

without it 10. 12. 14-38. F. Its use : (1) In wars or events not related to the epic : (i) when Viṣṇu was distributing the *amṛta* among the gods, Rāhu cunningly managed to get it; as the *amṛta* had reached Rāhu's throat, Viṣṇu used the Cakra to cut off his head; when severed by the Cakra, the head fell on the ground and shook the earth 1. 17. 5-7; (ii) in the war that ensued between the gods and the demons after the above incident Nara and Nārāyaṇa appeared on the scene; Viṣṇu (Nārāyaṇa) then thought of his Sudarśana cakra; as soon as thought of, it arrived from the sky (*tato 'mbarāc cintitamātram āgatam* 1. 17. 20); armed with it, Viṣṇu used it against the demons; it struck them again and again and cut off the Daityas to pieces in thousands; sometimes it licked the Dānavas and, overpowering them, cut them off; sometimes it burnt them like fire; hurled now in the sky and then on the ground it drunk their blood like a Piśāca; having heard that the Sudarśana cakra was angry, the demons disappeared entering the earth and the ocean 1. 17. 18-28; (iii) in Kṛṣṇa's war with Śālva who was fighting from his Saubhapura, Kṛṣṇa released his sharp-edged discuss, here called his dear (*dayita*) Āgneya astra (3. 23. 28), after reciting *mantras* over it (*abhimantrya* 3. 23. 30) and using the strength of his arm (*bhujavīryeṇa* 3. 23. 31); Kṛṣṇa directed his Cakra to strike down with its might the Saubha and all the enemies living there; the missile cut into two the Saubha town in the middle as a saw might cut a pillar; after achieving its objective the missile returned to Kṛṣṇa's hand; Kṛṣṇa again shook it upwards with great speed and released it with the words : "(now) for Śālva" (*punaś cod-*

*dhūya vegena śālvaṇyety aham abruvam* 3. 23. 35); the discuss instantly cut Śālva into two, who was then wielding a heavy *gadā*, and then it blazed with its lustre 3. 23. 28-36; (2) In wars or events related to the epic : (1) at the time of the Khāṇḍava fire, Kṛṣṇa killed many hosts of Daityas and Dānavas with his Cakra; many others, were blown away by the speed of the Cakra (*cakra-vegeriṭāḥ*) 1. 218. 26-27; in this incident Kṛṣṇa released his Cakra on animals and other beings (*tathānya bhūtajātayāḥ* 1. 219. 2) so that these, along with the Dānavas and the night-stalkers (*sadānavaniśācarāḥ* 1. 219. 4) were cut into pieces by hundreds and they fell into the fire; the Rākṣasas, cut by the Cakra of Kṛṣṇa, looked like evening clouds; Kṛṣṇa moved there like the god of Death killing by thousands Piśācas, birds, serpents and animals with his Cakra; the Cakra, repeatedly hurled, killed many beings and returned to Kṛṣṇa's hand 1. 219. 2-7; if the Rākṣasas, Dānavas and serpents tried to escape together (*ekāyanagatāḥ saṅghībhūtāḥ* Nī. on 1. 228. 34 Bom. Ed.) even then Kṛṣṇa killed them and they fell into the flaming fire 1. 219. 30-31; Kṛṣṇa saw Asura Maya fleeing from the house of Takṣaka and when Agni showed his desire to burn him, Kṛṣṇa stood ready with his raised Cakra to kill him; but Maya sought help from Arjuna and was saved 1. 219. 35-39; (2) Enraged Kṛṣṇa cut off the head of Śiśupāla with Cakra at the time of the Rājasūya 2. 42. 21; 3. 15. 3-4; 12-13 (use of Cakra not mentioned). G. Threatened or eventual use in the epic war : (1) Disappointed at Arjuna's softness (*mṛduyuddhatām* 6. 55. 63, 80) while fighting with Bhīṣma, Kṛṣṇa took up his discuss (*rathāṅgam*) with a view to killing Bhīṣma; raising his Cakra he