

Colophon—In the colophon of the Gītā the three expressions ‘brahmavidyāyām’, ‘yogaśāstre’ and ‘śrīkṛṣṇārjunasaṁvāde’ have been used in the singular number but ‘Śrīmadbhagavadgītāsu’ and ‘upaniṣatsu’—these two expressions have been used in the plural number. It means that in all the upaniṣads, Śrīmadbhagavadgītā is also an upaniṣad in which ‘brahmavidyā’ (the discipline of knowledge), ‘yogaśāstra’ (the discipline of action) and ‘Śrīkṛṣṇārjuna saṁvāda’ (the discipline of devotion)—the three have been included.

In the Gītā ‘Śrīkṛṣṇārjuna saṁvāda’ viz., the dialogue between Lord Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna begins with devotion and ends in devotion. In the beginning Arjuna, being confused with regard to his duty, takes refuge in God—‘śiṣyaste’haṁ śādhi mām tvām prapannam’ (Gītā 2/7) and in the end being inspired by the Lord for taking refuge in Him alone, by the expression ‘māmekam śaranam vraja’, Arjuna takes refuge in Him alone, when he declares—‘kariṣye vacanam tava’ (I will do your bidding). Arjuna asked Lord Kṛṣṇa the means by which he might attain the highest good (Gītā 2/7, 3/2, 5/1). Therefore the Lord has also described ‘Jñānayoga’ (the discipline of knowledge) and ‘Karmayoga’ (the discipline of action) in the Gītā.



दोषैरेतैः कुलघ्नानां वर्णसङ्करकारकैः ।

उत्साद्यन्ते जातिधर्माः कुलधर्माश्च शाश्वताः ॥ ४३ ॥

doṣairetaiḥ kulaghnānāṁ varṇasaṅkarakārakaiḥ
utsādyante jātīdharmāḥ kuladharmāśca śāśvatāḥ

Along caste-traditions and family-customs of the destroyers of a family get eradicated because of the intermixture created by the bad deeds of these destroyers of clans. 43

Comment:—

Doṣairetaiḥ kulaghnānāṁ.....kuladharmāśca śāśvatāḥ— With

the destruction of a race in war, family-traditions are ruined. With the ruin of family-traditions, impiety takes hold. With the growth of impiety, the women become depraved. With the vices there ensues an intermixture of castes. With the intermixture of castes caste-traditions of the clan-destroyers are ruined.

What are 'Kula Dharma' and 'Jāti Dharma'? In every caste, a family has its own traditions, customs and decorum which are known, as, 'Kula Dharma', whereas, the traditions of a caste as a whole, are known as 'Jāti Dharma' or 'Varṇa Dharma.' These traditions are general and these are approved by the scriptures. These traditions get ruined, if not followed.



उत्सन्नकुलधर्माणां मनुष्याणां जनार्दन ।

नरकेऽनियतं वासो भवतीत्यनुश्रुम ॥ ४४ ॥

utsannakuladharmāṇām manuṣyāṇām janārdana
narake'niyataṁ vāso bhavatītyanuśruma

We have heard, O Janārdana, that men, who have lost their family traditions, dwell in hell, for an indefinite period of time. 44

Comment:—

'Utsannakuladharmāṇām manuṣyāṇām janārdana narake'-niyataṁ vāso bhavatītyanuśruma'—God has endowed man, with discretion and the right to perform, new deeds. hence, he is free to perform good or bad actions. He should use discretion in performing actions. But he being captive of greed, of pleasure etc., does not use his discretion and acts against the ordinance of scriptures, and family-traditions. Consequently, he is criticised, insulted and looked down upon, in this life and suffers tortures of hell for a long time, in the life to come. This is, what we have heard from our elders and ancestors.

In the word 'Manuṣyāṇām' the clan-destroyers and all other