# Satyananda Yoga

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# Glossary

acharya teacher; spiritual preceptor

adi original, primordial

an aspect of yogic philosophy which aims at the goal of advaita

experiencing a state beyond duality, beyond opposites

such as like and dislike, good and bad, etc

fire; fire element, see Tattwas agni

increases prana and heat in the body through pranayama agnisar kriya

and mudra; preparatory for nauli

individuality, the concept of ahamkara - the ego factor

which identifies the self with the material environment; aham

identity of the individual being

ahara the craving for satisfaction: the urge to consume

ahimsa absence of negativity from within; non - violence

concentration point at the top of the spine; situated in the

mid brain, behind the eyebrow centre at the medulla

ajna chakra oblongata, associated with deeper knowledge, ability to

visualise, memory and intuition. It is considered to be

responsible for monitoring the other chakras.

akara form; dimension in which individuality manifests akasha space; Brahman. Akasha tattwa is the ether element, see

**Tattwas** 

akasha dharana preparatory practice for Laya Yoga

alakh bara invisible boundary; secluded place for sadhana

amaroli the practice of using one's own urine for therapy

anahata chakra concentration point in the spine behind the heart; centre of

emotion and the experience of unconditional love.

anandamaya kosha the dimension of bliss

annamaya kosha the dimension of matter: the physical body

antar darshan vision of the inner self; the practice of observing emotions

in the hridayakasha

antar dhyana observing and channelling the desires

antar mouna thought observation; inner silence

anushasanam governing or managing the subtle aspects of human

personality; discipline

anusthana constant remembrance of God; observance

apana vayu downward flowing prana between manipura and

mooladhara

aparigraha happiness with whatever is there without any desire for

more; non-accumulation

arohan a nadi or flow of ascending energy; to climb

artha security in the social realm

asana physical posture in which one is at ease and in harmony

with one's self.

ashram traditional name referring to places where yoga is lived

and taught.

ashuddha impure

ashwini mudra involves contraction and relaxation of the anal sphincter

muscles causing a rise in pranic energy.

asteya an inner state in which one is true to oneself non-stealing;

honesty

atma individual soul; spirit

aum

ajna chakra

akasha

atha now, therefore

a mantra which is described as the primordial sound; the sound through which the manifest world comes into being.

In some Upanashadic texts it is written that enlightenment

may come from chanting this mantra alone.

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may come from chanting this mantra alone.

a well known "universal mantra" that may be repeated by

aum namah shivaya anyone, but also a personal mantra that may be given by a

guru at the time of initiation.

avadhoota one who transcends body and worldly consciousness

avasthanam to be established in

avidya ignorance of reality

awarohan a nadi of descending energy; to climb down

ayurveda a traditional Indian system of medicine

A

Arjuna in the Bhagavad gita he is the warrior who questions

Krishna about his purpose in life.

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B

bandhas

Bandhas are a series of powerful locks designed to unlock

blockages of energy in the body. Moolbandha contracts an

area around mooladhara chakra in the perineal area.

Uddiyana bandha involves a contraction of the abdominal area. Jalandhara bandha involves a contraction of the throat. Mahabandha is a combination of all three locks.

basti a practice which cleans the bowels

beeja seed

bhajans are a form of chanting. Usually, they are

traditional sanskrit passages, with several or many verses,

bhajans and are sung to beautiful traditional melodies. It is a

traditional way that important spiritual texts were passed on. In contrast kirtans are generally shorter and repeated

many times.

bhakti the yoga of devotion, one of the main branches of yoga.

a dynamic diaphragmatic breathing practice, known as

bhastrika bellows breathing, in which the breath is forcibly drawn in

and out in equal proportions through the nostrils.

bhava attitude, state of being according to Tantra

bhaya fear, especially fear of the unknown

bhramari tranquillising pranayama; humming breath

bhuh loka dimension of consciousness related to the dimension of

earth and mooladhara chakra

bhuvah loka dimensions of consciousness related to the element of

water and swadhisthana chakra

the source; a drop; psychic centre, concentration point at

the top back of the head where the hair whorls

brahmacharya being established in Brahman

brahmacharya asana lifting the seated body from the floor by balancing on the palms with the arms and legs straight, thus causing a rise in pranic energy

buddhi

discerning discriminating aspect of mind; from the route "bodh" meaning to be aware of, to know; intellect.

