

They are inclined to perform those activities which provide them comfort and happiness and they don't do any activity which may provide them pain and which do not serve their self-interest. In fact the scripture is the authority in determining what ought to be done and what ought not to be done (Gītā 16/24). But because of deep attachment with their bodies and life-breaths, the men possessing the demoniac nature, don't obey the injunction of the scripture, in what ought to be done and what ought not to be done. Because of their demoniac nature they don't listen to the gospel of the scripture and even if they listen to it, they can't understand it—'yatanto'pyakṛtātmāno nainam paśyantya cetasaḥ' (Gītā 15/11).



Link:—Those, who lack discrimination, purity, good conduct and truth, possess an atheistic outlook, which is described, in next verse.

असत्यमप्रतिष्ठं ते जगदाहुरनीश्वरम् ।
अपरस्परसम्भूतं किमन्यत्कामहैतुकम् ॥ ८ ॥

asatyamapratīṣṭhaṁ te jagadāhuraniśvaram
aparasparasambhūtaṁ kimanyatkāmahaitukam

They say, 'The universe is truly unreal having no moral basis, is without God, and born of mutual union, brought about by lust: what else?' 8

Comment:—

'Asatyam'—Persons possessing demoniac nature and atheistic outlook, say that this universe, is without truth and reality. According to them, virtuous actions, such as sacrifice, charity, penance, meditation, study of scriptures, pilgrimage and fasts etc., are unreal and deceptive.

'Apratīṣṭhaṁ te jagadāhuraniśvaram'—The believers, believe in Dharma (righteousness), God and rebirth etc., while atheists

do not believe in these. They say, that there is neither virtue nor vice, in this universe. They hold that the universe is without God. They do not believe, in His existence. So, for them there is no question of a creator and controller of the universe.*

'Aparasparasambhūtaṁ kimanyatkāmahaitukam'—They believe, that sexual passion of men and women, is the sole cause, of the entire universe. There is no need of any Lord, or actions of the past etc., in its creation i.e., there is no Lord, Who dispenses the fruit of actions of an individual, according to virtue and vice. According to them, those who regard the Lord, as creator of this universe, are hypocrites and they cheat, the universe.



Link:—The Lord, in the next verse describes the view and the conduct of such atheists.

एतां दृष्टिमवष्टभ्य नष्टात्मानोऽल्पबुद्धयः ।

प्रभवन्त्युग्रकर्माणः क्षयाय जगतोऽहिताः ॥ ९ ॥

etāṁ dr̥ṣṭimavaṣṭabhya naṣṭātmāno'lpabuddhayah
prabhavantyugrakarmāṇaḥ kṣayāya jagato'hitāḥ

Holding fast to this view, these perverted souls of false understanding, and cruel deeds, not believing in the eternal soul, appear as enemies of the world, for its destruction. 9

Comment:—

'Etāṁ dr̥ṣṭimavaṣṭabhya'—people possessing demoniac nature, do not know what to do and what to refrain from. They do not possess, either purity or good conduct, or truth. They do not believe, that there is a Lord, who dispenses the fruit of actions of an individual, according to virtues and vices. They hold fast, to this atheistic view.

* The term 'Anīśvara' means that they don't believe in the existence of the Lord. It means that the Lord exists but they don't believe in His existence. So they are obsessed with innumerable cares (16/11) while the believers possessing a divine nature remain carefree and fearless.