

GLOSSARY

- ācā luyegu* second Tantric initiation of a Bajrācārya which empowers him to perform life-cycle rituals
- āgāchē* temple housing an esoteric deity
- āgādyah* esoteric deity of a clan, often of all members of a caste
- āgusā* tuft of hair (Nep. *ṭuppi*)
- ahimsā* not to injure or harm, the principal of non-violence
- ajimā* grandmother, evil spirit
- ākās* the aether (one of the five elements) or blue sky as the abode of Bhairava and spirits
- ākās dip* offering of lights dedicated to the ancestors in the month of Kārttik
- akṣata* (Nep.) see Nev. *kigaḥ*
- akṣaya trītyā* Indestructible Third, the third day of the bright moon in April/May
- amalā* (Nep. *āmvaḥ*, Skt. *āmalakī*) is *Emblica myrobalan*; *Phyllanthus emblica* L. (*Euphorbiaceae*)
- āmvaḥ-hāmvaḥ* a mixture of dried *Emblica myrobalan* (*Phyllanthus emblica* L. *Euphorbiaceae*) and black sesame
- asuddha*, (Skt. *aśuddha*) polluted, referring to persons (like *dumhā*) or objects (clothes, houses)
- atāli* terrace on top floor level of a house
- aūsī* new moon (Skt. *amāvāsyā*)
- baigaḥ* top floor of the house, with kitchen and shrine room for the ancestor deity
- baji* beaten rice
- bajimā* wet or dry rice husk, offered to the *preta* before cremation
- bājyā* grandfather
- Bālācahre (Nep. Bālācaturdaśī) the 14th day of the dark half in Mangsir
- bandh* strike
- bāre chuyegu* initiation ritual for the sons of Bajrācārya
- bārḥā taygu* menarche ritual
- barro* (Nep. *hala*, Skt. *vibhūtaka*) is *Belleric myrobalan*; *Terminalia nelleriva* Roxb.
- batāḥ* container of brass (to carry the *vikalapiṇḍa*)
- bau* offering to the spirits: either wetted husked rice with turmeric or rice husk with red pepper
- bhailaḥguthī* funeral association of painters (Citrakāra)
- bhailaḥthvāpi* beer pot of clay, object of worship by funeral associations
- bhajā* earthenware pot to heat up rice or to cook
- bhēcāpūjā* worship of nephews by the chief mourner
- bhr̥ṅgarāja* see *bhyalāy*
- bhulā* small plots of two square metres dedicated to an ancestor
- bhusadhā* anniversary rituals („birthday,,)
- bhuti* white beans
- bhvaḥ pāhā* families whose entire members are invited to join the feasts at the conclusion of death rituals
- bhyalāy* (Skt. *bhr̥ṅgarāja*) *Eclipta prostrate* Ait., small-leaved plant with yellow flowers and leaves, inevitable part of any death ritual
- bibau* offering of seven different grains to the spirits (for example on the occasion of Bālācahre), also beaten rice, black soybeans and fish offered to *chvāsaḥ* stones in cases of illness
- bikalapiṇḍa* see *vikalapiṇḍa*
- bikva* short form of *bikalapiṇḍa*
- Bisketjātrā New Year festival, 12th to 18th April
- bvaḥ* one portion of food on the occasion of a feast
- byāḥ yēkegu* food brought to the bereaved family on the 4th, 5th and 6th day after death
- byēkegu* to cause to be untied, to purify oneself by taking a bath
- cahre* the 14th day of the dark or bright half of the lunar month
- caitya* (Skt.) see *cibhāḥ*
- cakrapūjā* (Skt.) ritual performed by the Jugi on the occasion of *nhenumhā* (7th day death ritual)
- cāku* raw sugar
- canā* chick peas
- capu* grass sod
- catāmari* flat bread of rice flour
- cetanā* (Skt.) pure consciousness
- chē* house
- chēḍi* ground floor
- chucū* wheat flour
- chvāsaḥ* protective stone with a defined catchment area of households, absorbing ritual waste
- chvāsaḥvāimhā* the mistress of the household (*nakhī*) in the act of discarding the belongings of the deceased on to the *chvāsaḥ* stone
- cibhaḥ* Buddhist votive structure (Skt. *stūpa*)
- cikā* mustard oil or rape oil, used to rub the corpse immediately after death
- cikā taygu* ritual of applying mustard oil to the hair on the 361st day after death
- cipa* polluted food (leftover or touched by others)
- cuka* confined courtyard, more often square in plan
- cvakiajimā* stone in public space that absorbs after-birth

cvatā second floor level of a house
cvaykaḥ vanegu to inform all Jugi in town of a case of death
dabu platform on a square
dāg torch of straw carried to the cremation ground
dākilā death ritual after 12 months
dakṣiṇā (Skt.), Nev. *dachinā*, a gift presented by a client (*jajmān*) to the priestly officiant
dalā open arcade on ground floor level of a house
daphaḥsvā (Skt. *kuṇḍāpuṣpa*), jasmine.
