

THE TAMASIC MEN (WORSHIP) THE *PRETAS* AND *BHUTAS* --- The dead 'spirits' and such other low and vicious powers are invoked by the men of 'inactivity' (*Tamas*) for the satisfaction of some of their low urges for vicious sense-gratifications. Men of low moral calibre and false education, generally, would try to fulfil their pernicious ambitions with the help of the wretched vengeful scum of the society (*Pretas, Bhutas*), who, though physically alive, are dead to all sweetness and goodness in life. These hired *goondas* (thugs), generally chosen from professional jail-birds, are the fit powers to be invoked in order that low and criminal ambitions of the *Tamasic* can be fulfilled.

The same import has been brought out in many earlier stanzas (VII-20 to 23; IX-23 to 25). The modern man would be rather curious to know whether there really exist such powers and deities as *pretas* and *bhutas*. It is in fact immaterial for the purpose of studying this portion of the Geeta whether such powers REALLY exist or not. They are indicative of certain types of powers which are available in this world of ours.

"The help gained from good friends," the "protection invoked from the rich and the powerful," and the "enormous strength gathered from the low thoughtless men of criminal intentions" --- these are the different types of 'altars' at which men of serenity (*Sattwic*), of ambition (*Rajasic*), of heedlessness (*Tamasic*), generally seek their individual satisfaction. From the nature of a man's field-