2.** To arouse to a sense of danger, to excite the attention or suspicion of, to put on the alert; warn. **3.** To strike with fear or apprehension of danger; to agitate or excite with sudden fear. **alarmed, alarming.**

alas An exclamation expressive of unhappiness, grief, sorrow, pity, or concern.

alchemist ('s) One who is versed in or practices alchemy. Pertaining to one who studies or practises alchemy. **alchemist** (employed as an *adj.* by Sri Aurobindo).

alchemy Any magical or miraculous power or process of transmuting a common substance, usually of little value, into a substance of great value. **alchemistries.**

alcoves Recessed spaces, as bowers in a garden; arched recesses or niches in the wall of any structure.

alert Fully aware and attentive; wide-awake; vigilant, watchful.

algebra The branch of mathematics that deals with general statements of relations, utilizing letters and other symbols to represent specific sets of numbers, values, vectors, etc., in the description of such relations. **2.** Any special system of notation adapted to the study of a special system of relationship.

alien **1.** Unlike one's own; strange; not belonging to one; belonging to another person, place, or family. **2.** Adverse; hostile. **aliens.**

alight **1.** Lighted, kindled, in a flame; on fire. Also *fig.* **2.** Lighted up, illumined.

aligned Arranged in a straight line; brought into line. **re-aligns.**

all- Prefix: Wholly, altogether, brightly. Since 1600, the number of these [combinations] has been enormously extended, *all-* having become a possible prefix, in poetry at least, to almost any adjective of quality. **all-affirming, All-Beautiful, All-Beautiful's, All-Bliss, All-Blissful, All-causing, all-concealing, all-conquering, All-Conscient, All-Conscious, all-containing, All-containing, all-creating, all-defeating, All-Delight, all-discovering, all-embracing, all-fulfilling, all-harboursing, all-inhabiting, all-knowing, All-knowing, All-Knowledge, all-levelling, All-Life, All-love, All-Love, all-negating, all-powerful, all-revealing, All-ruler, all-ruling, all-seeing, All-seeing, all-seeking, all-shaping, all-supporting, all-sustaining, all-swallowing, All-Truth, All-vision, All-Wisdom, all-wise, All-Wise, all-witnessing, All-Wonderful, All-Wonderful's.**

allegiance Loyalty or devotion to some person, group, cause, or the like.

alley A passage between buildings; hence, a narrow street, a lane; usually only wide enough for foot-passengers. **blind alley:** one that is closed at the end, so as to be no thoroughfare; a *cul de sac*.

allied Related; connected by nature, properties, or similitude; kindred.

allotted **1.** Divided or distributed by share or portion; apportioned. **2.** Assigned as a portion, set apart, dedicated.

allowed **1.** Permitted the occurrence or existence of. **2.** Allotted, assigned, bestowed. **allows.**

alloy **1.** A substance composed of two or more metals, or of a metal or metals with a nonmetal, intimately mixed, as by fusion or electrodeposition; a less costly metal mixed with a more valuable one, such as that which is added to gold and silver coinage. **2.** Admixture, as with good with evil.

allured **1.** Attracted as to a lure; drawn or enticed to a place or to a course of action. **2.** Attracted or tempted by something flattering or desirable; fascinated, charmed. **alluring, alluringly, allurements.**

almighty

Sri Aurobindo: [referring to the following lines]

**"Aware of his occult omnipotent source,
Allured by the omniscient Ecstasy,
He felt the invasion and the nameless joy."**

"I certainly won't have 'attracted' [in place of 'allured'] — there is an enormous difference between the force of the two words and merely 'attracted by the Ecstasy' would take away all my ecstasy in the line — nothing so tepid can be admitted. Neither do I want 'thrill' [in place of 'joy'] which gives a false colour — precisely it would mean that the ecstasy was already touching him with its intensity which is far from my intention.

Your statement that 'joy' is just another word for 'ecstasy' is surprising. 'Comfort', 'pleasure', 'joy', 'bliss', 'rapture', 'ecstasy' would then be all equal and exactly synonymous terms and all distinction of shades and colours of words would disappear from literature. As well say that 'flashlight' is just another word for 'lightning' — or that glow, gleam, glitter, sheen, blaze are all equivalents which can be employed indifferently in the same place. One can feel allured to the supreme omniscient Ecstasy and feel a nameless joy touching one without that Joy becoming itself the supreme Ecstasy. I see no loss of expressiveness by the joy coming in as a vague nameless hint of the immeasurable superior Ecstasy."
Letters on Savitri

almighty **1.** *Orig.* and in the strict sense used as an attribute of the Deity, and joined to God or other title. **2.** *Absol.* The Almighty; a title of God. **3.** All-powerful (in a general sense); omnipotent. **Almighty's, Almightiness, almightiness.**

Sri Aurobindo: " See God everywhere and be not frightened by masks. Believe that all falsehood is truth in the making or truth in the breaking, all failure an effectuality concealed, all weakness strength hiding itself from its own vision, all pain a secret & violent ecstasy. If thou believest firmly & unweariedly, in the end thou wilt see & experience the All-true, Almighty & All-blissful." *Essays Divine and Human*

aloof **1.** At a distance; distant; hence, detached, unsympathetic. **2.** Away at some distance (from), with a clear space intervening, apart. **aloofness.**

Alpha and the Omega **1.** 'The beginning and the end,' originally of the divine Being. **2.** The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

already **1.** Core Meaning: an adverb indicating that something has happened before now. **2.** Happened in the past before a particular time, or will have happened by or before a particular time in the future. **3.** Unexpectedly early.

altar **1.** A block, pile, table, stand, mound, platform, or other elevated structure on which to place or sacrifice offerings to a deity. **2.** With reference to the uses, customs, dedication, or peculiar sanctity of the altar. **3.** A place consecrated to devotional observances. **altar's, altars, altar-burnings, mountain-altars.**

alter To make otherwise or different in some respect; to make some change in character, shape, condition, position, quantity, value, etc. without changing the thing itself for another; to modify, to change the appearance of. **alters, altered, altering.**

altitudes High places or regions; elevated regions; great heights.

altruism The principle or practice of unselfish concern for or devotion to the welfare of others (opposed to egoism).