B

an important section from the great Indian epic known as the Mahabharat. It takes the form of a long beautifully written dialogue between Krishna and Arjuna, guru and disciple, on the battlefield between two sides preparing for civil war. Arjuna is filled with doubt and questions his purpose in life; Krishna, in turn, shows him over 18 separate chapters, the secrets of yoga. The text is widely translated and available

Bhagavad Gita

Bharat a land which is immersed in light; India

Brahman

the consciousness which allows growth to take place; the one unchanging reality

 $\mathbf{C}$ 

chaitanya eternal; the conscious

chakra

wheel; vortex of prana; psychic centre; Chakras are subtle energy centres in the body. The main chakras in the body are situated along the spinal column. Moving up the body the chakras are described in the following way.

chidakasha

the mental screen; the space of chitta. Subtle space inside the head often used as a place of awareness in meditation practices.

chitta

individual consciousness including the subconscious and unconscious layers of the mind (memory, thinking, concentration, attention, enquiry). Aspect of mind which receives impressions of the present experience and stores it for future use

D

daharakasha

the space in the regions of mooladhara and swadhisthana; space associated with vigyanamaya kosha

darshan vison actual manifestation of the image

sannyasa tradition of Shankarcharya consisting of ten

dasnami branches: Arana, Ashrama, Bharati, Giri, Parvati, Puri,

Sagara, Saraswati, Teertha and Vanam

deva the luminous nature of the spirit

dharana concentration; the focusing of mental energies; holding the

state of creativity of the senses and the mind

dharma inner knowledge of one's correct duty or obligation;

expression of natural sattwic qualities

dhauti techniques which purify different parts of the body

dhoti unstitched cloth used as lower garment

dhyana fusion of the mind with the object of contemplation, inner

awakening; natural expression of sattwic state

diksha initiation; from the verb to see or to concentrate

divali Festival of Light, traditional celebration in India when the

goddess Lakshmi gives blessings

drasta the observer, the witness, the seer

dukha pain, suffering

dwesha repulsion; something which brings pain or enmity

 $\mathbf{E}$ 

ekagra the state of one - pointed attention

ekant solitude, total isolation

G

a powerful universal mantra; "Om bhuh bhuvah swaha tat

gayatri mantra savator varenium bargo devasya de mahe deya yona

prachodhyat."

geru orange dye used on the dhotis of sannyasins

grihastha householder

guna rahita akasha space without attributes; preparatory to Laya yoga,

observing consciousness related with mooladhara

gunas

attributes; sattwa, rajas and tamas; natural qualities governing life; genetic qualities of the universe

one who guides us in our process of evolution and enables

us to become stable in our spiritual life; dispeller of

darkness; that inspiration which manifests within

gyana wisdom; path of understanding and knowledge

gyanendriyas the five organs of knowledge, the five senses

G

guru

Guru Poornima celebration of guru's grace in July

H

ham beeja mantra for vishuddhi chakra

hamsa Dhyana - higher meditative practice

harmonium a musical instrument with a keyboard, pumped by hand,

often used in kirtan

hatha yoga practices to balance the pranas which are manifesting in

the body and in the mind

hatha yoga pradipika

classic text on yoga

havan a traditional fire ceremony

hridayakasha heart space of feelings and anahata chakra

hum mantra governing the solar force. Part of the mantra "so

hum" a mantra often associated with the breath.

I

nadi connected with the left nostril, the lunar aspect, the

passive mental force

indriyas the senses, the forces which rule the mind

ishta devata symbol of divinity

I

Indra king of the gods; controller of the senses

Ishwara a state of unchanging transcendental reality

Ishwara pranidhana surrender or dedication to the divine will by realizing the cosmic energy which flows within us

J

jagrit conscious mind

jal water

janah loka the dimension of consciousness related to vishuddhi

chakra and the space element

japa repetition

jhola shoulder bag

path of the seekers who maintain their normal lifestyle,

jignasu sannyasa their identity as spiritual seekers and perform sadhana to

cultivate certain qualities in life

jivan life

jyoti light, name

jyotir linga symbol of incandescent consciousness, Shiva

K

kama desire

kapalbhati breathing technique to purify and stimulate the frontal lobe

of the brain

kapha mucous

action in the manifest or unmanifest dimension; law of

karma cause and effect; deep impressions in life which make us

think, feel and act in particular ways

karma yoga immunity from the cause and effect of actions: harmony in

action

path of the householders who, in harmony with their

karma Sannyasa normal lifestyle, follow sadhana and cultivate the qualities

of intense awareness and non attachment

kaya kalpa rejuvenation of the physical body

khechari mudra lightly placing the underside of the tip of the tongue

against the upper palate

kham brahman space is Brahman

kirtan mantras which are sung to music

a form; a sheath; a body; a dimension; the five kosha are:

