

gave it to (1) Arjuna : Two accounts : (i) Arjuna desired to have Śiva's Pāśupata missile so that he could burn the Dānavas, the Rākṣasas, the Bhūtas, the Piśācas, the Gandharvas and the mythical serpents (*pannagas*) in battle; he could then be a match for Bhīṣma, Droṇa, Kṛpa, and Karṇa 3. 41. 7, 9, 11; Arjuna called it Brahmaśiras which was terrific and of fierce power (*yat tad brahmaśiro nāma raudraṁ bhīma-parākramam*) 3. 41. 8; Śiva ready to give Pāśupata, his dear weapon (*dayitam agram*), to Arjuna as he was capable of possessing (*dhāraṇa*), releasing (*mokṣa*), and withdrawing (*samhāra*) it 3. 41. 13; to receive it, Arjuna purified himself and remained fully attentive (*śucir bhūtvā samāhitaḥ*); he folded his hands and said to Śiva 'recite (the mantra)' (*adhīṣva*); Śiva then taught it to Arjuna together with its secrets and mode of withdrawal (*sarahasyanivartanam*) 3. 41. 17-18; the missile, like the God of Death in bodily form, then waited on Arjuna; at that time the earth trembled and there was a loud sound of conches, drums and *bheris* by thousands; the gods and demons saw the missile in bodily form standing near Arjuna 3. 41. 17-22; 1. 1. 109; 3. 163. 48, 51; 6. 116. 38; 8. 57. 44; (ii) During the night, after Arjuna took the vow to kill Jayadratha the next day before sunset, Kṛṣṇa advised Arjuna to acquire the knowledge of the great Pāśupata missile from Śiva in order to be able to accomplish his vow; Kṛṣṇa advised Arjuna to mentally approach god Śiva; Arjuna touched water (*samsprṣṭyāmbhaḥ*), sat down on the ground, and mentally went to Bhava (Śiva) 7. 57. 17-19; Arjuna praised Śiva and made him favourable to give the missile 7. 57. 59; Śiva told Arjuna and Kṛṣṇa that

nearby there was a lake of nectar where he had left his divine bow and arrow; he asked them to get his bow and arrow 7. 57. 64-65; when they brought the bow and arrow, a Brahmācārin came from the side of Śiva; he held the bow and, putting the arrow on it, drew it according the prescriptions (*vyakarṣac cāpi vidhivat saśaram dhanur uttamam* 7. 57. 75); having seen how the Brahmācārin held the bow in his grip, how he drew the string, and the posture adopted by him (*tasya maurvīm ca muṣṭīm ca sthānam cālaksya pāṇḍavaḥ* 7. 57. 76), and having heard the *mantra* recited by Śiva, Arjuna understood the way how to employ Pāśupata; the arrow was shot by the Brahmācārin in the lake and the bow was again placed in it; Arjuna then remembered the boon Śiva granted to him during his stay in the forest (*āraṇyaka*) and his meeting Śiva, and wished that he might now receive the boon; knowing Arjuna's mind, Śiva gave him the boon, the Pāśupata missile, and wished him success in accomplishing his vow; Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna bowed down to Śiva and, when permitted to leave, delighted they returned to their camp, 7. 57. 73-81; (Śiva gave missile to Arjuna 7. 173. 100); (2) Besides Arjuna, Kṛṣṇa knew the use of Pāśupata 7. 57. 79; 8. 57. 44; Bhīṣma is not so sure about Kṛṣṇa's knowledge of the Pāśupata 6. 116. 39. D. Effects : The missile, when released, produced thousands of tridents (*śūlas*), fierce maces (*gadās cograpradarśanāḥ*), and charmed arrows having the form of serpents (*śarās cāśviṣākārāḥ sambhavanty anumantritāḥ*) 3. 41. 10. E. Restrictions on its use : Arjuna was specifically told by Śiva that the missile was never to be used against men (*na prayojyam bhaved etan*