Sri Aurobindo: "Very usually, altruism is only the sublimest form of selfishness." *Essays Divine and Human*

"The surface mental individuality is, in consequence, always ego-centric; even its altruism is an enlargement of its ego:" *The Life Divine*

amateur A person who engages in a study, sport, or other activity for pleasure rather than for financial benefit or professional reasons.

amazed Greatly surprised; astounded; suddenly filled with wonder; astonished.
amazing, amazement.

ambassadors **1.** Diplomatic officials of the highest rank. **2.** Authorized messengers or representatives.

Ambadress A feminine ambassador or messenger.

amber A pale yellow, sometimes reddish or brownish, fossil resin of vegetable origin, translucent, brittle, and capable of gaining a negative electrical charge by friction and of being an excellent insulator. **2.** The yellowish-brown colour of resin.

ambience **1.** The mood, character, quality, tone, atmosphere, etc., particularly of an environment or milieu. **2.** That which surrounds or encompasses.

ambiguities Uncertainties of meaning or intentions.

ambiguous **1.** Open to or having several possible meanings or interpretations; equivocal; questionable; indistinct, obscure, not clearly defined. **2.** Of doubtful or uncertain nature; difficult to comprehend, distinguish, or classify; admitting more than one interpretation, or explanation; of double meaning. **3.** Of oracles, people, using words of double meaning. **ambiguously.**

ambit A sphere of operation or influence; range, scope.

ambition An earnest desire for some type of achievement or distinction, as power, honour, fame, or wealth, and the willingness to strive for its attainment.
ambitions.

ambitioned Aspired to; desired; sought after earnestly.

ambling Going at a slow, easy pace, strolling; sauntering.

ambrosia ('s) Something especially delicious or delightful to taste or smell, divinely sweet; in Classical Mythology, the food of the gods.

ambush **1.** An act or instance of lying concealed so as to attack by surprise. **2.** The concealed position itself. **ambushes.**

ambushed Concealed so as suddenly to burst forth, come in view, or take by surprise.

amethyst A purple or violet quartz; having the clear colour as of the precious stone. Sri Aurobindo uses the word as an *adj.*

"for Amethyst (the Mother) she has revealed that it has a power of protection"
Huta

amicable Characterized by or showing goodwill; friendly; done in a friendly manner; peaceable.

amid In the middle of or centre of; surrounded by; among.

amidst In the middle of; surrounded by; among; **amidst** is often used of things scattered about, or in the midst of others.

amorous Inclined or disposed to love; in love, enamoured, fond. **2.** Showing or expressing love. **3.** Being in love; enamoured.

amour Love or affection; a love-affair, courtship. **amour's, amour-song.**

ample Fully sufficient or more than adequate for the purpose or need; plentiful; of adequate or more than adequate extent, size, or amount; large; spacious.
ampler.

amuse To hold the attention of (someone) pleasantly; entertain or divert in an enjoyable or cheerful manner. **amused, amusing.**

amusements

amusements Pleasurable pastimes of the mind or attention; mental diversions and enjoyments in lieu of more serious matters.

analyse To examine carefully and in detail so as to identify causes, key factors, possible results; examine minutely and critically to determine the elements or essential features of. **analysed.**

Ananke "In Greek mythology, personification of compelling necessity or ultimate fate to which even the gods must yield." *Glossary and Index of Proper Names in Sri Aurobindo's Works*

Sri Aurobindo: "This truth of Karma has been always recognised in the East in one form or else in another; but to the Buddhists belongs the credit of having given to it the clearest and fullest universal enunciation and the most insistent importance. In the West too the idea has constantly recurred, but in external, in fragmentary glimpses, as the recognition of a pragmatic truth of experience, and mostly as an ordered ethical law or fatality set over against the self-will and strength of man: but it was clouded over by other ideas inconsistent with any reign of law, vague ideas of some superior caprice or of some divine jealousy, -- that was a notion of the Greeks, -- a blind Fate or inscrutable Necessity, Ananke, or, later, the mysterious ways of an arbitrary, though no doubt an all-wise Providence." *Essays in Philosophy and Yoga* **Ananke's.**

anarch *a.* Lawless, rebellious; *n.* An adherent of anarchy or a leader practicing it.

Sri Aurobindo: "The anarchic is the true divine state of man in the end as in the beginning; but in between it would lead us straight to the devil and his kingdom." *Essays Divine and Human*

"Anarchism is likely to be the protest of the human soul against the tyranny of a bureaucratic Socialism." *Essays Divine and Human*

Anarchs Authors or advocates of anarchy; leaders of revolt.

anarchy A state of society without government or law ; lawlessness, confusion, chaos, disorder.

ancestors Forebears; descendants. progenitors.

anchor **1.** Any of various devices dropped by a chain, cable, or rope to the bottom of a body of water for preventing or restricting the motion of a vessel or other floating object, typically having broad, hooklike arms that bury themselves in the bottom to provide a firm hold. **2.** A person or thing that can be relied on for support, stability, or security; mainstay.

anchored Fixed or fasten firmly so as to be at rest.

anchorite Withdrawn from the world; secluded.

anchorites Those who have retired to a solitary place for a life of religious seclusion; hermits, recluses.

ancient **1.** Of or in time long past or early in the world's history. **2.** Dating from a remote period; of great age; of early origin. **3.** Being old in wisdom and experience; venerable. **Ancient.**

anew **1.** Over again; again; once more. **2.** In a new form or manner different from the previous.

angel **1.** One of a class of spiritual beings; a celestial attendant of the Deity; a divine messenger of an order of spiritual beings superior to man in power. **2.** A fallen or rebellious spirit once a spiritual attendant of the Divine. **angel, Angels, angels.**

(Sri Aurobindo: "And finally all is lifted up and taken into the supermind and made a part of the infinitely luminous consciousness, knowledge and experience of the supramental being, the Vijnana Purusha." *The Synthesis of Yoga*)

Angel of the House. The guardian spirit of the home.