kosha annamaya, pranamaya, manomaya, vigyanamaya,

anandamaya

kri action, motion

sequence of techniques involving the movement of prana kriya yoga

and consciousness leading to dhyana

krodha anger

kundalini latent energy in mooladhara chakra; evolutionary force

practices for the awakening of kundalini kundalini yoga

a practice of dhauti which removes excess mucus by kunjal

voluntarily vomiting after taking warm salty water

K

the five organs of action: hands, feet, tongue, excretory Karmendriyas

and reproductive organs

L

laghoo light; a short form of shankaprakshalana

beeja mantra for mooladhara chakra lam

meditation practice involving dissolving different stages of laya yoga

consciousness without creating imbalance

lobha greed

22nd to 28th levels of evolution: dimensions where lokas

consciousness is active and energy is passive: bhuh,

bhuvah, swah, mahah, janah, tapah, and satya

M

mada ego

great space; preparatory to Laya Yoga; observation of

maha akasha consciousness related with manipura chakra which is

bright like the middle of the sun

dimension of consciousness related to anahata chakra and mahah loka

the element of air Maha prana - space, cosmic energy

mahat unmanifest mind: manas. buddhi, chitta, ahamkara

maithuna the sexual instinct; tantric union

mala a garland usually composed of 108 beads; an aid to

meditation practise

manas aspect of manifest mind involved in experiences of

sensory perception and thought/counter thought

diagram within a circumference symbolising the deeper

mandala aspects of man's psyche; complex geometrical symbol

merging macrocosmic and microcosmic events

manipura chakra located at the spine behind behind the navel.

Associated with strength and power

manomaya kosha the dimension of mind

mantra subtle sound vibrations which liberate internal forces

mantra diksha an initiation practice involving receiving a mantra from a

guru

mantra yoga the science of understanding the effect of sound vibrations

as they influence the human personality

matsarya negative tamasic possessiveness, jealousy, malice

maya ignorance of reality; illusion or creative power

moha attachment

moksha freedom

basic pranic and psychic center in the human evolutionary

mooladhara chakra scale. concentration point is at the perineum in males, the

cervix in females; seat of kundalini

moolbandha concentration and contraction at mooladhara

mouna (or mauna) silence; measured silence

mudha the dormant or confined, bound state of mind

mudra psycho-neural attitude which redirects pranic energy

muhurta time

N

channel or flow; passage through which energy and/or

consciousness flows; river

nadi shodhana alternate nostril breathing, a practice to purify the nadis; a

balancing pranayama

nama smarana remembrance of the divine name

1st to 7th levels of evolution which are dormant and crude,

where consciousness is in the seed form

nasikagra drishti gazing at the nose tip, a mudra which stimulates

mooladhara

practice beneficial for the abdominal area and the

activation of pranic flows: relates directly to manipura

neti practice which cleanses the sinuses, relates to ajna chakra

niranjan immaculate, without stain

nidra isolation from the senses and the mind; sleep

nirbeeja samadhi samadhi without seed

nirodhah controlling, blocking, managing

nirvana liberated state

nirvikalpa samadhi samadhi without illusion, or alternative

nishkama seva selfless service

nivritti path to liberation; retirement, cessation, return

codes of conduct to imbibe in life: saucha. santosha, tapah,

swadhyaya, ishwara pranidhana; natural states of the

transformed personality. One of the eight limbs of Raja

yoga

nyasa proper use of cosmic strength within

N

niyama

Niranjanananda Swami Niranjanananda is the successor to Paramahamsa

Satyananda

 $\mathbf{O}$ 

Om (or aum) universal mantra; source of all other mantras;

beeja mantra for ajna chakra; sound symbol of Brahman

P

pancha five

panchagni sadhana of the five fires

pancha vyoma meditations on five spaces of consciousness; also called

dharana vyoma panchaka dharana

paramahamsa sannyasins who are able to discriminate between unreality

and reality

param akasha preparatory to Laya Yoga, observation of deep space and

starlight in swadhisthana

patalas 8th to 14th levels of evolution which are an instinctive

manifestation of individuality in life

pawanmuktasana a series of asana to harmonise the body and prana

philosophy yogic philosophy is both ancient and evolving.

