

Who are they that alienate themselves from Iswara ? They are marked out :—

न मां दुष्कृतिनो मूढाः प्रपद्यन्ते नराधमाः ।

माययापहतज्ञाना आसुरं भावमाश्रिताः ॥ १५

न माम् दुस्-कृतिन मूढा. प्र-पद्य-न्ते नर-अधमाः ।

मायया अप-ह त-ज्ञानाः आसुरम् भावम् आ-श्रिताः ॥

*na mām duṣkṛtino mūdhāḥ prapadyante narādhamāḥ ।
māyayā 'pahṛtajñānā āsuram bhāvam āśritāḥ ॥*

न *na* not माम् *mām* to me दुष्कृतिनः *duṣkṛtinaḥ* evil-doers मूढाः *mūdhāḥ* the deluded प्रपद्यन्ते *prapadyante* seek नर अधमाः *nara adhamāḥ* the lowest of men मायया *māyayā* by Maya अपहतज्ञाना *apahṛtajñānāḥ* deprived of knowledge आसुरम् *āsuram* belonging to demons भावम् *bhāvam* nature आश्रिता. *āśritāḥ* having taken to

The evil-doers, the deluded, the lowest of men, deprived of discrimination by Maya and following the way of the Asuras, do not seek refuge in Me. 15

Asuras are they who delight in deceit, falsehood and torture of beings. Their ways are elaborately dealt with in chapter sixteen. They stand against the worship of the Divine. Practice of cruelty is their pastime.

Evil deeds hide the noble traits in man and expose the base ones. The perpetrators of wickedness become progressively deluded. They are not able to discern between the divine and the unholy. They are therefore the lowest of men. The question of pursuing any good path and pulling up in ethical life does not arise in their cases. Their understand-