

here are described as mothers of the universe and very strong 6. 10. 35 (for citation see *Atikr̥ṣṇā*).

Mandara m. : Name of a mountain; also referred to as *Mahāmandara* (7. 57. 29).

A. Location : (1) In the north (*asyāṁ diśi ... uttarāyām* 5. 109. 3.) 5. 109. 9; 13. 20. 28; beyond the *Uśīrabīja*, the *Malnāka* and the *Śveta* mountains 3. 140. 1; close to the *Śvetagiri* (*śvetam giriṁ pravekṣyāmo mandaram caiva parvatam*) 3. 140. 4; the river *Śailodā* flows between the *Meru* and the *Mandara* 2. 48. 2; (2) *Mandara* covers the entire earth up to the ocean in the east (*prācīm diśam ... asau sāgaraparyantam bhūmim āvṛtya tiṣṭhati*) 3. 160. 3-4; (3) The root of the *Himavanta* reaches in the west (cf. 5. 108. 1-2) eternally up to the *Mandara* mountain so deep that one cannot reach its end even after a thousand years (*atra mūlam himavato mandaram yāti śāśvatam / api varṣasahasreṇa na cāsyānto 'dhigamyate*) 5. 108. 9 (NI. on Bom. Ed. 5. 110. 9 : *mandaram samudre magnam etena himavanmūlasya samudrajalasya cāprameyatvam uktam*). **B. Description** : (1) Excellent mountain (*parvata-vara*) 1. 16. 1; (*śailavara*) 3. 99. 14; (2) big mountain (*mahādri*) 1. 16. 19; (*mahāśaila*) 3. 43. 24; 13. 20. 29; (*mahāmandara*) 7. 57. 29; eleven thousand *yojanas* high (above the earth), and established the same number of *yojanas* deep below the earth 1. 16. 3; all the gods together could not lift it 1. 16. 4; but king *Duṣṣanta* was capable of lifting it with its forest and carry it on his arms (*udyamya mandaram dorbhyām haret savanakānanam*) 1. 62. 11; (3) King of

mountains (*parvatarājan*) 1. 16. 7; (*śailarāja*) 3. 43. 21; 3. 160. 4; (*admirāja*) 3. 43. 24; (4) Adorned with summits which were like towering clouds (*abhraśikharākārair giriḥ śṛṅgair alaṁkṛtam*) 1. 16. 1; its peaks were formed of gold and silver (*hemarūpyamayaiḥ śṛṅgaiḥ*) 7. 57. 26; (5) Its caves were attractive (*cārukandara*) 3. 220. 22; (6) Full of *tirthas* (*tirthavant*) 3. 43. 24; (7) Covered with the network of creepers (*latājālasamāvṛta*) 1. 16. 1; (8) Resounding with sounds of many birds (*nānāvihaga-saṁghuṣṭa*) 1. 16. 2; (9) Beset with many tusked animals (*nānādaṁṣṭrisamākula*) 1. 16. 2 (10) Resorted to by the *Kimnaras*, the *Apsarases*, and even by gods 1. 16. 2; 7. 57. 29; (11) Resort of sages (*munisamśraya*) 3. 43. 24; (also see the next section C). **C. Characteristics** : (1) The *Meru* and the *Mandara* mountains adorn the earth (*merumandarabhūṣaṇam ... vasundharām*) 3. 187. 10; the sun circles untiringly round the *Meru* and returns to the *Mandara* (in the east to start his course the next day) (*evam eva parikramya mahāmerum atandritaḥ / ... punar gacchati mandaram*) 3. 160. 28; (2) *Mandara* is the place of *Śaṅkara* (*śaṅkarasthānam*); *Śaṅkara* lives there; unless one goes to the *Mandara* one cannot see *Śiva* 7. 69. 55-56; (3) *Yakṣa Māṇicāra* and *Kubera*, the king of the *Yakṣas*, live there; thousands of *Gandharvas*, *Kim-puruṣas* and *Yakṣas*, having varied forms and equipped with different weapons, wait upon *Māṇibhadra*, the lord of the *Yakṣas* (*yakṣendraṁ ... māṇibhadram upāsate*) 3. 140. 4-6; in the bowers of *Mandara* the *Gandharvas* sing *gāthās* which enchant one's mind and intelligence (*atra mandarakuñjesu ... / gandharvā gānti gāthā vai cittabuddhiharāḥ*) 5. 107. 9; the