

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

members of the race, including ancestors of the race-destroyers viz., manes and their descendants, have been included.



Link:—In the verse that follows, we are told how Arjuna was influenced by the description of disastrous consequences of fighting a battle.

अहो बत महत्पापं कर्तुं व्यवसिता वयम् ।

यद्राज्यसुखलोभेन हन्तुं स्वजनमुद्यताः ॥ ४५ ॥

aho bata mahatpāpaṁ kartuṁ vyavasitā vayam
yadrājyasukhalobhena hantuṁ svajanamudyatāḥ

Alas! Goaded by the lust for throne and enjoyment, we seem bent on perpetrating the great sin, of killing our kinsmen. 45

Comment:—

'Aho bata mahatpāpaṁ kartuṁ vyavasitā vayam yadrājya-sukhalobhena hantuṁ svajanamudyatāḥ'—Duryodhana and his companions, are villains. Being goaded by greed, they are not guided by righteousness and so they are prepared to wage a war. We have the power to discriminate between righteousness and unrighteousness, virtue and vice, but we are also prepared to wage war to kill our own kinsmen, just like ignorant people. So it is something very surprising and shocking. By doing so, we are going to commit a great sin, by turning a deaf ear to the teachings of preceptors and scriptures.

The word 'Aho' expresses surprise. It is surprising, that we have decided to commit sin by waging this war, even having known its horrifying consequences. The word 'Bata', expresses sorrow. It is a matter of sorrow, that we are prepared to slay our kith and kin, being over powered by greed, for a transient kingdom and pleasure.

Greed for kingdom and pleasure, is the only cause, for