Angel of the Way Sri Aurobindo: "Love fulfilled does not exclude knowledge, but itself brings knowledge; and the completer the knowledge, the richer the possibility of love. 'By Bhakti' says the Lord in the Gita 'shall a man know Me in all my extent and greatness and as I am in the principles of my being, and when he has known Me in the principles of my being, then he enters into Me.' Love without knowledge is a passionate and intense, but blind, crude, often dangerous thing, a great power, but also a stumbling-block; love, limited in knowledge, condemns itself in its fervour and often by its very fervour to narrowness; but love leading to perfect knowledge brings the infinite and absolute union. Such love is not inconsistent with, but rather throws itself with joy into divine works; for it loves God and is one with him in all his being, and therefore in all beings, and to work for the world is then to feel and fulfil multitudinously one's love for God. This is the trinity of our powers, [work, knowledge, love] the union of all three in God to which we arrive when we start on our journey by the path of devotion with Love for the Angel of the Way to find in the ecstasy of the divine delight of the All-Lover's being the fulfilment of ours, its secure home and blissful abiding-place and the centre of its universal radiation." *The Synthesis of Yoga*

anguish Excruciating or acute distress, suffering, or pain. **anguished.**

animal Sri Aurobindo: "The animal is a living laboratory in which Nature has, it is said, worked out man. Man himself may well be a thinking and living laboratory in whom and with whose conscious co-operation she wills to work out the superman, the god. Or shall we not say, rather, to manifest God?" *The Life Divine*
"The animal is a vital and sensational being; . . ." *The Synthesis of Yoga*

Animal, animal's, animals, animal-soul, half-animal.

animate Alive; possessing life, endowed with life. **half-animate. half-animated.** Giving the appearance of moving, of being alive.

animates 1. Gives life to; makes alive; breathes life into. **2.** To move or stir to action; motivate.

anklet An ornamental circlet worn around the ankle; an ankle-ring. **anklet-bells.**

annexed Attached appended, or added.

annihilate To reduce to utter ruin or non-existence, destroy utterly. **annihilation, annihilation's.**

anniversary The yearly recurrence of the date of a past event, *esp.* the celebration or commemoration of such a date.

announced Made known to the mind or senses. **announcing.**

announcers Those who present, give notice and/or tell news.

annul 1. To reduce to nothing; obliterate; annihilate. To put out of existence, extinguish. **2.** To put an end or stop to (an action or state of things); to abolish, cancel, do away with. **3.** To make void or null; abolish; cancel; invalidate; declare invalid. **annuls, annulled, annulling, annulment.**

anomalies Deviations from the common rule, type, arrangement, order, or form.

anomalous Deviating from or inconsistent with the common order, form, or rule; irregular; abnormal.

another *adj.* **1.** Being one more or more of the same; further; additional. **2.** Very similar to; of the same kind or category as. **3.** Different; distinct; of a different period, place, or kind. *pron.* **4.** A person other than oneself or the one specified. **5.** One more; an additional one. **another's.**

antagonism ('s) **1.** The active opposition or mutual hostility of two opposing forces, physical or mental. **2.** An opposing force, principle, or tendency.

antagonist

antagonist One who is opposed to, struggles against, or competes with another; opponent, adversary. **antagonists.**

antechambers **1.** Chambers or rooms that serve as waiting rooms and entrances to larger rooms or apartments; anterooms. **2.** Any areas that are entrances to other areas.

anthem A song, as of praise, devotion, patriotism or gladness.

anticipated Expected; looked forward to.

anticipations **1.** Expectations or hopes. **2.** Intuitions, foreknowledge, or prescience.

antinomy Opposition between one law, principle, rule, etc., and another.

antipodes Places diametrically opposite each other.

antique **1.** Of or belonging to the past. **2.** Dating from a period long ago; ancient.

antithesis Opposition; contrast.

antre A cavern; cave. **antres.**

anvil A heavy iron block with a smooth face, frequently of steel, on which heated metals are hammered into desired shapes.

anxious Full of mental distress or uneasiness because of fear of danger or misfortune; greatly worried.

apace With speed; quickly; swiftly.

apathy Indifference; insensibility to passion or feeling.

ape **1.** Any of a group of anthropoid primates characterized by long arms, a broad chest, and the absence of a tail; an animal of the monkey tribe. **2.** An imitator, a mimic. **apelike.**

apex **1.** The tip, point, or vertex; summit. **2.** Climax; peak; acme.

aping *adj.* **1.** Imitating, mimicking. *n.* **2.** Imitation, simulation, mimicry. **apings.**

apocalypse **1.** Any revelation or prophecy. **2.** A prophetic revelation, *esp.* concerning a cataclysm in which the forces of good permanently triumph over the forces of evil.

Apocalypse.

apotheosised Glorified; exalted; immortalized; deified.

appalled Filled or overcome with horror, consternation, or fear, resulting in the loss of courage in the face of something dreadful.

appalling Causing dismay or horror; shocking.

apparellled Adorned; covered; decorated; clothed. **apparels.**

apparent Readily seen; exposed to sight; open to view. **2.** Capable of being easily perceived or understood; plain or clear; obvious; visible.

appeal **1.** An earnest request for aid, support, sympathy, mercy, etc.; entreaty; petition; plea. **2.** An application or proceeding for review by a higher tribunal. **3.** The power or ability to attract, interest; attraction. **appealed, appealing, sense-appeal.**

appear **1.** To come into sight; become visible; come into view, as from a place or state of concealment, or from a distance; *esp.* of angels, spirits, visions. **2.** To come into existence; be created. **3.** To be clear to the understanding. **4.** To seem or look to be. **appears, appeared, appearing.**

appearance **1.** The act or fact of coming forward into view ; becoming visible. **2.** The state, condition, manner, or style in which a person or object appears; outward look or aspect. **3.** Outward show or seeming; semblance. **appearances.**

appease **1.** To bring to a state of peace, quiet, ease, calm, or contentment; pacify; soothe. **2.** To satisfy, allay, or relieve.

appeased Pacified, quieted, satisfied; soothed.

appellants Those who appeal to a higher tribunal; entreat.

