

पृथ्वी तत्त्व Pr̥thvī Tattva (Earth Element)

Or

पृथिवी तत्त्व Pr̥thivī Tattva (Earth Element)

Shiv Tattva - A Hindi Book by - Sriramkinkar Ji Maharaj ...

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# Prithvi

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Prithvi** (Sanskrit: पृथ्वी *pr̥thvī*, also पृथिवी *pr̥thivī*) is the Sanskrit name for earth and its essence *Prithivi Tattwa*, in the name of a Hindu Deity. Prithvi is also called Dhra, Dharti, Dhrithri, meaning that which holds everything. Amongst lokas (worlds), it is also known as *Bhu-loka*.

As *Prithvi Mata* "Mother Earth" she contrasts with *Dyaus Pita* "father sky". In the Rigveda, Earth and Sky are frequently addressed in the dual, probably indicating the idea of two complementary half-shells. She is the wife of Dyaus Pita ('father Dyaus'). (The widespread belief that these two were originally a single deity appears to be mistaken. See Dyavapṛthivī). She is associated with the cow. Prithu, an incarnation of Vishnu, milked her in the cow's form to get food from her. She is a national personification in Indonesia, where she is known as Ibu Pertiwi ('Mother Earth').



Prithu chasing Prithvi, who is in the form of a cow.

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## Epithets

Category	Transliteration	Gloss
Provider	Bhumi	Soil
	Dhatri	Nursing Mother
	Dharitri	Nurturer
	Janitra	Birthplace
	Medini	Nurturer
	Prshni	Mother of Plants
	Vanaspatinam Grbhir Osadhinam	Womb of Forest Trees and Herbs
	Vishvadhaya	All-Nourishing
	Vishvagabha	World's Womb
	Vishvamshu	Producer of Everything
	Vishvasvam	Source of Everything
Sustainer	Dhar	Upholder
	Drdha	Steady One
	Ksama	Patient One
	Sthavara	Stable One
	Vishdava	All-Preserving
	Vishvadarini	All-Supporting
	Vishvamhara	All-Bearing
Enricher	Ratnagarbha	Repository of Gems
	Ratnavati	Abounding in Jewels
	Vasundhara	Bearer of Treasure



Indonesian depiction of Prithvi in ancient regal attire as Mother Earth at Indonesian National Monument

## Buddhism

Prithvi also appears in Early Buddhism where she appears in the Pali Canon, dispelling the temptation figure Mara by attesting to Gautama Buddha's worthiness to attain enlightenment.<sup>[1]</sup>

## The Arts

*Pr̥ithvī Sūkta* (also *Bhūmī Sūkta*) is a celebrated hymn of the Atharvaveda (AVŚ 12.1), dedicated to Prthivi (the Earth). It consists of 63 verses.

In art she is represented as a woman with four arms and a green skin.

## References

1. Shaw, Miranda Eberle (2006). *Buddhist Goddesses of India* (<http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=MvDKOK1h3zMC&>). Princeton University Press. p. 237. ISBN 978-0-691-12758-3.

## Further reading

- *Dictionary of Hindu Lore and Legend* (ISBN 0-500-51088-1) by Anna Dallapiccola
- *Hindu Goddesses: Vision of the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Traditions* (ISBN 81-208-0379-5) by David Kinsley

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Categories: Classical elements | Earth goddesses | Hindu goddesses | Mother goddesses  
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