



Glossary

**From the doctoral dissertation, *Syriac Chant Traditions in South India*,
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Wherever possible, the literal meaning of the word is given first, followed by derivative meanings. Italics indicate words in the glossary. Syriac words are given in their East Syriac form. For words with two different pronunciations in East and West Syriac, such as *qālā* and *qōlō*, an entry of the West Syriac form is cross referenced to the former.

(Gk. = Greek, H. = Hebrew, L. = Latin, M. = Malayalam, P. = Portuguese, S. = Syriac, Sk. = Sanskrit, WS. = West Syriac).

acrostic	a poem in which the letters of a name, motto, message, or alphabet appear in a sequence in the beginning, middle, or end of verses.
akārādi	M. dictionary.
Anaphora	from Gk., "anaphero" (I offer up); the Eucharistic prayer, which forms the central part of the mass.
Antioch	a city in ancient Syria on the Orontes river; modern Antakya in Turkey; one of the early centers of Christianity.
Antiochene	pertaining to the Patriarchate of Antioch (largely to the west of the Euphrates river).
Antiochene liturgy	<i>liturgy</i> of the Syrian Orthodox churches in <i>West Syriac</i> .
Ārām	name of Noah's grandson; biblical name for ancient Syria.
armāyā	gentile, pagan.
ārāmāyā	pertaining to <i>Ārām</i> ; the language and culture of ancient Syria; <i>Aramaic</i> language.
Aramaic	a Northwest Semitic language.



- Assyrian Church of the East the ancient church of Persia (present-day Iran and Iraq), also known as the *East Syrian Church* or *Chaldean Church*.
- bārekmār S. (barek + mār) bless, O my Lord.
- bārekmōr WS. see *bārekmār*.
- ba'ūṭā S. petition; intercessory prayer; a category of chant.
- bēt̄ g'zā S. (bēt̄ + g'zā) house of treasure; niches on both sides of the sanctuary; title of the chant book containing model strophes for each melody of the chants of the liturgy of the Hours for Sundays and feast days in the Syrian Orthodox churches.
- bhāwam Sk. state of being, feeling, emotion.
- boūtō WS. See *ba'ūṭā*.
- breviary the book containing daily hymns and prayers for the liturgy of the Hours.
- Chaldea an ancient region in southern Babylonia along the Euphrates River and the Persian Gulf.
- Chaldean pertaining to *Chaldea*; the Semitic language of the Chaldeans; biblical Aramaic, *East Syriac*.
- Chaldean Church the ancient church of Persia (present-day Iran and Iraq), also known as *Assyrian Church of the East* or *East Syrian Church*.
- Chaldean Catholic Church a section of the *Assyrian Church of the East* that came into union with the Roman Catholic Church under the leadership of John Sulāqā, a religious priest and superior of the Monastery of Rabban-Hormizd, near Mosul, in Iraq. Pope Julius III made the official proclamation of union on February 20, 1553 and appointed Sulāqā as Patriarch of Mosul.
- Chaldean rite the Eastern *rite* which uses *East Syriac* in liturgy, different from the *Jacobite* or Syrian Orthodox rite which uses *West Syriac*.



Church of the East	one of the Churches among the St. Thomas Christians in India that has allegiance to the Assyrian Church of the East.
Dayra	dwelling [of monks]; monastery.
Diamper	name in Portuguese and English records (from the 16 th c. onwards) for Udayamperoor, a town in the district of Ernakulam, in <i>Kerala</i> .
Diphysitism	the belief that in the person of Christ there were two distinct natures, the divine and the human.
Divine Office	<i>liturgy of the Hours</i> that consists of prayers, chants, and readings for particular time of day, specific days of the week, feasts, or other religious occasions.
Dravidian	a language family of India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka that includes Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Gondi, and Brahui.
East Syriac	one of the two forms of the <i>Syriac</i> language, also known as <i>Chaldean</i> ; the Syriac script that uses dots for vowel signs; the liturgical language of the <i>Chaldean Church</i> ; see <i>West Syriac</i> .
East Syrian Church	another name for the <i>Chaldean Church</i> .
ekbo	S. a relatively short prayer or chant of one strophe that indicates the theme of the day or the occasion; appears often as an introduction to <i>qālā</i> .
enyānā	S. from "enāytā" (answer, response); a category of chant sung as a response.
eqārā	S. root, origin; the system of singing the same chant text in eight different ways in Syrian Orthodox liturgy.
eqārā canon	the order of melodies prescribed for the specific day of the week as well as for the eight-week cycle in the celebration of the Office and mass in the Syrian Orthodox liturgy.



