

(c) Mahesvara told Indra to kill Vṛtra with Vajra; Indra agreed 12. 272. 38-39; in the fight that ensued, Indra came with Vajra in his hand; he struck Vṛtra with Vajra; the Vajra (m.) killed him; Viṣṇu had entered the Vajra 12. 273. 5-7, 9; 12. 272. 31; 12. 274. 2; (d) in the fight between Indra and Vṛtra, when the latter covered the earth, Indra released his Vajra at him; Vṛtra then entered successively water, fire, wind, and then ran to ether (*ākāśa*); each time Indra struck him with Vajra; finally Vṛtra entered Śakra (Indra); in that condition Indra struck Vṛtra with an invisible Vajra (*adrśyena vajreṇa*) 14. 11. 6-19; (ii) Viśvarūpa-Triśiras episode : (a) when the gods led by Indra approached god Brahman complaining that Viśvarūpa (Triśiras), son of Tvaṣṭṛ, drank away all Soma offered in sacrifices, and that they were left without a share, Brahman advised them to approach the sage Dadhīca and request him to give up his body; the gods should then fashion a Vajra from the bones of Dadhīca 12. 329. 24-25; when Dadhīca gave up his body, Dhātṛ fashioned a Vajra out of the bones; with that Vajra, produced from the bones of a Brāhmaṇa and in which god Viṣṇu had entered, Indra killed Viśvarūpa and cut off his heads 12. 329. 27; (b) when Indra failed to tempt Triśiras, son of Tvaṣṭṛ, with Apsarases while he was practising penance, he decided to strike Vajra at him; when struck by Vajra, Triśiras fell down like the summit of a mountain; Indra was still afraid of Triśiras and he asked a woodcutter (*takṣan*) to cut off the heads of the lying Triśiras assuring Takṣan that he would make his axe Vajra-like (*matprasādād dhi te śastram vajrakalpaṁ bhaviṣyati* 5. 9. 27); the woodcutter finally cut off the heads of

Triśiras with his axe 5. 9. 15-34; (iii) Meeting of Bali and Indra : when Indra met Bali in the form of a donkey (*khara* 12. 216. 12), Bali told Indra that he could fell down Indra with his fist although Indra was equipped with Vajra, but that that was the time to show forbearance (*kṣamā*) and not valour (*vikrama*) 12. 217. 38-39; 12. 220. 79-80; Indra told Bali that since he was asked by god Brahman not to kill Bali, he was not releasing his Vajra at him (Bali) (12. 218. 33); Indra asked Bali why he was not grieved although he was formerly struck by Vajra 12. 220. 18; Bali told Indra that he was not afraid of him (Indra) although he saw him with his Vajra raised (*vajram udyamya tiṣṭhantam*) 12. 220. 21; Indra was surprised at the tranquility of Bali for he was not afraid of Indra with Vajra raised in his hand 12. 220. 89; (iv) Garuḍa episode : on his way to fetch *amṛta*, when Garuḍa flew to the mountain whose caves were blocked with snow, there were bad omens for the gods; Indra's dear missile Vajra blazed with pain (*indrasya vajram dayitam prajajvāla vyathānvitam*) 1. 26. 28; when Garuḍa was taking away *amṛta*, Indra struck him with Vajra; Garuḍa smiled and told Indra that just out of respect for the sage (Dadhīca) from whose bones the Vajra was fashioned, out of respect for Vajra itself, and Indra, he would let fall just one of his feathers; otherwise, due to the blow of the missile, he felt no pain at all; surprised, Indra sought friendship with Garuḍa 1. 29. 17-23; (v) Fight between the gods and Skanda : when during the fight between the gods and Skanda, the gods abandoned Indra, he released his Vajra at Skanda; it struck Skanda on his right side and split it open; due to the impact of Vajra was produced another young man