SOFTWARE & TECH

Osho On Ashtavakra Gita

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795580640188831

Introduction: The Meeting of Two Mystics

Few spiritual texts carry the raw, unfiltered intensity of the Ashtavakra Gita. Unlike the battlefield sermon of the Bhagavad Gita, this ancient dialogue unfolds between a master in perfect stillness and a king who has already glimpsed the ultimate. **Osho on Ashtavakra Gita**represents one of the most profound contemporary commentaries on this radical text. Osho, with his characteristic blend of wit, provocation, and deep insight, brings the conversation between the deformed sage Ashtavakra and King Janaka to life for modern seekers. In his discourses, Osho does not merely explain the verses; he tears away the veil of intellectual understanding and pushes the listener toward direct existential experience.

The Ashtavakra Gita is considered one of the purest expressions of Advaita Vedanta, or non-duality. It speaks not of rituals, gods, or moral codes, but of absolute freedom. When Osho encountered this text, he found in it a kindred spirit. Both Osho and Ashtavakra share a disdain for compromise, a love for paradox, and an uncompromising insistence on truth. Osho’s commentary on the Ashtavakra Gita is not for the faint-hearted. It is a hammer that smashes every illusion the mind clings to, leaving the reader naked and alone in their own being.

The Context: Who Was Ashtavakra?

To understand **Osho on Ashtavakra Gita**, one must first understand the figure of Ashtavakra himself. According to legend, Ashtavakra was born with eight deformities in his body, a physical manifestation of the curse he received while still in the womb. His very name means "eight bends." When Ashtavakra was still in his mother's womb, his father, the great sage Kahoda, would recite the Vedas. The unborn child would correct his father's pronunciation, which enraged Kahoda, who cursed the child to be born deformed.

Osho often points out the deep irony here. The one who would later teach the king about absolute perfection was born "imperfect." The one who spoke of formless consciousness was trapped in a twisted form. For Osho, this is no accident. Ashtavakra's physical deformities serve as a powerful teaching tool. They demonstrate that enlightenment has nothing to do with the body. The body may be crooked, but consciousness remains straight. Osho uses this to challenge the modern obsession with physical perfection and to redirect attention to the inner world.

Ashtavakra arrived at the court of King Janaka, who was already a seeker of great renown. The court scholars laughed at Ashtavakra's twisted body. Ashtavakra laughed back and said, "You are looking at the leather and the bones. None of you have seen the pure consciousness that I am." This instant recognition of his own true nature silenced everyone and won him an immediate audience with the king. Osho highlights this moment as a perfect example of how the realized soul sees reality directly, without the filter of social conditioning.

Osho’s Unique Approach to the Ashtavakra Gita

Vol. 01 — **Osho on Ashtavakra Gita** so distinctive is Osho's refusal to treat it as a philosophical text to be studied. For Osho, the Ashtavakra Gita is a surgical instrument. It cuts away the ego, layer by layer, until nothing remains but pure awareness. Osho does not translate the verses in a dry, academic manner. Instead, he uses each verse as a springboard for a discourse that can last for hours, weaving in jokes, stories, contemporary references, and direct challenges to the listener.

Osho insists that the Ashtavakra Gita is not a scripture. It is a transmission. Ashtavakra is not teaching Janaka anything new. He is simply reminding Janaka of what he already knows but has forgotten. The dialogue is a mirror. Janaka's questions are the questions of every sincere seeker, and Ashtavakra's answers are not answers in the ordinary sense. They are bombs that destroy the question itself.

Osho emphasizes that the Ashtavakra Gita is for those who are ready to drop all supports. It is not for beginners who need crutches of faith, devotion, or ritual. It is for those who are willing to stand alone in the infinite emptiness of their own being. Osho often said that the Bhagavad Gita is for the soldier on the battlefield, but the Ashtavakra Gita is for the king who has already won all battles and now faces the ultimate emptiness of success.

The Radical Nature of Ashtavakra's Teaching

Ashtavakra tells Janaka directly: "You are free already. There is nothing to achieve. There is nowhere to go. You are the pure, formless consciousness that has always been free." This message is so radical that it terrifies the ego. The ego lives on the promise of future attainment. It says, "If you do this practice, you will become enlightened." Ashtavakra says, "You are already that which you seek. Stop seeking."

Osho points out that this teaching is dangerous for the spiritual marketplace. No guru wants to hear that the disciple is already enlightened, because then the disciple has no need of the guru. Osho, however, loved this danger. He used the Ashtavakra Gita to wean his own disciples off their dependence on him. He would say, "Don't become a follower of Ashtavakra. Become like Ashtavakra. Don't become a follower of me. Become like me. The ultimate teaching is always that the master is unnecessary."

Key Themes in Osho's Commentary

When exploring **Osho on Ashtavakra Gita**, several key themes emerge that define Osho's interpretation. These themes are not merely intellectual concepts but lived realities that Osho embodied in his own life and teachings.

The Illusion of the Doer

One of the central teachings of the Ashtavakra Gita, as highlighted by Osho, is the complete dissolution of the doer. Janaka asks Ashtavakra, "How does one attain wisdom? How does one become free?" Ashtavakra replies, "If you are seeking liberation, O Janaka, avoid the objects of the senses as poison. Practice forgiveness, sincerity, compassion, contentment, and truthfulness as nectar." But then, in the very next breath, Ashtavakra says, "You are not earth, water, fire, air, or space. You are the pure witness consciousness. Be happy."

