

down half way by Pradyumna by using Brahmāstra 3. 20. 16-18.

Dhātūr astra nt. : Missile (not named) of God Dhātṛ.

It was known to Arjuna (and possibly to Kṛṣṇa) 6. 116. 38-39.

Nanda m. : Name of a drum (*mṛdaṅga*).

One of the two drums (the other being Upananda), of suitable size, producing sweet sound at the crest of the flag of Yudhiṣṭhira (*yasya dhvajāgre nadato mṛdaṅgau nandopandau madhurai yuktarūpau*) 3. 254. 6.

Nandaka m. : Name of the sword of Kṛṣṇa (Viṣṇu).

It appeared from Kṛṣṇa's body (together with his conch, disk, mace etc.) when he laughed to show his terrible form to Duryodhana and others in the Sabhā of the Kauravas 5. 129. 9; (hence Nandakin one of the thousand names of Viṣṇu 13. 135. 120).

Nartana nt. : Name of a missile (*astra*).

One of the eight missiles known to Arjuna; enumerated by Rāma Jāmadagnya for the information of Duryodhana 5. 94. 3 [for the effects produced by it on the enemy see *Akṣisamtarjana*].

Nāka nt. : Name of a missile (*astra*).

One of the eight missiles known to Arjuna, enumerated by Rāma Jāmadagnya for the information of Duryodhana 5. 94. 38 [For the effects produced by it on the enemy see *Akṣisamtarjana*].

Nāga astra nt. : Name of a missile.

It was employed repeatedly by Arjuna to tie the feet of the army of the Samsaptakas and render them motionless (*padabandham tataḥ cakre ... nāgam astram*

mahārāja samprodīrya muhur muhuḥ // yān uddiśya raṇe pārthaḥ padabandham cakāra hu | te baddhāḥ padabandhena pāṇḍavena mahātmanā | niśceṣṭā abhavan) 8. 37. 21, 22; it was rendered useless by Suśarman by employing Sauparna astra 8. 37. 25-27 (*babhau balaṁ tad vimuktaṁ padabandhāt*).

Nārāyaṇāstra nt. : Name of the missile employed unsuccessfully by Aśvatthāman, after the death of his father Droṇa, to kill the Pāṇḍavas 1. 1. 145; 1. 2. 165; 7. 166. 55; a sub-*parvan* related to the employment of the Nārāyaṇāstra occurs after the sub-*parvan* related to *droṇavadha* 1. 2. 58.

A. History : Droṇa received the Nārāyaṇāstra as a boon from Nārāyaṇa himself who appeared before him in the form of a Brāhmaṇa 7. 166. 43-44, 51; with its acquisition Droṇa became unrivalled in battle 7. 166. 45; given by Nārāyaṇa also to Aśvatthāman 7. 166. 50; Aśvatthāman knew how to release it (*sakalyam for sakalpam?* See Cr. Notes 7, p. 1157 on 166. 42; Nī. *kūlyah prayogaḥ* on Bom. Ed. 7. 195. 30), and how to withdraw it (*sanivartanam*) 7. 166. 42 (but See Section C.3 below); Nārāyaṇāstra known only to Droṇa and Aśvatthāman; it was not known even to Arjuna and the other Pāṇḍavas, nor to Kṛṣṇa, Sātyaki, Dhṛṣṭadyumna and Śikhaṇḍin 7. 166. 2, 41-42.

B. Description : heavenly (*divya*) 1. 1. 145; 7. 166. 60; great missile (*mahāstra*) 7. 166. 49; (*parama*) 7. 166. 44; fierce, frightful (*ugra*) 1. 2. 165; (*ghorarūpam bhayāvaham*) 7. 167. 6.

C. Use : (1) To be used with great circumspection : The missile was not to be employed in haste (*na tv idaṁ sahasā brahman prayoktavyaṁ kathamcana*); since