

śodhanam / maṅgalam dagdhānām evārā-mādīnām punarvṛkasanam / on Bom. Ed. 3. 91. 12). D. Effect : When employed, thousands of *śūlas*, *gadās*, and serpent-like 'charmed' arrows came out of it (*śarāś cāśīviṣākārāḥ sambhavanty anumantṛtāḥ*) 3. 41. 10. [See Pāsupata, Brahmaśiras']

Brahmāstra, Brāhma astra, (Paitāmaha) nt. (rarely pl. 7. 165. 22; 8. 29. 26) : Name of a missile.

A. Relationship with god Brahman : Destined by god Brahman for repulsing all other missiles (*sarvāstrapratighātāya vihitāni padmayoninā*) 7. 172. 32; when withdrawn by Kṛṣṇa from the stillborn Parikṣit, the flaming missile returned to Pitāmaha (Brahman) 14. 69. 1, 3. B. Gods and heroes who knew its use : (1) Among the gods, Indra knew it 5. 47. 100; (2) Among men : (i) Droṇa : He received it from Rāma Jāmadagnya; when Droṇa received it, he became distinguished among men 1. 154. 13; Droṇa not equalled by any one in the use of Brahmāstra; Drupada attributed his defeat at the hands of Droṇa to Droṇa's knowledge of Brahmāstra 1. 155. 22; Droṇa unequalled in battle by any one because of his knowledge of Brahmāstra (and other missiles) (... *brahmāstrādīni yāny api / tāni sarvāṇi tiṣṭhanti bhavaty eva viśeṣataḥ*) 7. 160. 5; known for his knowledge of Brahmāstra, Droṇa knew its use and remedy (*saprayogacikitsitam*) 3. 38. 5; 4. 46. 7, 9; 7. 166. 2; (ii) Arjuna : He was taught (*niṣṭhita*) Brāhma astra by his teacher (Droṇa) 1. 181. 20; 6. 116. 38; in its use, he never violated the rules of the Kṣatriyas (*kṣatradharmān mahābāhur nākampata dhanam-jayaḥ*) 10. 15. 21; Arjuna was asked by Indra to learn the Paitāmaha astra (identical,

or different from Brahmāstra?) 3. 164. 29; (iii-v) Bhīṣma, Kṛpa, and Aśvatthāman : According to Yudhiṣṭhira, Bhīṣma, Kṛpa and Aśvatthāman knew its use and remedy (*saprayogacikitsitam*) 3. 38. 5; 4. 46. 7 (Kṛpa and Aśvatthāman); 4. 46. 9 (Aśvatthāman); (vi) Karṇa : Karṇa requested Droṇa to teach him Brahmāstra together with its secret and withdrawal, but Droṇa refused to oblige 12. 2. 10, 13; Karṇa, who coveted the Astra (12. 3. 27, 30), then learnt it in its entirety (*kṛtsnam*) from Rāma Jāmadagnya 12. 3. 2; 8. 5. 67; but since Karṇa had told a lie to obtain its knowledge (12. 3. 30), Rāma cursed him saying that the missile would flash to him on all occasions except when he met his equal and the time of his death had arrived (*te ... brahmāstraṁ pratibhāsyati / anyatra vadhakālāi te sadṛśena sameyuṣaḥ*) 12. 3. 30-31; 5. 61. 2; returning, Karṇa reported to Duryodhana that he had acquired the missiles (from Rāma) (*kṛtāstro 'sni*) 12. 3. 33; since Karṇa had pacified Rāma, knowledge of Brahmāstra remained with him; hence Karṇa assured Duryodhana that he was quite capable of bearing the burden of the war (*talus tad astraṁ mama sāvaśeṣam tasmāt samartho 'sni mamaiṣa bhārah*) 5. 61. 2-4; according to Yudhiṣṭhira, Karṇa knew the use and remedy of Brahmāstra 3. 38. 5; Karṇa boasted to Śalya that he knew the Brāhma astras (pl. *astrāṇi ... brāhmāṇi*) 8. 29. 26; (vii) Kṛṣṇa : According to Bhīṣma, perhaps Kṛṣṇa knew Brāhma and many other heavenly weapons (*kṛṣṇo vā devakī-putrah*) 6. 116. 39; (viii) Vibhīṣaṇa : He prayed Brahman that the Brahmāstra might flash to him although it was not duly taught to him (*aśikṣitam ca bhagavan brahmāstraṁ pratibhātu me*) 3. 259. 30; [For its use also