

at hand, and he would himself slay *Karna* and *Çalya*. *Arjuna* said that that very day the wives of *Karna* would become widows (*aa'*) (VIII, 87). In the welkin D., N., As., Si., Y., G., Rā., Aps., B.-r., etc., looked on. The battle commenced. *Duryodhana*, etc. (*aβ'*), & *Arjuna* (+ *Kṛṣṇa*); *Arjuna* defeated all of them; floral showers fell, etc.; *Açvatihāman* told *Duryodhana* to make peace (*aγ'*), but in vain (*aδ'*); *Duryodhana* urged his troops (VIII, 88); description of the battle between *Arjuna* and *Karna*; *Arjuna* employed an *Agnoya* weapon, which was quenched by *Karna* with a *Vāruṇa* weapon by means of clouds, which *Arjuna* dispelled by a *Vāyavya* weapon; *Arjuna* employed the *Aindra* weapon (? *astram dayitam devarājūṣāḥ*), *Karna* the *Bhārgava* weapon. The *Pāñcālas* and *Somakas* & *Karna*, who slew them. Seeing *Arjuna's* weapons baffled by *Karna*, *Bhīma* urged *Arjuna* to put forth his strength (*aε'*), and so did *Kṛṣṇa* (*aζ'*). *Arjuna* bowed to *Brahmān* and invoked the *Brāhma* weapon, which could be applied by the wind alone; *Karna* baffled it; urged by *Bhīma*, *Arjuna* applied a second *Brāhma* weapon, which caused a great carnage among the *Kaurava* troops (description). *Karna* & *Bhīmasena*, etc. (*aη'*). *Arjuna* shot at *Karna* and *Çalya*, and slew *Sabhāpati*, etc. The *Kauravas* urged *Karna* to slay *Arjuna*. *Yudhishtira* appeared in order to witness the encounter. *Arjuna's* bow-string broke; *Karna* took advantage of the interval to hit *Arjuna*, etc. (*aθ'*). *Karna* employed as arrows five snakes that had sided with *Takshaka's* son [i.e. *Açvasena*, at *Khāṇḍava*]; they penetrated *Kṛṣṇa's* body, entered the earth, and, having bathed [in *Bhogavati*], returned to *Karna*, but were cut off by *Arjuna*, who then covered *Karna's* chariot with showers of arrows and slew 2,000 *Kurus*, who had been urged by *Duryodhana* to fight. The *Kurus* fled, leaving *Karna* to fight singly with *Arjuna* (VIII, 89). *Karna* baffled *Arjuna's* weapon; *Karna* and *Arjuna* shot at each other dense showers of arrows. The snake *Açvasena*, who was hostile to *Arjuna*, was passing his time in the nether region, having escaped from the conflagration at *Khāṇḍava*; recollecting the death of his mother he now soared up and entered into *Karna's* quiver in the shape of an arrow. *Karna* and *Arjuna* were fanned and sprinkled with fragrant sandal water by many *Aps.* staying in the welkin, and *Çakra* and *Sūrya* with their hands gently brushed their faces. *Karna* aimed that arrow, born in *Airāvata's* race (i.e. the snake in the shape of an arrow), which he had long kept for *Arjuna's* destruction, and which lay singly in a golden quiver amid sandal dust; omens appeared, and the *Lokapālas* with *Çakra* raised loud wails. *Karna* did not know that the snake *Açvasena* had entered his arrow by the aid of his *yoga* powers. *Çalya* in vain exhorted *Karna* to take another arrow; *Karna* said: "*Karna* never aims an arrow twice; persons like us never become crooked warriors." *Kṛṣṇa* with his feet pressed *Arjuna's* chariot about a cubit into the earth, and the snake-arrow, failing to strike off *Arjuna's* head, broke his diadem (made by *Svayambhū* for *Indra* > *Arjuna*), incapable of being crushed by *Rudra*, etc. (*a'*). Celestial flowers were showered upon *Kṛṣṇa*, etc. *Açvasena* appeared to *Karna* and asked him to shoot the same weapon again; *Karna* refused to avail himself of another's help or shoot the same shaft twice. *Açvasena* then, of his own accord, rushed on *Arjuna* in the shape of an arrow; *Kṛṣṇa* informed *Arjuna* that it was *Açvasena*, who, as an unborn child, was saved with his mother at *Khāṇḍava*. *Arjuna* cut the snake into pieces; and *Kṛṣṇa* with his arms raised the chariot from the earth.