appointed **1.** Predetermined; arranged; set. **2.** Fixed by, through or as a result of authority; ordained; chosen; designated; selected.

apprentice A learner; novice; tyro; one who is learning the rudiments; a trainee.
apprenticeship.

approach *v.* **1.** To come near or nearer to; draw near. **2.** To come near to a person: i.e. into personal relations; into his presence or audience; or *fig.* within the range of his notice or attention. **3.** To come near in quality, character, time, or condition; to be nearly equal. **approaches, approached, approaching.** *n.* **4.** Any means of access or way of passage, avenue. **5.** The act of drawing near.
approaches.

approve **1.** To confirm or sanction formally; ratify. **2.** To speak or think favourably of; pronounce or consider agreeable or good; judge favourably. **approves, approved.**

apron strings The strings on an apron, used for securing it around one's person.

tie to someone's apron strings. To make or be dependent on or dominated by someone.

Apsaras Sri Aurobindo: "The Apsaras are the most beautiful and romantic conception on the lesser plane of Hindu mythology. From the moment that they arose out of the waters of the milky Ocean, robed in ethereal raiment and heavenly adornment, waking melody from a million lyres, the beauty and light of them has transformed the world. They crowd in the sunbeams, they flash and gleam over heaven in the lightnings, they make the azure beauty of the sky; they are the light of sunrise and sunset and the haunting voices of forest and field. They dwell too in the life of the soul; for they are the ideal pursued by the poet through his lines, by the artist shaping his soul on his canvas, by the sculptor seeking a form in the marble; for the joy of their embrace the hero flings his life into the rushing torrent of battle; the sage, musing upon God, sees the shining of their limbs and falls from his white ideal. The delight of life, the beauty of things, the attraction of sensuous beauty, this is what the mystic and romantic side of the Hindu temperament strove to express in the Apsara. The original meaning is everywhere felt as a shining background, but most in the older allegories, especially the strange and romantic legend of Pururavas as we first have it in the Brahmanas and the Vishnoupurana.

The Apsaras then are the divine Hetairae of Paradise, beautiful singers and actresses whose beauty and art relieve the arduous and world-long struggle of the Gods against the forces that tend towards disruption by the Titans who would restore Matter to its original atomic condition or of dissolution by the sages and hermits who would make phenomena dissolve prematurely into the One who is above phenomena. They rose from the Ocean, says Valmiki, seeking who should choose them as brides, but neither the Gods nor the Titans accepted them, therefore are they said to be common or universal. *The Harmony of Virtue*

apse A usually semicircular or polygonal, often vaulted recess, especially the termination of the sanctuary end of a church.

apt **1.** Having a natural tendency; inclined; disposed. **2.** Unusually intelligent; able to learn quickly and easily. **3.** Exactly suitable; appropriate.

arabesques **1.** Any ornaments or ornamental objects such as rugs or mosaics, in which flowers, foliage, fruits, vases, animals, and figures are represented in a fancifully combined pattern. **2.** *Fine Arts.* A sinuous, spiraling, undulating, or serpentine line or linear motif.

arbiter

arbiter **1.** One empowered to decide matters at issue; judge. **2.** Having the sole or absolute power of judging or determining. **arbiters.**

arbitrary **1.** Based on or subject to individual will, judgment or preference: judgment without restriction; contingent solely upon one's discretion. **2.** Capricious; unreasonable; unsupported. **3.** Derived from mere opinion or preference; capricious; uncertain. **4.** Having unlimited power; uncontrolled or unrestricted by law; despotic; tyrannical.

arc **1.** Any unbroken part of the circumference of a circle or other curved line. **2.** A luminous bridge formed in a gap between two electrodes. **arcs.**

arc-lamps General term for a class of lamps in which light is produced by a voltaic arc, a luminous arc between two electrodes typically made of tungsten or carbon and barely separated.

arcanes Of things known or understood by very few; mysterious; secret; obscure; esoteric. (Employed by Sri Aurobindo as a noun.)

arch **1.** An upwardly curved construction, for spanning an opening, consisting of a number of wedgelike stones, bricks, or the like, set with the narrower side toward the opening in such a way that forces on the arch are transmitted as vertical or oblique stresses on either side of the opening, either capable of bearing weight or merely ornamental; **2.** Something bowed or curved; any bowl-like part: *the arch of the foot*. **3.** An arched roof, door; gateway; vault; *fig.* the heavens. **arches.**

Arch- A combining form that represents the outcome of *archi-* in words borrowed through Latin from Greek in the Old English period; it subsequently became a productive form added to nouns of any origin, which thus denote individuals or institutions directing or having authority over others of their class (archbishop; archdiocese; archpriest): principal. More recently, *arch-*1 has developed the senses "principal" (archenemy; archrival) or "prototypical" and thus exemplary or extreme (archconservative); nouns so formed are almost always pejorative.

Arch-intelligence.

archangel A chief or principal angel, the highest angel in rank. **Archangel, Archangel's.**

archipelago **1.** Any sea, or body of water, in which there are numerous islands. **2.** A large group or chain of islands.

architect The deviser, maker, or creator of anything; one who builds up something, as, men are the architects of their own fortunes. **Architect, architects.**

architectonic *Metaph.* Of the systematic arrangement of knowledge.

architecture **1.** The profession of designing buildings and other artificial constructions and environments, usually with some regard to aesthetic effect. **2.** The character or style of building. **3.** Construction or structure generally. **architectures.**

archives Preserved historical records or documents, also the place where they are kept.

archivist A person responsible for preserving, organizing, or servicing archival material.

archmason *Fig.* Master builder. **Archmason, archmasons.**

Arcturus A giant star in the constellation Boötes. It is the brightest star in the Northern Hemisphere and the fourth brightest star in the sky, with an apparent magnitude of 0.00; sometimes referring to the Great Bear itself.

ardent **1.** Having, expressive of, or characterized by intense feeling; glowing with passion, animated by keen desire; intensely eager, zealous, fervent, fervid. **2.** Burning, fiery, or hot. **ardent-hued.**

