



Study of scriptures is an essential pre-requisite for a seeker after Truth. It is a Sadhana to sharpen his intellectual acumen that will help him gain a nobler perception of the world and its working. With the scriptural knowledge he has gained, he will come to understand the purpose of his birth and the mission of his life. Questions like 'Why?', 'When?', 'How?' etc. will begin to dandle before his intellect and while seeking answers to these questions he is apt to stumble upon the fundamental truths of life. In short, he will become cognizant of all the desiderata for his onward march. And for this reason only, the Rishies of yore insisted upon the seekers to undergo at the outset a studious life.

But tragically indeed many of the seekers fall easy victims to the irresistible temptation of acquiring more and more knowledge. It is well said by Shree Sankara that a hunter after scriptural knowledge will get himself lost in the thickest woods of scriptures. In his mad pursuit to gain more and more knowledge, a man forgets his goal he wanted to achieve



together with the path he chose to tread. His desires to know this, to know that, whip him to run into the lanes and bylanes of knowledge from which he is unable either to proceed towards his goal or trace his way back. Alas, he is lost!

As he becomes cognizant of the *ideal life* through the study of scriptures, a seeker should also try to live true to his conviction. Both study and practice should go hand in hand. Study is the oil and practice is the wick; sans either of these the lambent flame of wisdom will fail to flicker.

It is to our advantage if we at once translate into actions what we learn, for otherwise the knowledge we gain by scriptural study will add more weight to our ego, which is already keeping us farther away from the Reality.

*Pujya Swamiji's  
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