

# Are the Scriptures Necessary?

Ted Schmidt

2016-09-02

Source: <http://www.shiningworld.com/site/satsang/read/2893>

**Ingrid:** Hi, Ted.

I read somewhere that Shankara said something about that scripture does not help for enlightenment and it is not helpful for the enlightened either.

Then I wonder why he said it because what he said is seen as truth and became scripture. And why else say things about this if he did not think one could learn by scriptures?

If you have heard about it and it resonates with anything you remember having heard, please tell me if you understand it.

I think of course he also said scripture, a *sattvic* mind and teacher is necessary for *moksa*.

Do you think it implies that inquiry is what is crucial? And not the reading?

I am sure he advised the *Gita* and other scriptures.

Thank you.

I see you do. I needed it when enlightened but before I think it worked.

**Ted:** Hi, Ingrid.

I haven't heard that Shankara said that scripture does not help for enlightenment. If he did, I imagine that he meant scripture is only an indirect means to *moksa*, in other words, that simply reading and understanding the scriptures intellectually is not enough. The knowledge has to be fully assimilated through a thorough analysis of one's own experience in light of what the scriptures say and then a period of *nididhyasana* whereby the knowledge is ruminated over and meditated upon until such time as the mind is rid of its habitual tendency to identify with the body-mind-sense complex and instead realizes that its true identity is the limitless conscious existence that is the substrate of all objective phenomena.

~ All the best, Ted