- ardour** Great warmth of feeling, passion or desire; zeal, fervour, eagerness, enthusiasm.
- arduous** Hard to accomplish or achieve; requiring strong effort; difficult, laborious, severe.
- arenas** Central stages, rings, areas, or the like, used for sports or other forms of entertainment, surrounded by seats for spectators.
- argent** Resembling silver; silvery white.
- argosies** Fleets of large merchant ships, especially with rich cargo.
- argument** **1.** A fact or statement put forth as proof or evidence; a reason; persuasive discourse, debate. **2.** A process of reasoning; series of reasons.
- arise** **1.** To get up from sleep or rest; to awaken; wake up. **2.** To go up, come up, ascend on high, mount. Now only *poet.* **3.** To come into being, action, or notice; originate; appear; spring up. **4.** Of circumstances viewed as results: To spring, originate, or result from. **5.** To rise from inaction, from the peaceful, quiet, or ordinary course of life. **6.** To rise in violence or agitation, as the sea, the wind; to boil up as a fermenting fluid, the blood; so of the heart, wrath, etc. Now *poet.* **7.** Of sounds: To come up aloud, or so as to be audible, to be heard aloud. **arises, arising, arose, arisen.** (Sri Aurobindo also employs *arisen* as an *adj.*)
- aristocracy** The class to which a ruling body belongs, a patrician order; the collective body of those who form a privileged class; also used *fig.* of those who are superior.
- arm** Power; might; strength. (All other references are to *arm(s)* as a part of the body.) **arm's, arms.**
- arming** Providing with whatever will add strength, force, or security; support; fortify.
- armour** **1.** Any covering worn as a defense against weapons, especially a metallic sheathing, suit of armour, mail. **2.** Any quality, characteristic, situation, or thing that serves as protection. **armours, armoured.** *n.* **1.** Weapons. *v.* **2.** Provides with weapons or whatever will add strength, force or security; supports; fortifies. **armed, arming.**
- arms** *n.* **1.** Weapons. *v.* **2.** Provides with weapons or whatever will add strength, force or security; supports; fortifies. **armed, arming.**
- arose** *Pt.* of **arise.**
- arouse** **1.** To awaken from or as if from sleep or inactivity. **2.** To stir up; excite **3.** To stir to action or strong response; excite. **aroused, arousing.**
- arraigned** Called (an accused person) before a court to answer the charge made against him or her by indictment, information, or complaint, or brought before a court to answer to an indictment; accused, charged with fault.
- arrange** **1.** To put into a specific order or relation; dispose. **2.** To settle the order, manner, and circumstantial relations of (a thing to be done); to prepare or plan beforehand. **arranged, arranging, self-arranged.**
- array** An orderly, often imposing arrangement or series of things displayed; an imposing series.
- arrested** Stopped, checked the course of, stayed, slowed down. **arresting.**
- arrogant** **1.** Having or displaying a sense of overbearing self-worth or self-importance. **2.** Marked by or arising from a feeling or assumption of one's superiority toward others.
- art** *v. archaic* A second person singular present indicative of *be*, now only *poet.*, not in modern usage. All other references are to **art** as the quality, production, expression, or realm, according to aesthetic principles, of what is beautiful,

articles

appealing, or of more than ordinary significance. Also, the class of objects subject to aesthetic criteria. **art's, arts, art-parades.**

Sri Aurobindo: "The highest aim of the aesthetic being is to find the Divine through beauty; the highest Art is that which by an inspired use of significant and interpretative form unseals the doors of the spirit." *The Human Cycle etc.*

"But great art is not satisfied with representing the intellectual truth of things, which is always their superficial or exterior truth; it seeks for a deeper and original truth which escapes the eye of the mere sense or the mere reason, the soul in them, the unseen reality which is not that of their form and process but of their spirit." *The Human Cycle etc.*

The Mother: "True art means the expression of beauty in the material world. In a world wholly converted, that is to say, expressing integrally the divine reality, art must serve as the revealer and teacher of this divine beauty in life." *On Education, MCW Vol. 12.*

"Art is a living harmony and beauty that must be expressed in all the movements of existence. This manifestation of beauty and harmony is part of the Divine realisation upon earth, perhaps even its greatest part." *Questions and Answers, MCW Vol. 3.*

articles Clauses, items, points, or particulars in a contract, treaty, or other formal agreement; conditions or stipulations in a contract.

artifice 1. An artful or crafty expedient; a stratagem. **2.** Cleverness or skill; ingenuity; inventiveness.

artificer 1. One who is skilful or clever in devising ways of making things; inventor. **2.** A skilful or artistic worker; craftsperson. **artificers.**

artisan One skilled in an applied art; craftsperson. **artisans.**

artist 1. One who practises the creative arts; one who seeks to express the beautiful in visible form. **2.** A follower of a manual art; an artificer, mechanic, craftsman, artisan. **artists.** (Sri Aurobindo often employs the word as an *adj.*)

Artist ('s). The Divine, the Creator.

artistry Artistic workmanship, effect, or quality.

as if As it would be if; as though. (Introducing a supposition, or way of conceiving some entity or situation, that is not to be taken literally, but yields some insight or convenience in metaphysics.)

Sri Aurobindo: "What the 'void' feels as a clutch is felt by the Mother only as a reminding finger laid on her cheek. It is one advantage of the expression 'as if' that it leaves the field open for such variation. It is intended to suggest without saying it that behind the sombre void is the face of a mother. The two other 'as if's have the same motive and I do not find them jarring upon me. The second is at a sufficient distance from the first and it is not obtrusive enough to prejudice the third which more nearly follows. . . ." *Letters on Savitri*

ascend To move, climb, or go upward; mount; rise. **ascends, ascended, ascending.**

ascending Rising, mounting up.

ascension The act or process of ascending; upward movement. **flame-ascensions.**

ascent Sri Aurobindo: "The ascent or the upward movement takes place when there is a sufficient aspiration from the being, i.e., from the various mental, vital and physical planes." *Letters on Yoga*