 Dasāī festival in autumn for a period of 15 days to celebrate the mythic victory of Durgā over the demon Maḥiṣa
daśakriyā (Nep., Skt.) “the ten works”, death rituals of the first ten days
debā see *dyaḥbā*
degudyaḥ see *dugudyaḥ*
dekhā Tantric initiation
devāliguthī association to perform the worship of the ancestor’s deity
dhācāsvā (Skt. *damanakaḥ*), Indian wormwood, artemisia Indica.
dharmadhātucāitya (Skt.) type of *stūpa*
dhau curds
dhaupatu stand with two small cups for curds and ritual rice
dhoti (Nep.) dress for males
dhuni (Nep.) eternal fire
dhūp (Skt. *dhūpa*) incense
dhvākā stone on street crossings signifying places haunted by spirits
digudyaḥ see *dugudyaḥ*
dīp cremation ground
divā torch carried by Cālā, heading the death procession
ḍubo (Nep., Skt. *dūrvā*, Nev. *situ*) a species of grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) common to marshland which survives the dry season, considered to be one of the substitutes for the soma plant
du byēkegu purificatory ritual on the 10th day after death
dugu goat
dugudyaḥ ancestral god
dumhā male and female members of the *phukī* polluted through death for the first ten days
dupā taygu admission of boys at the age of 4 or 5 to (du = inside) the lineage (*phukī*)
duru milk
dūrvā (Skt.) see *ḍubo*
dyaḥ deity
dyaḥbā shroud, red or yellow cloth covering the corpse during the death procession
dyaḥpālāḥ caretaker (*pālāḥ*) at a non-iconic representation, the seat (*pīṭha*) of a deity
dyaḥpālīcā see *pālimhecā*
ekādasīcā bvaḃyegu offering of food to the *preta* on the 11th day of death rituals

gaḥpacā spouted pot used to offer water to the corpse
 Gājātrā cow festival, Nep. for Sāpāru
gaṅgājal (Nep.) pure water, originated from the Gaṅgā
garbha (Skt.) womb, interior of a *caitya* or temple
gayālvahā stone representing Gāya, installed at cremation grounds
godāna (Skt.) ritual offering of a cow
 Gunipunhi (Nep. Janaipūrṇimā), full moon in August
gusīpakva storehouse for wood used for cremations
guthī (funeral) association; designation of the annual congregation
guthīchē house (*chē*) of a funeral association
gvē betel nut
gvēsabhvay feast on the occasion of marriage
gyaḥ (Nep. *ghī*) clarified butter
gyaḥ-kasti purified butter and honey, added to the *piṇḍa* and put into the fire on the 12th day after death
gyaḥcāku a dish of butter and sugar, ritually consumed on 15th January (*Māgha saṅkranti*)
hāku hāmvaḥ black (*hāku*) sesame (*hāmvaḥ*), said to represent the sweat of Viṣṇu
hāmvaḥ-techva a mixture of black sesame and barley, used for the purificatory bath on the 10th day ritual (*du byēkegu*)
harro (Skt. *haritakī*) is *Chebulic myrobalan*; *Terminalia chebula* Retz. (*Combretaceae*)
hīti step-well
hyāgaḥ charcoal
hyāūsinhaḥ vermilion used to mark the forehead
ihi initiation ritual for girls, mock marriage with the bel fruit
ijjat (Nep., Urdu) respect, prestige
ikā (Nep. *sarsun*) rape, *Brassica napus*
ilākā segment of urban space centering around an essential shrine which receives blood offerings
iṣṭadevatā (Skt.) the deity (chosen by the worshipper himself)
jaḥdhū drinking fountain
jajmān (Skt. *yajamāna*) client of a priest, sacrificer
jāki wettened husked rice
jākva old-age celebration
jalasi kidney
jaldān (Nep., Skt. *jaladāna*) ritual offering of water
jaldān gaḥpacā pots used in death rituals for the offering of water from the 30th day offering onwards
