

cannot be appeased by supplying it with sense-objects. The more it gluts, the more it craves. Sin increases in direct proportion to desire. It is therefore Satan, the arch-enemy of man.

Time and again man gets humiliated because of his being victim to lust and greed. Still he is unable to recoil from them and give his thought to God.

—Sri Ramakrishna

How desire clouds man's understanding is depicted now :—

धूमेनाव्रियते वह्निर्यथादर्शो मलेन च ।

यथोल्बेनावृतो गर्भस्तथा तेनेदमावृतम् ॥ ३८

धूमेन आ-व्रियते वह्निः यथा आ-दर्शः मलेन च ।

यथा उल्बेन आ-वृतः गर्भः तथा तेन इदम् आ-वृतम् ॥

*dhūmenā 'vriyate vahnir yathā 'darśo malena ca ।*

*yatho 'lbenā 'vrto garbhas tathā tene 'dam āvṛtam ॥*

धूमेन *dhūmena* by smoke आव्रियते *āvriyate* is enveloped वह्निः *vahniḥ* fire यथा *yathā* as आदर्शः *ādarśaḥ* a mirror मलेन *malena* by dust च *ca* and यथा *yathā* as उल्बेन *ulbena* by the amnion आवृतः *āvṛtaḥ* enveloped गर्भः *garbhaḥ* embryo तथा *tathā* so तेन *tēna* by it इदम् *idaṁ* this आवृतम् *āvṛtam* enveloped

As fire is enveloped by smoke, as a mirror by dust, as an embryo by the womb, so is this covered by that.

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The resplendent Atman is veiled in desire, which is in three grades corresponding to the predominance of the three Gunas. Desire dominated by *Sattva guna* is like fire being choked with smoke. A little blowing will set it ablaze and the smoke will disappear.