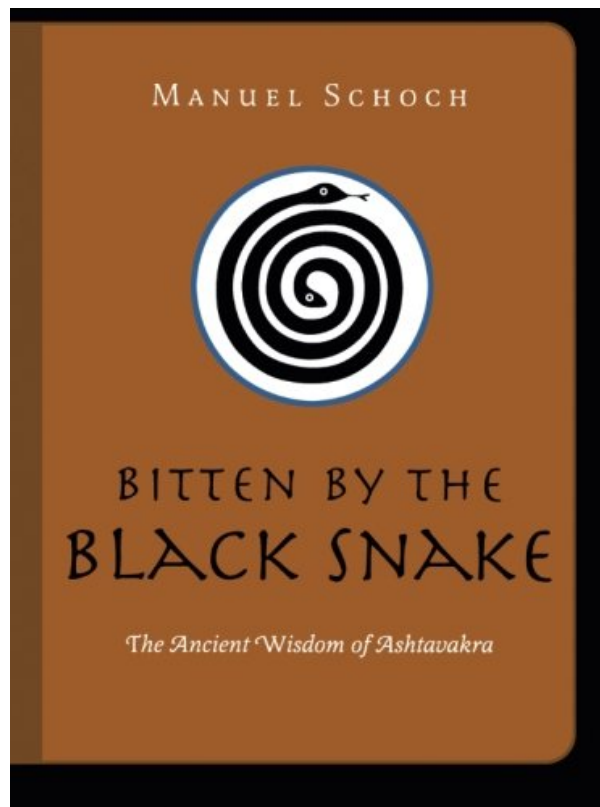
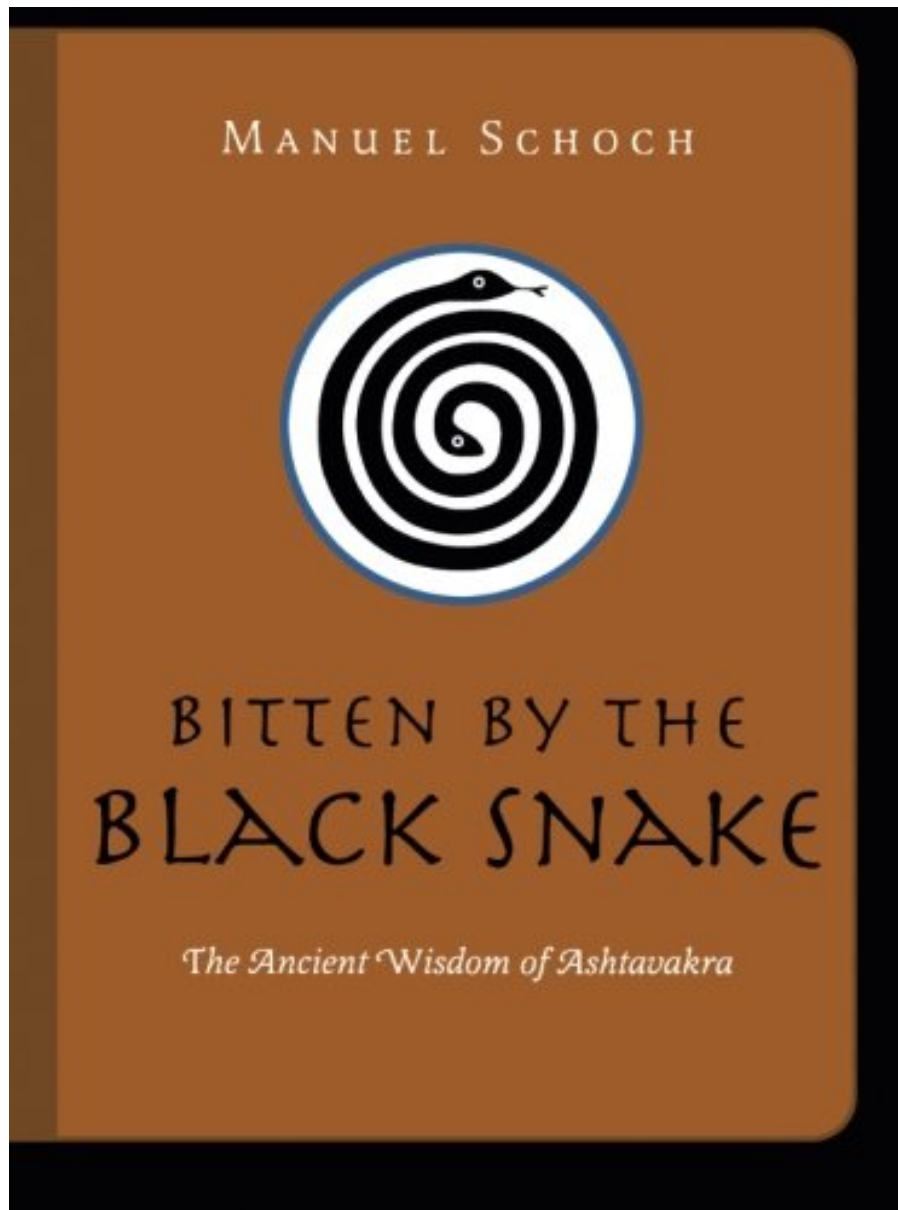


**BITTEN BY THE BLACK SNAKE: THE
ANCIENT WISDOM OF ASHTAVAKRA BY
MANUEL SCHOCH**



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Review

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not what it claims to be

By donna

I am a longtime student of the Ashtavakra Gita. I have several translations, and a few commentaries. I bought this book to continue my studies. I was extremely disappointed when I got the book. First, it should be made clear that this book does not contain a translation of the Ashtavakra Gita. Only small portions of Thomas Byrom's excellent translation are quoted. It should be noted that while small portions of Byrom's translation are quoted verbatim, no credit nor any indication of permission is given and this may be a copyright violation. But since only a small fraction of the actual Ashtavakra Gita is actually presented here, maybe it qualifies as "fair use", as if quoting for a review. However, nowhere is Byrom credited with the translation.

The contents of this small book are simply an exposition of Manuel Schoch's own philosophy and teaching, having very little resemblance to the teachings of the Ashtavakra Gita. Schoch does try to imply that his own teachings are somehow related to Ashtavakra's, but it's a big stretch to make the connection, to say the least. Schoch not only waters down Ashtavakra's uncompromising non-dualism, he adds a lot of stuff that has nothing to do with Ashtavakra's teachings at all, and are even at odds with them.

I find Schoch's teachings to be highly idiosyncratic and personal to him, bearing no resemblance to Ashtavakra or non-dualism. Students of Schoch may like this book, but those who wish to study the Ashtavakra Gita would do well to look elsewhere.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent Non-Duality text

By Dr. Peter Brown

A very good text, but got the feeling of a (well-versed) student citing very ancient Master! If "new" to Non-Dual/Advaita teachings, it is well done! but I always prefer the writer either having "achieved" that nebulous enlightenment, or at the least, speaking from the heart/experience!

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Worthwhile read.

By Julie Gallagher

A different take on the Ashtavakra Gita than I had ever read before. It's work reading!

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