jātaḥ horoscope
jicābhāju the brother-in-law or husband of a sister of the deceased, who has no more parents
jugibvaḥ offering to the ancestors, handed over to the Jugi four times a year and after death rituals
jugigaḥ cremation ground for Jugi
 Juginī female Jugi who collects offerings

- jvālānhāykā* mirror, brought by the barber on the 10th day death ritual
- kāciapā* unfired, sun-dried brick
- kāciapā vāygu* to discard unfired bricks on a *chvāsaḥ* stone
- kācikā* raw cotton, to bind the bier
- kākābali* (Nep.) offering of ten *piṇḍas* dedicated to the crows on the 10th day
- kalāḥajimā* stone in public space that absorbs offerings to the spirits in case of illness
- kalāḥ vāygu* to discard the food offerings dedicated to the *pitṛ* on the occasion of a feast of the lineage at a *chvāsaḥ* stone
- kalas* (Skt. *kalaśa*) ritual vase containing water
- kapāyṣu* cotton seeds
- kasu* green peas
- kāṭṭo nakegu* to feed with a dish that includes a piece of the corpse's skull
- kaytāpūjā* initiation ritual of boys
- kegu* peas
- khalu* (Skt. *kirātatikta*) bitter herb, usually prescribed in case of malaria and diabetes (*Agathotes chirayta*)
- khāme* name of the sacrificial buffalo offered on the eve of *vijayadaśamī* during Dasāi
- khau* crushed oil cake (from mustard seeds)
- khukuri* (Nep.) large knife, carried by a member of the funeral association to intimidate the deceased
- khulā* death ritual after six months
- khusibvaḥ* offering to the *preta* on the 7th and 45th day after death, discarded into the river (*khusi*)
- khyaḥ* open ground (Nep. *khel*)
- kigaḥ* unbroken rice, used in rituals (Nep., Skt. *akṣata*)
- kijāpūjā* worship of brothers by their sisters and aunts (the *māmhā pitṛ*)
- kikīpā* a crown, symbolizing the ancestor deity
- kīrtan* (Nep.) group engaged in devotional songs
- kriyāputra* (Nep., Skt.) see Nev. *mitamhā*
- kṣetrapāla* (Skt.) tutelary deity, guardian of a courtyard or square
- kuchi* measurement of volume, equal to two *mana*
- kuchibhvay* feast (including two *mana* of beaten rice) on the eighth day of Dasāi in October
- kūcū* short handle of a spade
- kula* (Skt.) descendants of a family, lineage
- kuladevatā* (Skt.) lineage deity (see *dugudyaḥ*)
- kulchē* house of origin of a patrilinear group
- kulehoma* (Nep.) symbolic fire in front of the house of a deceased before the corpse is carried to the cremation ground
- kumbha* (Skt.) small spouted pot, used in the *latyā* death ritual
- kus* (Skt. *kuśa*) grass (*Desmostachys bipinnata*), the most sacred of Indian grasses, used in death rituals, at times representing the Brahmin
- kusā lapte* (Nep. *mālu*) climber found in *sāl* forests, *Bauhinia vahlii* Wight & Arn.
- kutva* bier to carry the corpse
- kvācā* large earthenware pot used for the 7th day death ritual
- kvajā* see *khusibvaḥ*
- kvalā* copper bowl, exclusively used in rituals
- kvāpāḥḍyaḥ* central deity of a Buddhist monastery
- lā lane*
- lāchi* small square
- lakca* ritualised mourning of male and female members of the *phukī* as well as friends and neighbours on the 4th day after death
- lakcabaji* an offering of beaten rice (*baji*) on the 4th day after death
- lakca vanegu* to approach the house of the chief mourner wailing
- latyā* (Skt. *sapiṇḍikaraṇa*) union with the ancestors on the 13th or 45th day of death rituals (lit. "one and a half months").