"I may say that the opening upwards, the ascent into the Light and the subsequent descent into the ordinary consciousness and normal human life is

very common as the first decisive experience in the practice of yoga and may very well happen even without the practice of yoga in those who are destined for the spiritual change, especially if there is a dissatisfaction somewhere with the ordinary life and a seeking for something more, greater or better." *Letters on Yoga*

ascetic One who dedicates his or her life to a pursuit of contemplative ideals, whether by seclusion or by abstinence from creature comforts, and practices extreme self-denial, rigorous self-discipline or self-mortification. **ascetic's, ascetics.**

ashamed Feeling shame; distressed or embarrassed by feeling of guilt, foolishness, or disgrace.

ashes **1.** Bodily remains, especially after cremation or decay. **2.** *Fig.* Ruins; *esp.* the residue of something destroyed; remains.

aside **1.** On or to one's side; to or at a short distance apart; away from some position or direction. **2.** To or toward the side. **3.** Out of one's thoughts or mind. **4.** In reserve; in a separate place, as for safekeeping; apart; away.

asoca *Bot.:* *Saraca indica*, Asoka, Sorrowless tree. A small flowering tree native to India with glowing clusters of orange and yellow flowers. **asocas.**

aspect **1.** Appearance to the eye or mind; look. **2.** Nature; quality, character. **3.** A way in which a thing may be viewed or regarded; interpretation; view. **4.** Part; feature; phase. **aspects.**

asphodel A genus of liliaceous plants with very attractive white, pink or yellow flowers, mostly natives of the south of Europe; by the poets made an immortal flower, and said to cover the Elysian (heavenly, paradisa) fields.

aspirant *n.* **1.** One who seeks with eagerness and steady purpose. *adj.* **2.** Aspiring, striving for a higher position; mounting up, ascending. **aspirants.**

aspiration **1.** A strong desire for high achievement. **2.** A steadfast longing for something above oneself. **aspiration's.**

Sri Aurobindo: "Aspiration is a call to the Divine." *Letters on Yoga*

"It is a call of the being for higher things -- for the Divine, for all that belongs to the higher or Divine Consciousness." *Guidance*

"There is no need of words in aspiration. It can be expressed or unexpressed in words." *Letters on Yoga*

"Aspiration is to call the forces. When the forces have answered, there is a natural state of quiet receptivity concentrated but spontaneous." *Letters on Yoga*

"Pulling comes usually from a desire to get things for oneself -- in aspiration there is a self-giving for the higher consciousness to descend and take possession -- the more intense the call the greater the self-giving." *Letters on Yoga*

"Aspiration should be not a form of desire, but the feeling of an inner soul's need, and a quiet settled will to turn towards the Divine and seek the Divine. It is certainly not easy to get rid of this mixture of desire entirely -- not easy for anyone; but when one has the will to do it, this also can be effected by the help of the sustaining Force." *Letters on Yoga*

"Aspiration, call, prayer are forms of one and the same thing and are all effective; you can take the form that comes to you or is easiest to you." *Letters on Yoga*

Strength is all right for the strong -- but aspiration and the Grace answering to it are not altogether myths; they are great realities of the spiritual life." *Letters on Yoga*

aspire To have a fixed desire, longing, or ambition for something at present above one; to seek to attain, yearn. **aspires, aspired, aspiring.**

assail

assail **1.** To attack vigorously or violently; assault. **2.** To impinge upon; make an impact on; beset. **3.** To take upon oneself a difficult challenge with the intention of mastering it. **assailed, assailing.**

assault A sudden violent attack; invasion; onslaught. **assaults, assaulting.**

assayer's stone **1.** Touchstone; a very smooth, fine-grained, black or dark-coloured variety of quartz or jasper (also called basanite), used for testing the quality of gold and silver alloys by the colour of the streak produced by rubbing them upon it; a piece of such stone used for this purpose. **2. fig.** That which serves to test or try the genuineness or value of anything; a test, criterion.

assaying Examining, evaluating, analysing.

assemblage A number of persons gathered together; a gathering, concourse. (Less formal than assembly.)

assembled Gathered together; brought together into one place, collected.

assembly A group of people gathered together usually for a particular purpose. **assemblies.**

assent **1.** Agreement, as to a proposal; concurrence. **2.** Acquiescence; compliance, concession. **assents, assenting.**

assessed Evaluated (a person or thing); estimated (the quality, value, or extent of), gauged or judged.

assets Total resources, items of ownership.

assigned Appointed, designated, deputed, allotted, announced as a task. **assigner.**

assists Gives support or aid to; helps. **assisting.**

associates Partners, comrades, companions, colleagues.

assuage To mitigate, alleviate, soothe, relieve (physical or mental pain).

assume **1.** To take upon oneself, to adopt an aspect, form, or attribute. **2.** To take on titles, offices, duties, responsibilities. **3.** To take on as one's own, to adopt. **assumes, assumed, assuming.**

assured **1.** Made certain; guaranteed. **2.** Certified, verified. **3.** Made secure or certain; confirmed. **4.** Confident, characterized by certainty or security; satisfied as to the truth of something. **assuring.**

astir Moving or stirring, *esp.* with much activity or excitement.

astonished **1.** Amazed, filled with sudden and overpowering surprise or wonder. **2.** Filled with consternation; dismayed. **astonishing.**

astral **1.** Of, relating to, emanating from, or resembling the stars. **2.** Of the spirit world [Greek *astron* star].

astray **1.** Away from the correct path or direction. **2.** Away from the right or good, as in thought or behaviour; straying to or into wrong or evil ways.

astuce Astuteness, i.e. of keen penetration or discernment, sagacious.

Aswapati Sri Aurobindo: "Aswapati, the Lord of the Horse, her [Savitri's] human father, is the Lord of Tapasya, the concentrated energy of spiritual endeavour that helps us to rise from the mortal to the immortal planes; . . ." (From a letter written by Sri Aurobindo) **Aswapati's.**

aswarm Filled, as by objects, organisms, etc. *esp.* in motion; teeming, swarming.

atavism **1.** The reappearance in an individual of characteristics of some remote ancestor that have been absent in intervening generations. **2.** Reversion to an earlier type.

atheist *adj.* Disbelieving or denying the existence of a supreme God.

