

Also, the actions of those, whose senses and mind are not under control, are like the bath of an elephant:* knowledge without action is a burden, like feeding an ill-natured (lit. unlucky) woman or like ornaments on an ugly woman.

P. 8. I, therefore, did not do well in that I placed confidence in this ferocious beast. For, says the precept—

Trust should never be placed in rivers, in persons having weapons in their hands, in animals armed with claws, and horns, as well as in women and royal families.† Again,

It is the natural disposition of every one that is tested, and not his other qualities; for having surpassed all (other) qualities, disposition stands at the head. And further, — 20.

That well-known sporter in the sky, the destroyer of sin (darkness) possessor of a thousand rays (hands) and marching in the midst of the stars,—even he, the Moon, is devoured (eclipsed) by Ráhu, by the decree of fate: who is able to efface what is written on the forehead?

While thus musing he was killed by the tiger, and eaten.

Therefore I say 'Through the lust of a bracelet &c.' For this reason nothing rash should at all be done. For,

Food well digested, a son very wise (well educated), a wife well disciplined, a king served faithfully, what is spoken after being well thought over and what is done after due consideration—these do not lead to a bad result even after a very long time.

On hearing these words a certain pigeon said arrogantly—Ah, why is it so said?

The words (counsel) of the aged should be acted upon (followed) only when the time of calamity is at hand: if we consider thus in all matters, we can hardly proceed to take our food. For,

Everything on the surface of the earth, food and drink, is involved in doubt: to what should an attempt be directed and how should life be supported?

One who is envious, one given to reviling, one (ever) discontented, one who is irascible and one who is always suspicious—these six have misery for their lot.

* Which is useless as the animal is sure to cover his body the next moment with mud.

† (As far as third favour is concerned).