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Da·lit  (dä līt)

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n.

A member of the lowest class in traditional Indian society, falling altogether outside the Hindu caste categories and subject to extensive social restrictions.

[Hindi *dalit*, crushed, oppressed, from Sanskrit *dalita-*, past passive participle of *dalayati*, to cause to burst, variant of *darayati*, he splits, derived form (probably a denominative of *-daraḥ*, smasher, as in *puramḍaraḥ*, citadel-smasher, an epithet of Indra) of *darati*, he splits; see **der-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Da lit *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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