

'Naṣṭātmānaḥ'—They 'do not believe in the existence of a soul. They are materialists. They believe, that there is no sentient element, as such, it is merely a mixture of materialistic elements, in it sentiency develops in the same way as a mixture of catechu and lime, produces redness. So, they are totally disinclined towards, sentient (soul). Thus they are ruined, and they lose all chances, of attaining self-realization.

'Alpabuddhayaḥ'—Their understanding (discrimination), is weak. Their intellect, is concerned only with sensual pleasures. They believe in 'eat, drink and be merry'. They cannot distinguish, between the real and the unreal, virtue and vice, good and bad conduct. They have no conception of a soul or the Supreme Being, as their understanding in spiritual matters, is clouded. But their intellect is sharp, in amassing wealth, and enjoying worldly pleasures.

'Ugrakarmāṇaḥ'—They perform cruel deeds, such as murder etc., because, they are not afraid of God and scriptural ordinances. But, they are afraid of thieves, robbers and government officers.

'Ahitāḥ'—They are, engaged in doing evil, to others and they derive pleasure out of it.

'Jagataḥ kṣayāya prabhavanti'—They apply their power, prosperity and position etc., for the destruction, of other people. They cannot tolerate the progress, of other people. For their selfish motives, they indulge in violence, murder and usurpation etc., without thinking of the pain, which they inflict upon others. Such demoniac people, kill birds and animals, and eat them.



Link:—The evil ways of such atheists, who are filled with insatiable desires, are described in the next verse.

काममाश्रित्य दुष्पूरं दम्भमानमदान्विताः ।

मोहादगृहीत्वासदग्राहान्प्रवर्तन्तेऽशुचिब्रताः ॥ १० ॥

**kāmamāśritya duṣpūraṁ dambhamānamadānvitāḥ
mohādgrhītvāsadgrāhānpravartante'śucivratāḥ**

Sheltered behind insatiable desires, full of hypocrisy, pride and arrogance, believing false tenets through delusion, they act with impure resolve. 10

'Kāmamāśritya duṣpūram'—These people, endowed with demoniac nature, harbour insatiable desires, in their hearts. They believe that without desire a man, becomes just like a stone and he cannot progress. They do not believe in God, in fortune and in world hereafter.

How to satisfy those desires? The Lord explains:—

'Dambhamānamadānvitāḥ'—They are full of hypocrisy, pride and arrogance. They pretend to be, what they are not, in order to gain wealth, honour, praise and prestige etc. This is hypocrisy. 'Māna' or pride, consists in regarding oneself worthy of honour or adoration, because of one's superiority complex. 'Mada' or arrogance, consists in remaining intoxicated with one's possessions—intellect, merit, learning, wealth and power etc.

'Aśucivratāḥ'—They make impure resolves, such as setting fire to villages cow pens and murdering people etc. They regard, purity of food, conduct, caste and social order (āśrama), as hypocrisy. They resolve that they will not listen to the name and glories of the Lord, and they will not go on pilgrimages and so on.

Robbers also have such resolves, because they do not want to rob people of their riches, without injuring them.

'Mohādgrhītvāsadgrāhān'—They embrace wrong ideas, through delusion. Delusion consists in conceiving, as right what is wrong, and following a path contrary to truth (Gītā 18/32). They do not follow, the ordinances of the scriptures, the caste and the family. They go contrary, to what is right, good or truthful. Their intellect becomes, so mean, that they do not consider, any duty towards their parents and they indulge in falsehood, fraud

and forgery, in order to hoard money.

Appendix—‘Kāmamāśritya duṣpūram’—In the third chapter also the Lord declared that desire is the most greedy (all devouring)—‘mahāśanaḥ’ (3/37) and is insatiable like fire—‘duṣpureṇānalena ca’ (3/39). Therefore all the desires can never be satiated. Those who have the aim to satiate their desires, can never attain peace. In the satiety of desires, there is much dependence, but the men of demoniac nature regard this dependence as independence because they think that having gained riches etc., they will become independent. They don’t believe in the scripture, the preceptor, God and Dharma (righteousness) etc., then in whom besides desire, should they seek shelter?



Link:— The Lord, in the next two verses, explains the feelings, thought and conduct, of such atheists.

चिन्तामपरिमेयां च प्रलयान्तामुपाश्रिताः ।

कामोपभोगपरमा एतावदिति निश्चिताः ॥ ११ ॥

**cintāmaparimeyāṁ ca pralayāntāmupāśritāḥ
kāmapabhogaparamā etāvaditi niścītāḥ**

Obsessed lifelong with innumerable cares that end only with death, steeped in the gratification of desires and accumulation of wealth as the highest aim, and convinced that, that is the end-all. 11

Comment:—

‘Cintāmaparimeyāṁ ca pralayāntāmupāśritāḥ’—They are beset with innumerable cares, worries and anxieties, till they die. So they have to follow, a cycle of birth and death.

The cares or worries, can be of two kinds—the spiritual and mundane. Those, who are worried about their salvation, are noble. But people possessing a demoniac nature, are not beset with spiritual worries. They are obsessed with, such cares and worries, as to how they could maintain honour, praise, fame and