pingala nadi connected with the right nostril conducting active

vital energy; the solar aspect; the dynamic aspect

pitta connected with water and fire; digestive enzymes

complete sannyasa; the traditional form of sannyasa poorna sannyasa involving internal and external renunciation and total

dedication to guru

poornata completeness

pramana means of right knowledge; one of die five vrittis

prana force which governs the manifest dimension; energy; vital

force of life which exists in everything

prana utthana activation of pranic energy

prana vayu upward flowing prana between manipura and vishuddhi

pranamaya kosha the dimension of energy

pranayama practices involving control of inhalation, exhalation and

breath retention; techniques for expanding pranic energy

prapti attainment

feeding and then withdrawing the senses; observing,

pratyahara adjusting and accepting inner forces to attain inner

harmony

pravritti path of involvement in the world where evolution follows

its natural pattern; continued effort in behaviour

prithvi earth; earth tattwa

psychology

the field of yogic psychology has a long history and comprehensive vocabulary for dealing with the subtleties of the mind. Where western psychology may classify experience into conscious, subconscious and unconscious, ego, memory, etc., for example, yoga has for many centuries divided the mind into buddhi (intellect, intuition), manas (sensory perception and thought/counter thought), chitta (memory), and ahamkara (ego, "I" identity). The complexity, richness and subtlety of this field is worth exploring. (Try the book Yoga Darshan by Paramahamsa Niranjanananda)

R

rajas

attraction; something which brings attachment raga

rahita without

eightfold path classified by Sage Patanjali: yama, niyama, raja yoga

asana, pranayama, pratyahara, dharana, dhyana, samadhi

creative force on the positive side; self-oriented, selfish

activity on the negative side Ram -beeja mantra for

manipura chakra

the epic story of the life of Rama ramayana

sannyasins with strong spiritual yogic aims living as a rishi sannyasa

family unit and pursuing their spiritual paths

evolving reality; settled order; truth ritam

form rupa

S

sabeeja samadhi samadhi with seed

one who tries to become perfect; spiritual aspirant sadhak

established in sadhana

regular practice where the entire life process becomes part sadhana

of an effort to achieve higher realization; practice

combined with regularity, continuity, conviction and faith;

concentration point is at the crown of the head; represents

the permanent state, the pure, unchanging state of energy sahasrara chakra

and consciousness; state of inner effulgence or enlightenment; threshold into a new dimension sakshi the witness, the seer

salute to the sun see surya namaska

sam or san prefix meaning total, harmonious

realization of union; dissolving or merging with divine

consciousness, and the application of that realization

samana vayu the energy between prana and apana vayu

samarpan the ability to surrender to the divine will living in the

present; dedication

unconscious memories which set up impulses and trains of

samskara thought; education: impressions in the mind leading to

creative performance

sangha A sanskrit word meaning spiritual community

sankalpa resolve; determination or conviction

sankhya (or samkhya) one of the six classical Indian philosophies

sannyasa inner harmony which expresses itself externally proper use

of cosmic strength; renunciation, dedication

sannyasin one who is dedicated to spiritual knowledge

sanskrit ancient language from which many modern languages are

derived; the language related to mantras

santosha contentment; acceptance of life

sanyama flow of pratyahara, dharana and dhyana; restraint

satsang being in the company or field of truth

guna experienced when tamas and rajas are balanced; the

purity and harmony which is of the inner self

satya establishing oneself in truth

dimension of consciousness related to sahasrara; the final

state of consciousness which does not go through any

changes; the fixed permanent eternal reality Saucha -

experiencing the inner purity; cleanliness

savikalpa samadhi samadhi combined with sense, verbal and true knowledge

total identification with the object of contemplation; fusion

sayuja with the object of contemplation: union

satya loka

seva selfless service; devotion

shakti energy

shakti bandhas a series of asana to release blocked energy

shambhavi mudra focusing the open or closed eyes on the eyebrow centre

shanti mantras mantras for invoking peace

sharira body

shasan to govern, to rule

shatkarma or si shatkriya ba

six cleansing techniques of Hatha Yoga: neti, dhauti, nauli,

basti, trataka, kapalbhati

shankaracharya Adi, founder of the yogic lineage associated with many

schools of yoga and the Satyananda tradition

one with the urge to realize the inner self and the ability to follow the guidelines given by the guru and surrender the

