

army 7. 154. 36; even the blades of grass acted like Vajras when the time was ripe (mode of expression) (*pakvānām hi vadhe sūta vajrāyante tṛṇāny api*) 7. 10. 47.

Vajra² m. : Name of a *vyūha* (a particular arrangement of the army).

A. Origin: It was designed by Indra (*vihitam vajrapāninā*) 6. 19. 7. B. Description: highly invincible (*paramadurjaya*) 6. 19. 7; (*ajeyo mānuṣe loke*) 6. 19. 35; immovable (*acala*) 6. 19. 7; difficult to penetrate (*durbhida*), watching on all sides (*sarvatomukha*), and terrible (*ghora*) 6. 19. 34. C. Use in the epic war: (1) Arjuna arranged the Pāṇḍava army according to this Vyūha on the first day of the war 6. 19. 6-7, 35; Bhīma led it (*bhīmaseno 'graṇīs teṣām*) 6. 19. 18, (*dṛṣṭvāgrato bhīmasenam*) 6. 19. 44, (*bhīmaseno ... pracakarsa mahat sainyam*) 6. 19. 32; 6. 19. 8, 9; also in the forefront stood Dhr̥ṣṭadyumna, Nakula, Sahadeva, and Dhr̥ṣṭaketu; Nakula and Sahadeva acted as the protectors of the wheels of Bhīma's chariot (*cakrarakṣau* 6. 19. 20), and the sons of Draupadī and Abhimanyu protected Bhīma from behind (*pr̥sthagopāḥ* 6. 19. 20); Dhr̥ṣṭadyumna, helped by the Prabhadrakas, offered protection to all of them (6. 19. 21); the king (Virāṭa?), surrounded by an army, *akṣauhini* strong, together with his brothers and sons guarded them from behind; Śikhaṇḍin, guarded by Arjuna, followed them; Yuyudhāna (Sātyaki) protected Arjuna from behind (*pr̥sthagopa*) and Yudhāmanyu and Uttamaujas acted as his wheel-protectors (*cakrarakṣau*); Yudhiṣṭhira, with elephants, took position in the middle; the Pāñcāla king Yajñasena with an army, *akṣauhini* strong, marched behind Virāṭa;

Dhr̥ṣṭadyumna, having moved from his position, with his brothers and sons, protected Yudhiṣṭhira from behind; hundreds and thousands of foot-soldiers moved in the front to protect Bhīmasena, while ten thousand elephants followed Yudhiṣṭhira 6. 19. 18-31; according to 6. 22. 1-6, where the name of the Vyūha is not mentioned but the description of which apparently applies to the arrangement of the Pāṇḍava army on the first day, Yudhiṣṭhira himself directed the contingents (*anīkāni*) of his army to counter the Vyūha (Sarvatobhadra) of Bhīma; Śikhaṇḍin's contingent stood in the middle, protected by Arjuna (also 6. 22. 14); Dhr̥ṣṭadyumna's contingent was protected by Bhīma himself; the contingent on the right side of the Vyūha (*anīkaṁ dakṣiṇam*) was protected by Yuyudhāna (Sātyaki); Yudhiṣṭhira's chariot was stationed in the midst of elephants; Bhīma, along with Nakula and Sahadeva, is said to be the guard of the chariot of the hero (*vīrarathasya goptā* i. e. Arjuna? Dhr̥ṣṭadyumna?), but his position seems to be in the front of the army (*senāgragatam*) 6. 22. 12-13; in many respects, this description of the Vyūha agrees with that of the Vajra given above (6. 19. 18-31); (2) On the seventh day of the war Yudhiṣṭhira himself used the Vajravyūha for his army (of which no details are available) to counter the Maṇḍalavyūha of the Kaurava army 6. 77. 21.

Vasunām astram (or astrāṇi) nt. (sg. or pl.): A missile (or missiles), not named, special to the Vasus.

Arjuna was to learn them from the Vasus after reaching the residence of Indra 3. 164. 29; Vasus agreed to give their missiles to him 3. 164. 49-50. [See Vasunām praharaṇam]