- latyā vāygu* to perform the death ritual of the 13th or 45th day
- laukā* gourd
- lhā* hand
- lhā panegu* purifying the hands above a fire, ritual on the 12th day after death
- lūdhvākā* golden gate, especially of Bhaktapur Palace
- lukkāpūjā* ritual performance at a door before entering the house
- macabu byēkegu* purification ritual after birth (on the 4th or 5th day, cutting the umbilical cord)
- macāgaḥ* = *macāphvāgaḥ* burial ground for children who died before the rice-feeding ceremony
- mahantā* (Nep.) head of a *maṭh*, in Bhaktapur a group of Non-Newars who are considered *san-nyāsi*, who are not cremated but buried in a seated, cross-legged posture, as though engaged in meditation
- māitī ghar* (Nep.) see *thaḥchē*
- māling* kind of shawm played by Jugi
- māmhā pitṛ* daughters, aunts and grandaunts who are invited to feast, lit "living ancestors"
- mana* volumetric measure, equal to half a *kuchi*
- māricā* deep fried small loaf of fine wheat flour, with no taste
- masānta* the last day of the month according to the solar calendar
- matā* light (Nep. *dīp*)
- mātā* first floor level of a house
- maṭha* religious institution (of *mahantās*)
- māy* black lentils
- mhā* body
- mhā gekegu* to prepare the corpse before being carried to the cremation ground
- mhāpūjā* worshipping the body on the first day of the bright moon in October/November, the first day of the Year according to Nepāl Saṃvat
- mhāsusinhaḥ* yellow colour used to mark the forehead in the course of death rituals

mhāymacā daughter or sister of the deceased, who prepares the *nhenumhā* food
mhecā small bag containing offerings
mi fire
mī mapumhā children who have died before the age of rice-feeding ceremony, lit. “bodies that are not exposed to fire”
mi salī incense, a special variety liked by ancestors
mipunāli torch of straw
mitamhā the chief mourner, who gives fire to the pyre
mūdīp principal cremation ground at Cupīghāt
mulu long needle, used to hurt the *preta* on the 10th day
murdā (Nep.) corpse, death
murdāguthī funeral association
murdāsamssthā funeral association (in Satepa)
musvā (Skt. *mulapūṣpa*) flower used for ancestor worship (*dugudyahpūjā*)
musyā soy beans
musyāpvā torch supplied by the family of the chief mourner and the households of the married daughters to accompany the death procession
mutumāri cones of steamed rice flour
mva luyegu to take a purifying bath, on the 11th day of death rituals
mvaḥni black stroke on the forehead signifying the sharing of a sacrifice, especially on the occasion of *vijayadaśamī*
nāgarājā the King of Serpents
nāḥbatāḥ brass container (*batāḥ*) used for water (*nāḥ*)
nāḥkāpaḥ cotton strips worn by the chief mourner around head and waist
nakhī mistress of a household, or of a group
nani spacious courtyard
napaḥ (Nep. *narkaṭ*) local variety of reed
narainguthī association of Kṛṣṇā *bhakti* assisting in death rituals
Naunī wife of a barber (Nau)
nāyaḥ head of a group, a congregation, a clan
nāykhī the drum played by butchers
nhenumhā death ritual on the 7th day (*nhenu*)
nhenumhā bvaḥ offering of food to the *preta* on the 7th day of the death rituals
nhenumhā kāygu receiving the offerings to the *preta* on the 7th day by the Jugi
nhenumhā thuiḥhā the cook of the food offered to the *preta* on the 7th day, invariably the *mhāymacā*
nislā biyegu the carrying of the *nislā* offering (wheat flour, ginger, betel nut and coin) to the Brahmin’s house
nityapūjā (Skt.) celebration at the end of the day
nyedātiḥi death ritual performed after two years
pācā grey clay
pāju uncle: mother’s brother
pājukhalaḥ matrilinear relatives

pakā (Nep. *rāyo*) broad leaf mustard with reddish brown seeds, *Brassica juncea* (L.) Czern.