Sri Aurobindo: "Atheism is the shadow or dark side of the highest perception of God." *Essays Divine and Human*

"The Atheist is God playing at hide & seek with Himself; . . ." *Essays Divine and Human*

athlete Sri Aurobindo employs the word as an *adj.* in the sense of *athletic*: Of the nature of, or befitting, one who is physically active, powerful, muscular, robust, agile.

athwart **1.** Across from side to side; crosswise or transversely; contrary to the proper or expected course; against; crosswise. **2.** Of motion; from side to side.

atmosphere **1.** A surrounding or pervading mood, environment, or influence. **2.** The air.

atom **1.** A unit of matter, the smallest unit of an element, having all the characteristics of that element and consisting of a dense, central, positively charged nucleus surrounded by a system of electrons. **2.** The smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element. **3.** An extremely small part, quantity, or amount. The smallest conceivable unit of an element or of anything. **atom's, atoms, atomic.**

Sri Aurobindo: "In the very atom there is a subconscious will and desire which must also be present in all atomic aggregates because they are present in the Force which constitutes the atom." *Essays in Philosophy and Yoga*

"In every particle, atom, molecule, cell of Matter there lives hidden and works unknown all the omniscience of the Eternal and all the omnipotence of the Infinite." *Essays Divine and Human*

atoned Expiated, made amends for.

attached Joined; connected; bound.

attack The act of setting upon with violent force.; launching a physical assault (against) **attacks.**

attain **1.** To gain as an objective; achieve; reach, arrive at; accomplish. **2.** To arrive at, as by virtue of persistence or the passage of time; To reach in the course of development. **attained.**

attaint Disgrace, corruption; taint; stain .

attempt *n.* **1.** An effort made to accomplish something. **2.** The thing attempted, object aimed at, aim. **attempts, half-attempts.** *v.* **3.** To make an effort at; try; undertake; seek. **attempted, attempting.**

attend To listen to, pay attention to, give heed to; direct one's energies toward.

attendants Those who assist, guide, wait upon, accompany, give service or follow another to contribute to the fulfilment of a need or furtherance of an effort or purpose; subordinate companions.

attending **1.** Accompanying in a circumstantial relation; going with as a concomitant; closely consequent. **2.** Following closely. **3.** Waiting for, awaiting, expecting (a future time, event, result, decision, etc.)

attentive Taking heed; giving close and thoughtful attention; carefully observant.

attesting Bearing witness to, affirming the truth or genuineness of; testifying to, certifying, vouching for. **attests.**

attire Dress, apparel.

attitudes Positions or postures of the body appropriate to or expressive of an action, emotion.

attract To draw by appealing by the emotions or senses, by stimulating interest, or by exciting admiration; allure; invite. **attracts, attracted, attracting.**

attracted

attracted Drawn to; drawn towards.

attraction **1.** The act, power or property of appealing, alluring, enticing or inviting. **2.** A thing or feature which draws by appealing to desires, tastes, etc. **3.** The action of a body or substance in drawing to itself, by some physical force, another to which it is not materially attached; the force thus exercised. **attractions.**

attributes Regards as resulting from a specified cause; considers as caused by something or someone. **attributing.**

attune **1.** To bring into musical accord or harmony; to tune. **2.** To bring into accord, harmony, or sympathetic relationship; adjust. **attuned, attuning.**

audacious **1.** Spirited and original; daring; bold. **2.** Fearlessly, often recklessly daring; bold; defiant; insolent; brazen; unrestrained by convention or propriety.

audacity Boldness or daring without regard for conventional thought or other restrictions.

audible Able to be heard; heard or perceptible by the ear; loud enough to be heard.

audience The act of hearing or attending; the state of hearing, or of being able to hear.

audition The power or faculty of hearing or listening.

ought **1.** Anything whatever; any part. **2.** A cypher, zero. **Aught.**

augur A religious official among the Romans, whose duty it was to predict future events and advise upon the course of public business, in accordance with omens derived from the flight, singing, and feeding of birds. Hence extended to: A soothsayer, diviner, or prophet, generally; one that foresees and foretells the future. (Sri Aurobindo employs the word as an adjective.) **augured.**

august Inspiring mingled reverence and admiration; impressing the emotions or imagination as magnificent; majestic, stately, sublime, solemnly grand; venerable, revered; of supreme dignity.

aura **1.** A distinctive and pervasive quality or character; air; atmosphere. **2.** A subtle emanation from and enveloping living persons and things, viewed by mystics as consisting of the essence of the individual.

Sri Aurobindo: "Yet all the time the universal forces are pouring into him without his knowing it. He is aware only of thoughts, feelings, etc., that rise to the surface and these he takes for his own. Really they come from outside in mind waves, vital waves, waves of feeling and sensation, etc., which take particular form in him and rise to the surface after they have got inside. But they do not get into his body at once. He carries about with him an environmental consciousness (called by the Theosophists the Aura) into which they first enter. If you can become conscious of this environmental self of yours, then you can catch the thought, passion, suggestion or force of illness and prevent it from entering into you. If things in you are thrown out, they often do not go altogether but take refuge in this environmental atmosphere and from there they try to get in again. Or they go to a distance outside but linger on the outskirts or even perhaps far off, waiting till they get an opportunity to attempt entrance." *Letters on Yoga*

". . . the nervous envelope, the aura." *Letters on Yoga*

aureate Golden or gilded; brilliant or splendid.

aureole The radiant circle of light depicted around the head; a glorifying halo.

auspice-hour An auspice is any divine or prophetic token; a favourable sign or propitious circumstance, esp. an indication of a happy future. Sri Aurobindo combines the word 'hour' with auspice to emphasize a special moment.

austere **1.** Severe in manner or appearance; uncompromising; strict; forbidding; stark. **2.** Rigorously self-disciplined and severely moral; ascetic; abstinent. **3.** Grave; sober; solemn; serious. **4.** Without excess, luxury, or ease; severely simple; without ornament. **austerity.**

autarchy Absolute rule or power; despotism; absolute sovereignty.

