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pur·dah  (pûr dă)

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n.

1.

a. A curtain or screen, used mainly in India to keep women separate from men or strangers.

b. The Hindu or Muslim system of sex segregation, practiced especially by keeping women in seclusion.

2. Social seclusion: *"Never have artists been more separate: their inordinate fame, wealth, drug use have driven them into luxurious purdah"* (D. Keith Mano).

[Urdu *pardah*, veil, from Persian, from Middle Persian *pardak*, from Old Persian **paridaka-*, from *pari-dā-*, to place over : *pari*, around, over; see **per**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *dā-*, to place; see **dhē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

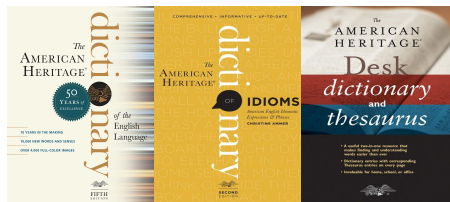
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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