eṭṭuniṛam	M. (eṭṭū + niṛam) eight colors; a technical term used in the Syrian Orthodox churches in South India for the practice of singing the same chant text in eight different ways.
eṭṭurāgam	M. (eṭṭū+ rāgam) eight colors; a technical term used in the Syrian Orthodox churches in South India for the practice of singing the same chant text in eight different ways.
exarchate	an ecclesiastical entity similar to a diocese, established by a patriarch or pope, for Eastern-rite Catholics who live outside their native land. The head of an exarchate, usually a bishop, is called an Exarch.
gānam	M. song, chant.
gītam	M. chant, religious poem.
Hours	see <i>liturgy of the Hours</i> .
hulālā	S. a set of <i>marmizā</i> .
huthāmma	S. conclusion; sealing; concluding prayers.
iṇam	M. melody, tune.
Īsō	S. redeemer; Jesus.
Jacobite	followers of Bishop Jacob Baradeus (Yaqōb the Baradai, ca 500-78), the leader of the group which believed that Christ had only one nature, a combination of the human and divine. see <i>Miaphysitism</i> .
kaḷi	M. play, game.
kapyār	sexton, sacristan; one who takes care of the “capella” (L. chapel) or church.
kaldāyā	S. see <i>Chaldean</i> .



karṣōn	the system of writing Arabic or <i>Malayalam</i> in Syriac script.
Kerala	one of the states in the Indian Republic. Reorganized on November 1, 1956, Kerala comprises the Malayalam-speaking regions of the former states of Travancore, Cochin, and Malabar on the west coast.
kṛistyāni	M. Christian.
kuṛbāna	see <i>qurbānā</i>
ladainha	P. litany.
ladīnj	M. see <i>ladainha</i> .
Latin Christians	designation for those Catholics in India who follow the Latin (Roman) rite.
Latin Church	Roman Catholic Church in which the liturgy used to be celebrated in Latin language, until 1964.
lectionary	the book containing a selection of scripture readings for various occasions in <i>liturgy</i> .
leliyā	S. night; night prayer.
liturgy	communal worship by way of celebrations of mass, Divine Office, sacraments, etc.
liturgy of the Hours	a set of prayers, chants, and readings for particular time of day, specific day of the week, feast, or other religious occasions.
madrāšā	S. instruction, exhortation; didactic chant; a category of Syrian church hymns, believed to be the creation of St. Ephrem the Syrian (d. 373). It consists of two to five metrically similar strophes, the most popular meter being heptasyllabic. It is sung in a solo-refrain format.
Malabar	(mala + bār) place of hills; former name, coined probably by Arab



traders, for the region now known as *Kerala*; a region in the northern part of Kerala.

Malankara	M. (mala + kara) land of hills; another name for Kerala.
Malayalam	(mala + ālam) hill and dale; language of the state of <i>Kerala</i> ; synonym for Kerala in folk songs and proverbs.
malpān	S. from <i>malpānā</i> ; doctor, master, teacher, preceptor of priests.
malpānā	S. from “alep” (to teach, to train), doctor, teacher.
mār	S. holy, my lord, master, saint.
mārggam	M. way, path.
mār thōma	S. St. Thomas the Apostle
marmizā	S. a division of psalms.
mazmōra	from <i>z'mar</i> (S. to sing), psalm.
mēmṛā	S. discourse; homily.
missal	the book containing prayers and the order of celebration of mass
Miaphysitism	the belief that there was only one nature in the person of Christ, the divine nature. The Council of Chalcedon condemned the belief as a heresy in 451; see <i>Diphysitism</i> .
mōr	WS. see <i>mār</i> .
m'šihā	S. the anointed one, the Messiah, Christ.
Nazrāṇi	one of the appellations for the followers of Jesus of Nazareth.
Nestorius	Patriarch of Constantinople from 428 to 431. Nestorius was



	condemned by the council of Ephesus (431) for what later came to be called as <i>Nestorianism</i> . He was deposed and exiled first to a monastery in Antioch and then to the desert in Egypt in 435, where he died in circa 451. A century later, the <i>Chaldean Church</i> honored Nestorius as a saint.
Nestorian	a follower of <i>Nestorius</i> .
Nestorianism	a heresy attributed to <i>Nestorius</i> that there were two natures and two distinct persons in Christ, the human and divine and, therefore, the Blessed Virgin Mary can be called only "Christotokos" (bearer of Christ) and not "Theotokos" (bearer of God). The council of Ephesus (431) under the leadership of Cyril of Alexandria condemned the heresy.
niṛam	M. color; a musical term in reference to the aesthetic experience of text, melody, and human voice in the liturgy of the Syrian Orthodox churches in South India.
ōnīṭā	S. from "anā" (to reply); antiphonal hymn.
Office	see <i>Divine Office</i> ; liturgy of the Hours.
oktoēchos	Gk. eight voices; the system of classifying melodies in an eight-weekly cycle in the liturgy of the Syrian Orthodox Churches.
Padroado	P. patronage; a special privilege granted by Pope Nicholas V in 1455 to the kings of Spain and Portugal to have ecclesiastical authority over the newly Christianized lands. Pope Leo X reiterated the privilege of the King of Portugal over the new territories of India in 1514.
paḷḷi	M. church; a place of worship of Christians, Muslims, or Jews.
pāṭṭū	M. song.
pazhekuffukār	M. people of the Old Allegiance; a group of St. Thomas Christians who decided to follow the reform movement initiated by the Portuguese missionaries at the Synod of <i>Udayamperoor</i> in 1599; see also <i>puttankuffukār</i> .