authentic Not false or copied; genuine; real, original. **authenticity.**

author **1.** An originator or creator, one who originates or gives existence to anything. **2.** He who gives rise to or causes an action, event, circumstance, state, or condition of things. **3.** The composer or writer of a treatise, play, poem, book, etc. **authors.**

authorises Gives permission for, formal approval to; sanctions or approves.

authority The power to enforce laws, exact obedience, command, determine, or judge.

autocracy Unlimited authority, power or influence; absolute government. **autocracies.**

automaton One whose actions are purely involuntary or mechanical; a robot.

autonomy **1.** Independence or freedom, as of the will or one's actions. **2.** Self-government. **autonomies.**

autumn The season of the year between summer and winter, lasting from the autumnal equinox to the winter solstice and from September to December in the Northern Hemisphere; fall.

autumnal Of, belonging to or suggestive of, autumn.

availed To be of use, value, or advantage; to have the necessary force to accomplish something.

Avatars Sri Aurobindo: "The word Avatar means a descent; it is a coming down of the Divine below the line which divides the divine from the human world or status." *Essays on the Gita*

"... [man's] nature calls for a human intermediary so that he may feel the Divine in something entirely close to his own humanity and sensible in a human influence and example. This call is satisfied by the Divine manifest in a human appearance, the Incarnation, the Avatar. . . ." *The Synthesis of Yoga*

"An Avatar, roughly speaking, is one who is conscious of the presence and power of the Divine born in him or descended into him and governing from within his will and life and action; he feels identified inwardly with this divine power and presence." *Letters on Yoga*

"I have said that the Avatar is one who comes to open the Way for humanity to a higher consciousness --. . . ." *Letters on Yoga*

"... an Avatar is not at all bound to be a spiritual prophet -- he is never in fact merely a prophet, he is a realiser, an establisher -- not of outward things only, though he does realise something in the outward also, but, as I have said, of something essential and radical needed for the terrestrial evolution which is the evolution of the embodied spirit through successive stages towards the Divine." *Letters on Yoga*

"The inner Divinity is the eternal Avatar in man; the human manifestation is its sign and development in the external world." *Essays on the Gita*

"The Avatar comes as the manifestation of the divine nature in the human nature, the apocalypse of its Christhood, Krishnahood, Buddhahood, in order that the human nature may by moulding its principle, thought, feeling, action, being on the lines of that Christhood, Krishnahood, Buddhahood transfigure itself into the divine. The law, the Dharma which the Avatar establishes is given

avenge

for that purpose chiefly; the Christ, Krishna, Buddha stands in its centre as the gate, he makes through himself the way men shall follow." *Essays on the Gita*

". . . in the Avatar there is the special manifestation, the divine birth from above, the eternal and universal Godhead descended into a form of individual humanity, ātmānam sṛjāmi, and conscious not only behind the veil but in the outward nature." *Essays on the Gita*

"The Avatar does not come as a thaumaturgic magician, but as the divine leader of humanity and the exemplar of a divine humanity. Even human sorrow and physical suffering he must assume and use so as to show, first, how that suffering may be a means of redemption, -- as did Christ, -- secondly, to show how, having been assumed by the divine soul in the human nature, it can also be overcome in the same nature, -- as did Buddha. The rationalist who would have cried to Christ, 'If thou art the Son of God, come down from the cross,' or points out sagely that the Avatar was not divine because he died and died too by disease, -- as a dog dieth, -- knows not what he is saying: for he has missed the root of the whole matter. Even, the Avatar of sorrow and suffering must come before there can be the Avatar of divine joy; the human limitation must be assumed in order to show how it can be overcome; and the way and the extent of the overcoming, whether internal only or external also, depends upon the stage of the human advance; it must not be done by a non-human miracle." *Essays on the Gita*

The Mother: "The Avatar: the supreme Divine manifested in an earthly form — generally a human form — for a definite purpose." *Words of the Mother, MCW Vol. 15.*

The Mother: "An Avatar is an emanation of the Supreme Lord who assumes a human body on earth." *Works of the Mother, "On Thoughts and Aphorisms" Vol.10*

avenge To inflict a punishment or penalty in return for; take vengeance on behalf of. **avenges.**

avenues Lines or means of approach or access; paths of entrance or exit; often *fig.*

average *n.* **1.** A typical amount, rate, degree, etc.; *norm. adj.* **2.** Typical; common; ordinary.

avid Having an ardent desire or unbounded craving; desirous of.

avoid To keep away from; keep clear of; shun; evade.

await To wait for; expect; look for. **awaited, awaiting, awaits**

awake *v.* **1.** To arouse from sleep or inactivity. **2. Fig.** To rise from a state resembling sleep, such as death, indifference, inaction; to become active or vigilant. **3.** To come or bring to an awareness, to become cognizant, to be fully conscious, to appreciate fully (often followed by *to*). **awakes, awoke, awaking. adj.** **4.** Not asleep; conscious; vigilant, alert. **half-awake.**

awaked Awakened.

awaken *Fig.* To rouse into activity; to stir up, excite; kindle.

awakened **1.** Aroused from sleep, sloth, or inaction. **2.** Made aware; cognizant; conscious. **half-awakened.**

awakening *adj.* **1.** Rousing (something) or being aroused, as if from sleep. *n.* **awakenings. 2.** Recognitions, realizations, or coming into awareness of things.

aware Having knowledge; cognizant; conscious.

awe An overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration, fear, etc., produced by that which is grand, sublime, extremely powerful, or the like.

awed **1.** inspired or influenced by a feeling of fearful wonderment or reverence; **2.** Inspired with reverential wonder combined with an element of latent fear.

awful **1.** Inspiring fear; terrible, dreadful, appalling, awe-inspiring. **2.** Extremely impressive. **3.** Profoundly inspired by a feeling of fearful wonderment or reverence.

awhile For a short time or period.

awoke *Pt. of awake.*

axis **1.** The pivot on which any matter turns. **2.** A straight line about which a body or geometric object rotates or may be conceived to rotate.

azure A light shade of blue resembling the colour of the clear sky in the daytime.