ego

shivalingam symbol of Shiva, or consciousness

shoonya or shoonyata

shishya

nothingness, the void

shram effort in work, penance, austerity

shuddha pure

siddha master; one who has perfected

siddhi power; perfection; the ability to flow with life

siva (or shiva) Hindu deity representing consciousness

smriti memory; one of the five vrittis

sneha affection for all; attachment

spandan vibration

sukha pleasure

suryabheda a vitalising pranayama

surya namaskara salute to the sun', a series of twelve asanas to acknowledge

the sun and the inner flame of evolving consciousness

sushumna nadi activated through the balance between ida and pingala

nadis; transcendence

sutra verse thread

swa self

swadhisthana concentration point at the base of the spinal column; "one's

chakra own abode;" centre of the unconscious

swadhyaya the study of one's personal nature; self analysis

swah loka dimension of consciousness related to manipura chakra

and the fire element Swami - master of the self

swapna dream state, subconscious

swara subtle flows of energy related to breath and the gunas

swarupa one's own form

S

practice involving physical contraction of muscles around

Sahajoli mudra the urethra and directing the energy upward; a technique

for raising energy

goddess of creativity; one of the 12 dashnami schools

Saraswati founded by Adi Shankaracharya and the school to which

the Satyananda tradition belongs.

Satyananda \_ Paramahamsa Satyananda Saraswati, Founder of Satyananda yoga.

Shankaprakshalana one of the practices of dhauti: removes toxins and mucus

from the digestive tract

a great and influential spiritual teacher, guru of

Paramahamsa Satyananda and many other teachers. Sivananda Math, a charitable organisation set up by

Paramahamsa Satyananda, is named in his honour.

SWAN theory strengths, weaknesses, ambitions, and needs; a formula for

success in life proposed by Swami Niranjanananda

T

Sivananda

tadasana an asana which stretches the spine; the tree pose

stability, attainment on the positive side; stagnation, fear

of change on the negative side

tantra

tattwa

ancient universal science, philosophy and culture which deals with the transcendence of human nature: expansion

of mind and liberation of energy

tapah Loka dimension of consciousness related to ajna chakra

a process of transcendence through continued effort, tapas

experiencing the force of evolution in life; heat; austerity

elements: prithvi (earth), jal (water), agni (fire), vayu (air),

akasha (ether)

practice of experiencing the different bodies of the tattwas tattwa akasha

in order to know their nature and function

tattwa shuddhi a process of purifying the tattwas within

fire; tip of the flame; brilliance: energy tejas

thum mantra governing the lunar force

tiryaka tadasana an asana which flexes the spine

tra rescue; save: protect; see trayati

trataka gazing at a fixed point

trayambakeshwar one of the twelve Jyotir linga

liberates trayati

turiya superconsciousness

renunciation, letting go of an attachment tyaga

the anniversary of renunciation tyaga jayanti

U

pulling the abdominal organs up and in, creating a natural uddiyana bandha

upward flow of energy

slightly contracting the glottis of the throat so the breath ujjayi pranayama

makes a light snoring sound; a deep relaxing breath used

often in meditation practices

not being attached to the desires and personal cravings nor vairagya

influenced by raga; being non-attached

vajroli mudra

involves physical contraction of the muscles surrounding

the urethra causing pranic energy to rise

vam beeja mantra for swadhisthana chakra

vata related to air and ether; wind

vayu air; prana or energy flow as in pancha vayu: prana, apana,

samana, udana, vyana

cream of the vedas, a series of ancient philosophical

dialogues, often in the form of discussions between guru

vedanta and disciple, in which the great questions of life are

examined. They are often found as sections within the

Vedas

A series of extensive ancient texts which detail rituals and

duties in life

vidya wisdom

vigyana absolute knowledge; intuitive ability

vigyanamaya kosha the dimension of inner wisdom

vikalpa one of the five vrittis; doubt; an alternative; error

vikshipta the dissipated or oscillating state of mind

viparyaya wrong knowledge; one of the five vrittis

vipareeta karani

mudra

inverted psychic attitude; the half shoulder-stand with

greater intensity of concentration

vishuddhi chakra energy centre with the concentration point in the spine

behind the thyroid gland; centre for pure expression.

viveka discrimination, right knowledge or understanding

vrittis fluctuations, modifications, forces which dominate the

mind at one given moment

vyoma space

Y

yam beeja mantra for anahata chakra

five codes of conduct or disciplines to imbibe ill life:

yama ahimsa, satya, asteya, brahmacharya, aparigraha; natural

states of the transformed human personality

yan from yana the subtle vehicle

yantra simple or complex geometric symbols which aid in

liberating the subtle vehicle of consciousness

yoga attaining harmony, union

yoga nidra where one is neither awake nor in deep sleep

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### **Contact Us**

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You may practise raja, hatha, kundalini, mantra and bhakti yoga, but if you underestimate karma yoga, then all these yogas can lead you to a dissipated and dispersed state of mind. Everyone who is practising yoga should transform their daily activities through the philosophy of karma yoga.

- Swami Satyananda

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