

vyamuñcata) 10. 15. 9, (*brahmāstram apy avāpyaitad ... kṣatradharmān mahābāhur nākampata dhanarījayah*) 10. 15. 21; (2) Envious of Arjuna, Aśvatthāman asked his father to teach him Brahmaśiras; Drona gave it to him but not with a pleased mind (*nāti-hṛṣṭamanā iva*) 10. 12. 6; (since Aśvatthāman could not make use of it) he wanted to exchange it with Kṛṣṇa for his (Sudarśana) Cakra so that Aśvatthāman could be invincible 10. 12. 15, 36; Kṛṣṇa offered to give any one of his weapons to Aśvatthāman without receiving from him in return his Brahmaśiras 10. 12. 18-19; Aśvatthāman chose the Cakra but failed even so much as to move it from its place 10. 12. 20-23. E. Use: As Aśvatthāman was cruel and rash, there was every danger of his using Brahmaśiras against Bhīma, who was chasing him 10. 12. 40; when Aśvatthāman actually used it on an *iṣikā*, Kṛṣṇa advised Arjuna to release his Brahmaśiras to counter it; Arjuna got down from the chariot with bow and arrow in hand, wished 'well' (*svasti* 10. 14. 5; 1. 1. 155) first to Aśvatthāman, then to himself and to his brothers (the Pāṇḍavas); then bowing down to deities and teachers, he released Brahmaśiras, wishing welfare, and saying 'may the missile pacify (Aśvatthāman's) missile' (*utsasarja śivam dhyāyann astram astreṇa śāmyatām*) 10. 14. 4-6; 10. 15. 2, 20; 1. 1. 155; at that time fire broke out like the fire at the end of the aeon; the fire of Arjuna's missile matched the fire of Aśvatthāman's missile; as a result terror struck the creatures, skies were filled with great sound and were engulfed in fire, earth, with its mountains and trees, shook; the two missiles produced heat with their lustre 10. 14. 7-11; just then Nārada and Kṛṣṇa Dvaipāyana, de-

siring welfare for all the people, appeared and stood between the two missiles; they pointed out that Brahmaśiras was never used by any one before against men 10. 14. 16; in response to their appeal, Arjuna immediately withdrew his Brahmaśiras; but Aśvatthāman could not 10. 15. 1-15; moreover, if Brahmaśiras was pacified by the other powerful missile (*paramāstra*) there would be no rain in the land for twelve years 10. 15. 23; Aśvatthāman then directed his missile towards the foetus of the Pāṇḍavas 10. 15. 31, 32; 10. 16. 9. [See *Isikā*, Brahmaśiras², Brahmāstra]

Brahmaśiras² nt. : Name of the missile of Śiva (Rudra) (identified with the fierce (*ghora*), divine (*divya*) Pāśupatāstra 3. 41. 7).

A. Origin : It arose from *amṛta* 3. 89. 11; Rudra acquired it with austerities 3. 89. 10. **B. Description :** great (*mahat*) and unrivalled (*apratima*) 3. 89. 10, fierce, of terrible power (*raudram bhīmaparākramam*) 3. 41. 8; 3. 89. 11; it destroys the whole world at the time of the *yugānta* 3. 41. 8. **C. Given to Arjuna :** Arjuna requested Śiva to give his Brahmaśiras (Pāśupata); armed with it, Arjuna wanted to burn in battle the Dānavas, the Rākṣasas, the Bhūtas, the Piśācas, the Gandharvas, and the Pannagas; using it Arjuna wanted to fight with Bhīṣma, Drona. Kṛpa, and Karṇa 3. 41. 8-11; Arjuna received it from Rudra together with the *mantras* to be recited at the time of its employment, the mode of withdrawing it, and the benediction meant for expiation (if wrongly used) *samantram sasamhāram saprāyaścittamaṅgalam* 3. 89. 11 (however, Nī. *prāyaścittam astrāgninā niraparādhānām dāhe yo doṣas tasya*