

epic war : (1) In the opinion of Yudhiṣṭhira, since the Pāṇḍava army was smaller in number than that of their opponent, it was to be arranged as directed by the great sage (Bṛhaspati); this was his suggestion to Arjuna at the beginning of the war on the first day (*asmākaṁ ca tathā saīnyam alpīyuh sutarām paraiḥ || etad vacanam ājñāya maharṣer vyūha pāṇḍavi*) 6. 19. 5-6; (Arjuna, however, chose to arrange the Pāṇḍava army according to the Vajravyūha 6. 19. 7); (2) When the contingent comprising the Kekaya princes, the sons of Draupadī, and Dhṛṣṭaketu and which was led by Abhimanyu with a large force was asked by Yudhiṣṭhira to rush to the aid of Bhīmasena and Dhṛṣṭadyumna, they arranged themselves in such a way that its front formed the Sūcī 6. 73. 51, 54-55; (3) In order to protect Jayadratha a small contingent was arranged in the form of Sūcī which was concealed in the middle of the Padma vyūha, which itself formed the rear half of the main Śakaṭa (7. 53. 27) or the Cakraśakaṭa vyūha 7. 63. 21; 7. 63. 23; the front of the Sūcī (*sūcī mukha*) was formed by Kṛtavarma, followed by Jalasandha, the Kāmboja; Duryodhana with his Amātyas stood behind them; behind them, at the position of the 'eye' of the Sūcī (? *sūcīpāśa* 7. 63. 27), stood Jayadratha surrounded by a large force 7. 63. 24-27; 7. 53. 27; a hundred thousand warriors who would not turn away from the battle field were distributed in the Śakaṭa vyūha to guard the Sūcī vyūha (*yodhānām anivartinām / vṛjavasthitāni sarvāṇi śakaṭe sūcīrakṣiṇaḥ*) 7. 63. 26.

Sṛta nt. : One of the twenty-one movements (*mārga*) used while fighting with a sword and a shield.

Dhṛṣṭadyumna used it when he, with a sword and a shield in hand, wanted to avoid the arrows of Droṇa and also attack him (so *'carad vividhān mārgān prakārān ekaviṁśatim*) 7. 164. 145-148.

Sauparna astra nt. : Name of a missile.

It was used (*prāduṣkṛ*) by Suśarman to free the feet of his army which were tied up by the snakes released by the Nāga astra of Arjuna; from the Sauparna astra came out the Suparnaṣ which started eating up the snakes; then the snakes, seeing those birds, crept away and the army was freed from the ties on their feet 8. 37. 25-27; 21-22.

Saumya astra nt. : Name of a missile related to Soma.

Described as heavenly (*divya*) 6. 116. 38; used by Arjuna against the Gandharvas, who had captured the Kauravas, to ward off the showers of arrows released by them; the Gandharvas felt burnt by the arrows (*dahya-mānāḥ*) of Arjuna 3. 234. 17-18; according to Bhīṣma's information, only Arjuna, among men, knew this missile, and perhaps Kṛṣṇa 6. 116. 38-39.

Saura astra nt. : Name of a missile related to Sūra.

Used by Arjuna against the Gandharvas, who had captured the Kauravas, to ward off the showers of arrows released by them; the Gandharvas felt burnt by the arrows (*dahya-mānāḥ*) of Arjuna 3. 234. 17-18; [See Bhāskara astra].

Sthūṇākarnā nt. : Name of a missile, apparently known to very few heroes.

According to Nīlakaṇṭha, it is related to Śaṅkukarnā, one of the incarnations of