

Vasunām praharāṇam nt. : The weapon of the Vasus, not named.

When Garuḍa flew up from the mountain top to fetch the Soma from the heaven, bad omens occurred for the gods, one of them being that the weapon of the Vasus clashed with that of the Rudras, the Ādityas, the Sādhyas, the Maruts and the other hosts of gods (*ye cānye devatāgaṇāḥ*); such a thing had never happened before 1. 26. 29-30. [See Vasunām astram]

Vāyavyāstra, (**Vāyavya**) nt. (rarely pl. 1. 225. 12) : Name of a missile related to god Vāyu 3. 164. 29; to Vāta 3. 161. 28; to Mātariśvan 4. 56. 14.

A. Description : heavenly (*divya*) 5. 181. 13; 7. 132. 28; best (*uttama*) 1. 218. 15; very fierce (*sudāruṇa*) 6. 98. 20. **B. Its knowledge** : Arjuna learnt it from god Vāyu when he, after satisfying Mahādeva (Śiva), received it in the heaven along with many other heavenly weapons 1. 225. 12 (pl. *vāyavyāni*); 3. 164. 29; 3. 161. 28 (Vāta); 4. 56. 14 (Mātariśvan); 6. 116. 38; but apparently he had also learnt it earlier from Droṇa since he used it while displaying his skill in archery (1. 125. 19), and at the time of burning the Khāṇḍava forest (1. 218. 15); Droṇa, of course, knew it, and it was known to many other epic heroes, viz. Bhīṣma, Droṇa, Karṇa, Aśvatthāman, Yudhiṣṭhira, and the Pāṇḍya king (see the next section); it was known also, perhaps, to Kṛṣṇa 6. 116. 39. **C. Use** : (1) In the epic war : (i) by Arjuna, against the Trigartas; noticing its employment, Droṇa repelled it with the Śaila astra 6. 98. 18-20; against the Samśaptakas, to scatter their shower of arrows, when they covered Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna with their arrows; the two, therefore, could

not be seen and were mistaken to be dead 7. 18. 17-22; god Vāyu carried away the Samśaptakas together with their horses, elephants, chariots and weapons like dried leaves; they looked like birds flying from trees 7. 18. 17-23; against Droṇa to repel the Vāyavyāstra released by him 7. 163. 28 (here not specifically named : *astrāṇy astrair yadā tasya vidhivad dhanti pāṇḍavaḥ*); against Karṇa, to scatter the clouds created by his Vāruṇāstra 8. 67. 11; (ii) by Droṇa, against Yudhiṣṭhira 7. 132. 28; again against Yudhiṣṭhira, when Droṇa was for a moment distressed by Yudhiṣṭhira's arrow and had to sit down in the chariot 7. 137. 40-42; against the army of king Drupada to blow it away, as wind blows away the clouds 7. 136. 10; 7. 132. 37; against Arjuna 7. 163. 28; (iii) by Yudhiṣṭhira, to combat successfully the same Astra used against him by Droṇa (*astram astreṇa jaghnvān*) 7. 132. 28; again to halt the same Astra used against him by Droṇa (*tad astram astreṇa raṇe stambhayām āsa*) 7. 137. 42; (iv) by Aśvatthāman, against Ghaṭotkaca to blow him away (*vyadhamat*) when Ghaṭotkaca employed his *māyā* to become a dark cloud to attack Aśvatthāman 7. 131. 71-72; (v) by Karṇa, against Ghaṭotkaca, under similar conditions 7. 150. 70-71; (vi) by the Pāṇḍya king, to obstruct (*rudh-*) the shower of arrows released by Aśvatthāman on his army 8. 15. 30-31; (2) Outside the epic war — (i) Arjuna used it by reciting *mantras* (*abhimantrya*) to dispel the clouds and the lightning created by Vāyu and Indra at the time of burning the Khāṇḍava forest 1. 218. 15; Arjuna used it against Kirāta (Śiva), but the missile had no effect on him 3. 163. 29-30; against Droṇa at the