

Glossary from Sujata Massey's **The Widows of Malabar Hill** (2018), Soho Press

- Abba: father (Urdu, Arabic)
- Agiary: house of worship for Zoroastrians only; also can be referred to as a fire temple
- Ahriman: the devil in Zoroastrianism
- Ahura Mazda: the creator and sole God of Zoroastrianism
- Almirah: cabinet often used for clothes (Urdu, Hindi, and other languages)
- Anna: unit of money equal to four paise or one-sixteenth of one rupee (Hindi and other languages)
- Arre marere: oh my! (Parsi Gujarati)
- Bapawa: grandfather in Parsi Gujarati
- Bhabhi: son's wife (Gujarati, Hindi and Urdu)
- Badmash: bad guy (Urdu)
- Bhaiya: friendly term of address for a man you don't know well who is not your social superior
(Hindi/Marathi and other languages)
- Bibi: respectful honorific for an unmarried woman (Urdu)
- Binamazi: Zoroastrian/Parsi term for menstrual period
- Chalo: let's go! (Hindi and other languages)
- Chukoo: silly show-off (Parsi Gujarati)
- Dagli: white suit worn by Zoroastrian men to the fire temple and for ceremonial occasions
- Dal: lentil dish (Hindi and many languages)
- Dhabba: roadside café (Hindi and many languages)
- Dhansak: stew made with dal, many spices, and meat (Parsi Gujarati)
- Dhoti: long, full loincloth (Hindi, Bengali, and other languages)
- Durga: Hindu goddess believed to be mother of the universe; a divine representation of female power
(Sanskrit, Hindi, and other languages)
- Falooda: sweet milk shake often flavored with rose syrup and basil seeds (Urdu)
- Fetah: traditional hat worn by Zoroastrian men
- Ghelsappa: crazy moron (Parsi Gujarati)
- Insha'Allah: if God wills (Urdu)
- Jaan: dear (Urdu and Parsi Gujarati)
- Khala: aunt (Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu)
- Khastegari: in Zoroastrian tradition, a formal meeting between a man and the parents of a woman he'd
like to marry
- Kid ghosht: lamb-and-rice dish
- Kumkum: red cosmetic paste used to adorn the forehead (Hindi and other languages)
- Kem cho: hello (Gujarati)
- Kurta pajama: male costume of tunic and trousers (Urdu)
- Kusti: woven cord of wool worn around the waist as a sign of religious devotion and used in prayer by
Parsis who've completed their navjote
- Lathi: stick used for fighting (Hindi and other languages)
- Lungi: short loincloth (Hindi and other languages)
- Madrasa: school teaching Islamic education (Urdu)
- Masala: mixture of spices (Hindi and other languages)
- Meethi papdi: semisweet fried chickpea wafer (Gujarati and other languages)
- Mohammedan: English term for a Muslim
- Mihrab: special ornamental niche used for worship in a Muslim home or mosque
- Mutawalli: the administrator in charge of a wakf or Muslim charitable foundation
- Navjote: coming-of-age ceremony for Parsi boys and girls
- Nowruz: Celebration of the Spring Equinox in Iran; the Zoroastrian new year

Pandal: an artistic temporary structure set up to honor a Hindu god or goddess
Pagri: a tall, lacquered hat with a tapered top worn by Parsi men for special occasions
Paisa: small coin equal to one sixty-fourth of a rupee (Hindi and other languages)
Parsi: Indian-born Zoroastrian; "a person of Persia"
Rotli: round bread (Parsi Gujarati)
Sali boti: slow-cooked lamb curry topped with crisp strands of potato (Parsi Gujarati)
Salwar kameez: woman's tunic and trousers traditionally worn by Muslims (Urdu)
Solar topi: pith helmet often worn by light-skinned people to guard against the sun
(Hindi and other languages)
Sudreh: thin linen undershirt worn by Parsi men and women after their navjote ceremony
Taro: white bull urine used as an antiseptic in some Zoroastrian rites
Vakil: authorized public pleader to the Indian court (Hindi and other languages)
Vande Mataram: hail to Mother India; freedom cry in India; also the name of a famous poem
(Hindi and other languages)
Velgard: vagabond or bum (Persian)
Yazata: angel in Zoroastrianism
Zoroastrian: member of the monotheistic faith Zoroastrianism, which predates Islam and Christianity;
Zarathustra, also called Zoroaster, is the religion's prophet
Wakf: A waqf, aka mortmain property, is an inalienable charitable endowment under Islamic law.
It typically involves donating a building, plot of land or other assets for Muslim religious or
charitable purposes

This is <http://www.sackett.net/MasseyWidowsOfMalabarHillGlossary.pdf> Last updated 10/29/2021.