

18. *Given to egoism, power, haughtiness, lust and anger, these malicious people hate Me in their own bodies, and in those of others.*

Once egoism takes possession of an individual, he steadily sinks to the ugliest depths of animalism. Drunk with passions, he abdicates from all the dignity of a cultured man and behaves as an ineffectual beast, strutting about precariously on its hind legs! Such a biological freak, who is physiologically a man but temperamentally an animal, is the type that is now being discussed as the 'Diabolically Fallen' (*Asura*).

Enumerating the inner contents of such an individual, Lord Krishna says that he is "FULL OF EGOISM, BRUTE STRENGTH, ARROGANCE, PASSION AND ANGER." Any one of these is sufficient to pull one down to the depths of depravity, but the Lord characterises the *Asura* -- type of man as having all these qualities, all at once. Not only does he have these qualities --- and who does not have? --- but, unlike an evolver, the *Asuric* man comes to pin his faith on these qualities, and he struggles to discover his fulfilment only in the expression of these tendencies.

What is the harm if an individual lives these values? This is a question that is often asked by an indulgent youth, when he is advised by his elders not to live yielding readily to his low urges and ugly temptations. The