pākhā eaves
pākhājā offering of food to the *preta*, placed below the eaves on the 7th day after death
pālāḥ caretaker, the present incumbent of the post on the basis of annual rotation
palesvā lotus flower
pālīmhecā treasure box of the funeral association, which accompanies the death procession
pañcabali (Nep., Skt.) five offerings
Pañcadānacahre the 14th of the dark moon in September
pañcadaśakalāpiṇḍadāna (Skt.) the offering of the 15th *piṇḍa* prior to the *sapiṇḍikaraṇa*
pañcagavya (Nep., Skt.) the five products of a cow: cow dung, urine, milk, curds and butter
pāp (Skt. *pāpa*) evil, harmful, sin
pāsā friend, helper (in death rituals the *jicābhāju*)
Pasacahre (Skt. *piśācacaturdaśī*) Goblin’s Fourteenth, the 14th day of the dark moon in March, an occasion to propitiate the spirits
pasah shop
pecā straw ring used to support pots
pekhi (Nep.) = (Skt.) *piṇḍa*, sacrificial ball
pekhilācā lane or path to the river
pekhi tayyēkegu to carry the ingredients for *piṇḍa* to the house of the chief mourner
pekhi vāygu to discard the offerings of *piṇḍa*
penhu dukha cvanegu to express grief on the 4th day after death
phukī lineage group, close agnates up to the third generation, shares the same *dugudyah*, all members are *dumhā*, polluted for a period of ten days
picā small basket made of reed, used for the 7th day death ritual
pikhālākhu stone guarding the threshold of houses and temples, absorbs ritual waste on various occasions
piṇḍa (Skt.) balls of cooked rice, wheat or barley, offered to the ancestors (*pitṛs*)
piṇḍapātra see *kvalā*
piṇḍavedi (Skt.) place designated for lining up the *piṇḍas*
piśāc (Skt. *piśāca*) demonic beings, spirits that congregate at cremation grounds and on crossroads
Piśācacaturdaśī (Skt.) see *Pasacahre*
pitaraḥ (Skt.) forefathers (cf. *pitṛ*)
pīth (Skt. *pīṭha*) seat of a deity in non-iconic form
pitṛ (Skt.) ancestor of a family or clan, manes (cf. *pitaraḥ*)
pi vāy yēkegu to discard the afterbirth and the umbilical cord (on a *cvakiajimā* stone)
prāṇa (Skt.) breath, vital force
praṇavāyu (Skt.) the breath of life or life principle; the five life winds
prasād (Nep., Skt. *prasāda*) divine grace, the offering returned by a priest to the client

- preta* (Skt.) ethereal form assumed by a dead man during the period between death and union with his or her ancestors (*pitṛ*)
- pretabali* (Skt., Nep.) offering of 10 *piṇḍas* on the 10th day
- Pretakriyāpaddhati* notebook to guide the priest in death rituals
- pretaśāntihoma* (Skt.) see *kulehoma*
- pūjākvathā* shrine room on top floor level
- pulu* woven bamboo mat on which the corpse is placed
- putugvē* relationship to the bereaved family expressed through the acceptance of betel nuts (*gvē*) on the occasion of a marriage ceremony
- Pvaylāpunhi full moon in December
- sā* (Nep. *gāi*) cow
- sā khāygu* to shave the head in an act of purification
- sadatihi* death ritual after three years
- sāduru* cow milk
- sāl* the *Sal* tree (*Shorea robusta*)
- salā vānegu* to proceed along a route towards the cremation ground
- sali* small earthenware cup
- samādhi* (Skt.) posture of meditation, cross-legged
- samaybaji* the first food containing rice, soy beans, ginger, egg and fish handed out by the priest on the 12th day after death
- sanāḥgu* funeral association (also *sanāguthī*)
- saṅgha* (Skt.) congregation, monastic order
- saṅkalpa* or *saṃkalpa* (Skt.) ritual declaration of intent
- śānti* (Skt.) tranquillity, absence of passion
- śāntijātrā* (Skt.) procession demonstrating the values of the Oṃ śānti sect
