

dymna on the right side; in the middle stood Arjuna; Nakula, Sabadeva and Dharmarāja were posted at the back; Yudhāmanyu and Uttamaujas, the two Pāñcāla heroes, acted as the wheel-protectors of Arjuna; the rest of the kings took positions in keeping with their dispositions, energy and mettle (*yathābhāvaṃ yathotsāhaṃ yathāsattvaṃ ca*) 8. 7. 28-32; viewing this arrangement Yudhiṣṭhira felt confident of victory 8. 7. 34. [See Candrar̥dha ].

Asmavaṛṣa nt. : A kind of a missile.

Employed by Arjuna against Kirāta (Śiva); (it produced a hail of stones?) 3. 163. 32.

Āgni-(astra) nt. : Name of a missile 5. 140. 6. [See Āgneyāstra<sup>1</sup>].

Āgneyāstra<sup>1</sup> nt. : Name of a missile; referred to as Āgni-astra in *ubhe caivāgni-mārute* 5. 140. 6.

A. Origin and succession : Arjuna told Gandharva Angāraparṇa that Bṛhaspati gave it first to Bharadvāja, Bharadvāja to sage Agniveśya, Agniveśya to Droṇa, and Droṇa to Arjuna 1. 158. 26-27; 1. 121. 6-7; but Arjuna told Uttara that he obtained Āgneyāstra from god Agni 4. 56. 14; when Gandharva Angāraparṇa expressed his desire to learn the *astra*, Arjuna taught it to him in exchange of the Gandharva horses (*gandharvajāḥ ... hayāḥ* 1. 158. 51) 1. 158. 54-55; Arjuna taught it to the Gandharva with due rites (*yathāvidhi*) 1. 174. 3; when Arjuna requested Indra for heavenly weapons, Indra assured him that he would give him all the heavenly missiles, *āgneya* and the rest (*āgneyāni ca sarvāni*) after Arjuna had satisfied god Mahādeva 1. 225. 12, 10; among the epic heroes, besides Droṇa and Arjuna,

its use was known also to Kṛṣṇa (6. 116. 38; also see Āgneyāstra<sup>2</sup>), Bhīṣma, Karṇa and Aśvatthāman (7. 166. 2) [See the section C below]. B. Description : divine (*divya*) 6. 116. 38; 7. 73. 46; very dreadful (*mahāghora*) 7. 73. 46; very frightful (*sudāruṇa*) 4. 59. 21; irresistible even by the gods (*devair api sudurdharṣam*) 7. 172. 14. C. Its use in war and its effects : 1. In the epic war : (i) when used by Karṇa against Arjuna, it gave to Karṇa's bow a fiery look and it released fiery arrows; Arjuna apparently combated it with the same kind of *astra* (*astram astraṇa saṃvārya*) 7. 31. 51-52; (ii) used by Droṇa against Yuyudhāna (Sātyaki); this was combated by Sātyaki with Vāruṇāstra 7. 73. 46; (iii) Bhāradvāja (Droṇa) used Āgneya and other heavenly missiles against Yudhiṣṭhira which were rendered ineffective by Yudhiṣṭhira 7. 132. 29-30; (iv) Aśvatthāman used it against Arjuna; when released, it produced a shower of arrows (*śaravaṛṣam ajāyata* 7. 172. 16; *śaravṛṣṭayaḥ* 7. 172. 22); cold winds blew, sun lost its lustre, clouds rained blood, all beings became restless; the arrows were fiery and produced good deal of heat; they burnt down enemies, elephants, horses and chariots; the god Fire burnt the army like the Samvartaka fire at the end of the aeon 7. 172. 16-27; the whole army, including Arjuna, could not be seen due to the darkness; the like of the *astra* released by Aśvatthāman was never seen before by Samjaya and his colleagues 7. 172. 30-31; Arjuna combated it with Brāhma Astra 7. 172. 14, 32; it was meant to be used by Arjuna in the war 5. 140. 6 (here referred to as Āgni instead of Āgneya). 2. Outside the epic war : (i) Arjuna used it against Gandharva Angāraparṇa; when released, it