Osho points out the deliberate contradiction. First, Ashtavakra gives advice to the one who thinks he is a doer. Then, he withdraws the advice by telling Janaka that he is not the doer at all. This is the method of the master. First, he meets you where you are, in the world of effort and practice. Then, he pulls the rug from under your feet and shows you that all effort is unnecessary because you are already home. Osho calls this the "double-edged sword" of the spiritual master. It cuts both ways, and it leaves no ground for the ego to stand on.

Witnessing Consciousness

The concept of **Sakshi**, or witnessing consciousness, is central to Osho's commentary on the Ashtavakra Gita. Ashtavakra repeatedly tells Janaka that he is not the body, not the mind, not the ego, but the pure witness that

observes all phenomena. Osho expands on this by explaining that witnessing is not an act. It is not something you do. It is something you are. When the mind is silent and the identification with thoughts and feelings drops, what remains is the witness.

Osho often used the analogy of the mirror. The mirror reflects everything that passes before it, but it does not become attached to any reflection. It remains clean, untainted, and empty. The witness is like that mirror. It reflects the body, the mind, the world, but it is never touched by any of it. Osho insists that this witnessing is not a state that comes and goes. It is the very nature of consciousness itself. Realizing this is liberation.

Freedom from All Identities

Another theme that Osho emphasizes is the complete freedom from all identities. Ashtavakra tells Janaka that he is not a king, not a father, not a husband, not a seeker, not even a human being. All identities are masks that the mind puts on. Behind the mask is the faceless, formless, nameless reality. Osho loved to strip away identities from his disciples. He would challenge them: "Who are you without your name? Without your religion? Without your nationality? Without your body? Without your mind? When everything is stripped away, what remains?"

For Osho, the Ashtavakra Gita is a manual for this stripping process. It is not a text to be worshipped; it is a tool to be used. Each verse is like a scalpel that cuts away another layer of false identity until nothing is left but the pure, naked reality of consciousness. This process is not always comfortable. Osho warns that it can feel like death. And indeed, it is a death. The death of the ego. But what is born from that death is eternal life.

The Dialogue Between Janaka and Ashtavakra

The structure of the Ashtavakra Gita is a dialogue between a master and a disciple. But as Osho points out, Janaka is no ordinary disciple. He is a king who has already attained a high degree of spiritual maturity. His questions are not those of a beginner. They are the subtle questions that arise when one is on the verge of enlightenment. Janaka asks about the nature of reality, the source of bondage, and the path to liberation. But Ashtavakra's answers consistently point back to Janaka's own self.

Osho notes that Janaka's mind is like a clean mirror. He is not asking out of curiosity or intellectual hunger. He is asking out of a deep existential longing. He is a man who has everything the world can offer, and he has found it all to be empty. He is ready to let go of everything. Ashtavakra sees this readiness and speaks accordingly. He does not waste time with preliminary teachings. He goes straight to the heart of the matter.

Osho often said that the relationship between Janaka and Ashtavakra is unique in spiritual history. Both are realized beings, or at least Janaka is on the verge of realization. The dialogue is not one of a superior teaching an inferior. It is more like one friend reminding another of what he already knows. This makes the Ashtavakra Gita a very pure and direct teaching, unclouded by the need to accommodate weak minds.

Osho’s Interpretation of Key Verses

In his discourses on **Osho on Ashtavakra Gita**, Osho goes through key verses and unpacks their meaning in a way that is both profound and accessible. He does not treat the text as a relic of the past but as a living teaching that speaks directly to the contemporary seeker.

The Nature of Bondage and Liberation

Ashtavakra says: "Bondage is when the mind desires something or grieves about something. To be free from all desires and grief is liberation." Osho expands on this by explaining that desire is the root of all bondage. Desire is a movement toward the future. It is an escape from the present moment. When the mind desires, it is never here and now. It is always somewhere else, chasing a phantom. Liberation is not the fulfillment of desire but the dropping of desire altogether.

Osho clarifies that this does not mean becoming indifferent or apathetic. It means living in a state of choiceless awareness. You act, but you are not attached to the outcome. You live fully in the present, but you do not project yourself into the future. This state of desirelessness is not a negative state. It is a positive state of overflowing energy that is no longer trapped in the mechanism of wanting and not wanting.

The Emptiness of the Mind

Ashtavakra tells Janaka: "The mind is nothing but a bundle of thoughts. When there is no thought, there is no mind. You are beyond the

Related Articles

- **Are James Blunt And Emily Blunt Related**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/are-james-blunt-and-emily-blunt-related.pdf
- **Was Remember Me Based On A True Story**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/was-remember-me-based-on-a-true-story.pdf
- **Ess Employee Self Service Costco**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/ess-employee-self-service-costco.pdf
- **The Case For Christianity By Cs Lewis**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/the-case-for-christianity-by-cs-lewis.pdf

TOPIC INDEX

#osho • #ashtavakra • #gita

DIGITAL EDITION

osho-on-ashtavakra-gita

DIGITAL EDITION

osho-on-ashtavakra-gita

DIGITAL EDITION

osho-on-ashtavakra-gita

DIGITAL EDITION

osho-on-ashtavakra-gita