Once, when *Karna* was stupefied and stood inactive, *Arjuna* was disinclined to slay him in such distress, but he was taught by *Kṛṣṇa* never to spare an enemy, however weak. At that time, when the hour of *Karna's* death had come, *Kala*, approaching invisibly, in consequence of the brahman's wrath, said "the earth is swallowing up thy wheel," and the weapon that *Rama* had given him escaped from his memory, and the earth engulfed his left wheel. *Karna* began to rail at righteousness as not always protecting its worshippers. *Karna* invoked the *Brāhma* weapon, and *Arjuna* the *Aindra* weapon, which was baffled by *Karna*; urged by *Kṛṣṇa* to "shoot high weapons," *Arjuna* shot the *Brāhma* weapon. *Karna* cut off, one after another, eleven bowstrings of *Arjuna's*, not knowing that *Arjuna* had one hundred strings to his bow; urged by *Kṛṣṇa* to strike *Karna* with "superior weapons," *Arjuna* then consecrated another celestial weapon with *mantras*, uniting the *Raudra* weapon with it. At that time the earth swallowed up one of *Karna's* wheels. Quickly alighting, *Karna* seized his sunken wheel with his two arms and endeavoured to lift it up; the earth rose up to the height of four fingers breadth, with her seven islands, etc.; *Karna* shed tears from wrath and asked *Arjuna* to wait for a moment till he had lifted his sunken wheel (VIII, 90). *Kṛṣṇa* taunted *Karna* for appealing to virtue and the rules of fair fight by reminding him of all the wrongs done to the *Pāṇḍavas* by himself and *Duryodhana* acting according to his counsels (*aκ'*). *Karna* dropped his head in shame and gave no answer, and continued to fight. *Kṛṣṇa* urged *Arjuna* to pierce *Karna* with a celestial weapon; *Arjuna*, remembering the incidents alluded to by *Kṛṣṇa*, blazed up with fury; blazing flames of fire seemed to emanate from all the pores of his body, a sight that appeared exceedingly wonderful. Both *Karna* and *Arjuna* invoked the *Brāhma* weapon, and *Karna* once more made an effort to extricate his chariot. *Arjuna* shot an *Agni* weapon, quenched by *Karna* with a *Vāruṇa* weapon, covering all the points of the compass with darkness, which *Arjuna* dispelled with the *Vāyavya* weapon. Pierced by a shaft of *Karna's*, while the earth trembled, etc., *Arjuna* began to reel, the *Gāṇḍīva* dropped from his hand, etc. At the interval *Karna* fruitlessly endeavoured to extricate his chariot. Recovering his senses, *Arjuna* took up an *añjalika* weapon. Urged by *Kṛṣṇa* to cut off the head of *Karna*, *Arjuna* cut off his standard, and then, with an *añjalika* weapon (the *R.* loudly crying out "peace be to the universe"), struck off *Karna's* head before *Karna* could mount his chariot. A light issued from *Karna's* body and entered the Sun. The *Pāṇḍavas* rejoiced (*aλ'*) (VIII, 91). *Duryodhana*, etc., grieved; *Bhīma*, uttering loud roars, frightened the *Kauravas*, etc. (*aμ'*). *Çalya* informed *Duryodhana* of *Karna's* death (*aν'*). *Duryodhana* became almost deprived of his senses (VIII, 92): Requested by *Dhṛtarāshtra*, *Sanjaya* related the state of the *Kaurava* army after *Karna's* fall (*aξ'*). *Duryodhana* resolved to make a final stand (*aο'*). *Bhīmasena* and *Dhṛṣṭadyumna* (+ four kinds of forces) & *Duryodhana* (+ 25,000 warriors on foot, who were slain); *Arjuna* & the chariot force of the *Kauravas*; *Nakula*, etc. (*aπ'*), & *Çakuni*; the *Kurus* fled away; *Cekitāna*, etc. (*aρ'*), blew their conches. *Duryodhana* challenged all the *Pāṇḍavas* and fought with them with great valour; he rallied the remnants of his troops and exhorted them to fight (*aσ'*); they fled away heedless of his words (VIII, 93). *Çalya* described to *Duryodhana* the carnage on the field (*aτ'*), and urged the withdrawal of the troops to their nightly quarters.