- sanyāsi* (Skt. *saṃnyāsin*) ascetic, one who has relinquished all worldly attachments and values
- Sāpāru festival of the cow (*sā*) on the first day (*pāru*) of the dark half of the moon in August/September
- sapiṇḍikaraṇa* (Skt.) see Nev. *latyā*
- śayyadāna* (Skt.) offering of a bed on the 45th day after death
- sesthe* (Skt. *śeṣa*) remaining lump (of *piṇḍa* dough)
- sibājā* “the music of death,, played by butchers
- sichyāḥ* flat cymbals played by butchers
- siguthī* funeral association
- silā* lanes reserved for death processions
- simānā* boundary
- sinasvā* (Nep. *bhīmsenpati*) longish leaf essential for death rituals, *Buddleja asiatica*,
- Sithīnakaḥ the 6th day of the bright half of the moon in June
- śivaliṅga* (Skt.) non-iconic, phallic representation of Śiva
- soraśrāddha* (Nep.) period of sixteen (*sora*) days in September for performing the death ritual for the ancestors by the head (*nāyah*) of the clan
- śrāddha* (Skt.) ancestor ritual
- śrī pañcamī guthī* congregation of a funeral association on the 5th day of the bright moon in February („beginning of spring”)
- subyā* Thursday after full moon in April
- suddha* (Skt. *śuddha*) not polluted, pure
- suddha vākegu* attaining purity (on the 12th day)
- śūdra* (Skt.) untouchables
- sukunḍā* ritual lamp, symbolizing the sun (*Sūrya*)
- supāri* (Nep.) see Nev. *gvē*
- svaḡāki* plate with rice
- svamva luyegu* purificatory ritual on the 11th day after death
- svānabali* (Nep.) offering of ten *piṇḍas* dedicated to the dogs on the 10th day
- svāri* bread of fine wheat flour, deep fried in butter
- svāvā* (Nep. *jungadhan*) variety of rice used as offerings for the ancestors, *Oryza sativa*
- syū* head of a sacrificial animal
- syūkābhvay* feast in conclusion of the *dugudyahpūjā*
- taḥdhāguthī* funeral association of the painters
- talāy* (Skt. *taṅgarāja*) large-leafed plant with white flowers, inevitable part of any death ritual
- taṅgarāja* see *talāy*
- taḥḍī* “the great day”, the first Sunday or Thursday after *aḡṣaya tṛtīya*, the most intensive day for the worship of ancestor deities
- taḥsi* auspicious citrus fruit, offered on the occasion of *mhāpūjā* and by the Navadurgā
- tapābājyā* great-grandfather
- tarul* sweet potato
- tāy* popped rice
- techva* barley
- thaḥchē* (Nep. *maiti ghar*) designation of the maternal home of women
- thvā* rice beer
- thvāpicā* beer sieve
- tila* black sesame seeds (*Sesamum indicum*)
- triphalā* (Skt.) a mixture of emblica (*āmvāḥ*), chebula (Nep. *harro*, Skt. *haritaki*) and belleric (Nep. *barro*, Skt. *vibhūtika*) myrobalan
- tripiṇḍa* (Skt.) three parts of the *pretapiṇḍa* which are joined with the *piṇḍas* representing the ancestors
- trisul* (Skt. *triśūla*) trident, emblem of Śiva
- tulsī* basil, *Ocimum sanctum*
- tulsivedī* platform for basil plant
- tvah* (Nep. *ṭol*) well-defined quarter of a town
- tvalā* (Skt. *torāṇa*) tympanum
- vā* unhusked rice
- vākijāki* a mixture of husked and unhusked rice
- vikalapiṇḍa* (Skt.) *piṇḍa* reserved for unknown deceased and miscarriages
- viśvedevaḥ* (Skt.) semi-divine forefathers, demigods
- yaḥmāri* cone-shaped sweets offered on the occasion of birthdays and on full moon in November
- yaḥmāripunhi* full moon in November

yākā pāhā families of which only one member is invited to join the feast that concludes death rituals
yamaḍhārā Yama's spout, cooling the *preta* repre-

sented by the Hāṭakeśvara *liṅga* on the 10th day after death
yanyāpunhi full moon in September