

Comment:—

'Kulakṣaye praṇaśyanti kuladharmāḥ sanātanaḥ'—In a war, there is destruction of family. The family has its agelong traditions and time-honoured usage. But when a family is destroyed, its pious traditions and usage, which lead the living and dead members of the family to benediction, also perish, because no one remains, to maintain these.

'Dharme naṣṭe kulam kṛtsnamadharma'bhībhavatyuta'—When pious traditions and pious conduct, perish, people lose their virtues and righteousness, and impiety takes hold of an entire family.

Now the doubt arises, how impiety takes hold of the family when it is destroyed. The answer is, that when people who wage war are killed, impiety takes hold of the children and women, who do not take part in battle, but are left behind. The reason is that when fit and experienced persons die in battle, no one is left behind to control the children and women, and to teach them good conduct and virtuous behaviour. So they do not behave decently that is supposed to mark, righteous persons. So impiety takes hold of them.



अधर्माभिभवत्कृष्ण प्रदुष्यन्ति कुलस्त्रियः ।

स्त्रीषु दुष्टासु वार्ष्णेय जायते वर्णसङ्करः ॥ ४१ ॥

adharmābhibhavātkṛṣṇa praduṣyanti kulastriyaḥ
strīṣu duṣṭāsu vārṣṇeya jāyate varṇasaṅkaraḥ

When impiety prevails, O, Kṛṣṇa, the women of a family become perverse and with their degradation, O, Vārṣṇeya (descendant of Vṛṣṇi), a hybrid mixture of castes, results. 41

Comment:—

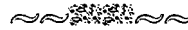
'Adharmābhibhavātkṛṣṇa praduṣyanti kulastriyaḥ'—By following righteousness, inner sense is purified. With the purification of inner sense; intellect becomes pure and pious

and placid (sāttvikī). Intellect has discrimination between right and wrong. But, when there is growth of impiety, in family, the conduct of members in the family, becomes bad. Bad conduct fouls the inner sense whose inner sense, makes the intellect 'tāmasī' (the intellect which veils knowledge and binds one to carelessness is called 'tāmasī'). With this 'Tāmasī' intellect, men lose discrimination, regard the undesirable as desirable, and the desirable as undesirable and act against ordinance of scriptures. With such an intellect women become depraved viz., unchaste.

'Strīṣu duṣṭāsu vārṣṇeya jāyate varṇasaṅkaraḥ'—Depraved women give birth to hybrids.* If man and woman belong to different castes, the offspring born of the couple, is known as a hybrid, (mixture).

Here, Arjuna by addressing the Lord as 'Kṛṣṇa', means to say that He attracts everyone. He further asks him, in which direction, He will pull his family.

Arjuna addresses him as Vārṣṇeya, because He belonged to the Vṛṣṇi clan. He means to say, to what clan will his descendants belong, when destruction of his clan, takes place? Therefore, it is not proper to destroy the clan.



सङ्करो नरकायैव कुलघ्नानां कुलस्य च ।
पतन्ति पितरो ह्येषां लुप्तपिण्डोदकक्रियाः ॥ ४२ ॥

saṅkaro narakāyaiva kulaghnānāṁ kulasya ca
patanti pitaro hyeṣāṁ luptapiṇḍodakakriyāḥ

A mixture of castes leads the family as also the destroyers of a family to hell. Deprived of the ritual offerings of rice-balls and

* 'Saṅkaraḥ' means the mixture of contrary things. When men do not perform duties and righteousness, intermixture of castes, races, dresses, languages and foods etc., ensues.