pāṭṭukār	M. singers; Syriac church choir that consists of both singers and players of musical instruments.
peṭgāmā	S. word, verse; a short chant comprising a verse from the sacred scripture; the first part of a cyclic genre of chants known as <i>quqlyōn</i> .
peṭgōmō	see <i>peṭgāmā</i>
promion	from "prooimion" (Gk.), introduction, preface.
puttankuffukār	M. people of the New Allegiance; a group of St. Thomas Christians who took an oath in 1653 not to follow the reform movement initiated by the Portuguese missionaries and later accepted the Jacobite Patriarch of Antioch as their spiritual leader; see also <i>pazhekuffukār</i> .
qālā	S. noise, voice, sound; song, melody.
qāltā	S. short anthem sung during night prayer.
qōlō	WS. see <i>qālā</i>
quqlyōn	from 'qōqlōs' (Gk., circle); in the Syrian Orthodox Church, the cycle of hymns in the following order: <i>peṭgōmō</i> , <i>ekbo</i> , <i>qōlō</i> , and <i>bōwūtō</i> .
qurbānā	S. offering; Eucharist, mass.
rabbi	H. a teacher of the Jewish laws and traditions.
ṛabbān	from <i>rabbi</i> , teacher; title of higher ranks among the clergy in some of the Eastern churches; monk.
ṛambān	see <i>ṛabbān</i> .
ramśā	S. evening; evening prayer.
rāzā	S. the most solemn form of mass in the <i>Chaldean</i> rite.



rēs qālā	S. head-song; a strophe whose meter and melody are used as a model for composing new chants and for memorizing melodies; a model melody; a specific tune.
rite	liturgy, language, ecclesiastical laws, customs, and cultural traditions that are characteristic of a particular group of churches that share a common geographical origin.
saprā	S. morning; morning prayer.
seblātā	S. pl. of "seb'lta" (ladder); a collection of model strophes from <i>madrāšā</i> that forms the second part of the chant book, <i>bēt g'zā</i> .
slōtā	S. prayer.
sōgītā	S. song, canticle; singable prose.
stōṭragītām	M. chants of praise.
sūrath	a mixture of Aramaic and Arabic or Persian spoken by the Chaldean Christians in Iraq and Iran.
śūrāyā	S. beginning; sign, indication; textual and melodic incipit in Syriac chants which, in most cases, consists of short verses taken from one of the psalms.
suriyāni	S. Syriac language; Syrian; a person or group that follows the Syriac liturgical tradition.
swaram	M. sound, voice, musical sound, note, pitch.
Syriac	<i>Aramaic</i> ; the language of <i>Ārām</i> (Syria).
Syrian	a person who follows the Syriac liturgical tradition, as in "Syrian Christian."
Syro-Malabar	Syriac language and <i>Malabar</i> region; official designation, since



1896, for one of the Syriac Christian communities among the St. Thomas Christians in South India that is in communion with Rome.

tālam	M. rhythm, metric cycle.
thaksā	S. <i>missal</i> .
tambor	P. drum.
tešbohtā	S. from “šūwhā,” praise; honor, glory.
tiriyānkōl	M. from "triângulo" (P.), triangle.
tōmmā	S. from “t’āmā” (twin), Thomas.
turgāmma	S. from "targum," (to interpret) interpretation, translation, exhortation; chants sung before readings from Epistle and Gospel.
Udayamperoor	a town in the district of Eranakulam, in <i>Kerala</i> . See also <i>Diamper</i> .
wazhikkālā	combination of the Malayalam word, "wazhi" (way) and the Syriac word, <i>qālā</i> (song); chant sung during funeral procession from the home of the deceased to the church or the cemetery.
West Syriac	one of the two forms of the <i>Syriac</i> language that uses Greek symbols to mark vowel sounds; the liturgical language of the Syrian Orthodox churches; see also <i>East Syriac</i> .
wṛuttam	M. circle; poetic meter.
zūmmārā	S. from “z’mar” (to sing), song.