

Arjuna (*aśaniṃ gṛhya tarasā vajram astram avāsrjat*), and told the gods that the two were killed 1. 218. 29-30; Kṛṣṇa paralysed Indra who wanted to strike him with Vajra (reference to the Khāṇḍava fire?) 13. 143. 26, 23; (ii) when Indra could not dissuade Uttānka from desisting to dig the earth with just a stick, he joined his Vajrāstra with the stick; the earth, torn asunder by the strokes of Vajra, made way for Uttānka to go to the Nāgaloka 14 57. 31-32; 2. Incidents not related to the epic : (i) Indra threatened king Marutta, first through Agni, that in case the king did not forsake Samvarta who acted as his priest at the sacrifice, he would hurl his Vajra at him 14. 9. 24; he again threatened Marutta, through the Gandharva Dhṛtarāṣṭra, that he would use his Vajra against the king 14. 10. 1, 2, 4, 7; Samvarta, however, assured Marutta that if Indra with his Vajra arrived to strike the king, he would paralyse Indra, and that he had destroyed before the weapons of all the gods; Samvarta then said : "let the wind blow and may it drive away the Vajra to the directions; let there be rain and may it fall on the forests; let waters float in the mid-region and let there be lightning in the sky (*diśo vajram vrajatām vāyur etu varṣam bhūtvā nipatatu kānaneṣu | āpaḥ plavantv antarikṣe vṛthā ca saudāmini dṛśyatām mā bibhas tvam //*) 14. 10. 13; (*vajram tathā sthāpayatām ca vāyuh*) 14. 10. 14; Marutta was still afraid of the sound of Vajra and of the winds, and then Samvarta again assured the king that he would become wind and strike down the Vajra to dispel the king's fear 14. 10. 15-16; (ii) Indra asked his missile Vajra in the bodily form (*mūrtisaṃsthīta*) to turn into a tiger and kill Suvarṇa-

ṣṭhīvin, son of king Sṛñjaya, as he was afraid of the prince's growing strength 12. 31. 27-28; when Vajra (*vajrah*) was so addressed, he began to look for a suitable opportunity and when it arrived he, as tiger, killed Suvarṇaṣṭhīvin; after killing the prince, the tiger disappeared by the *māyā* of Indra 12. 31. 29-34; (iii) when the sage Cyavana wanted to offer Soma to Aśvinā Indra objected to it; in spite of the objection, when Cyavana was about to fill the cup for the Aśvinā, Indra threatened Cyavana to strike him with Vajra; when Cyavana still proceeded to fill the cup, and Indra was about to strike the Vajra, Cyavana paralysed Indra's arm 3. 124. 8, 15-17; 14. 9. 31-32; 12. 329. 14(3); 3. Mythological incidents : (i) Vṛtra episode : (a) in the battle between the gods and Vṛtra, helped by the Kālakeyas, Indra released his Vajra to kill Vṛtra; when struck by the Vajra, Vṛtra was killed 3. 99. 1-3, 13-14; however, Indra felt as if he had not released the Vajra from his hand and that Vṛtra was not killed 3. 99. 15; (b) when the gods approached Viṣṇu for his help in their fight against Vṛtra, Viṣṇu advised them to establish peace for the time being with Vṛtra, and when the proper time came he would enter the Vajra of Indra 5. 10. 11-12; Vṛtra was ready to make peace if he would not be attacked by Indra or by the gods with anything that was dry or wet, which was stone or wood, which was a weapon (*śastra*) or Vajra, and if they would strike neither by day nor by night 5. 10. 29; Indra killed Vṛtra with foam which was fortified with Vajra; Viṣṇu had entered that foam (*savajram atha phenam tam kṣipram vṛtre nirṣṭavān | praviśya phenam tam viṣṇur atha vṛtram vyanāśayat*) 5. 10. 38; 3. 299. 15;