

would certainly have killed him like the lightning striking down a tree 7. 157. 16; according to Vyāsa too if Arjuna and Karṇa had clashed, the latter, after exhausting all other missiles, would have surely used Vāsavi against Arjuna 7. 158. 56; Kṛṣṇa was therefore always looking for a way to render the unfailing Śakti futile (*amoghāṁ tām kathāṁ śaktiṁ moghāṁ kuryām*) 7. 157. 29; when the Śakti was diverted on Ghaṭotkaca, Karṇa, in the opinion of Kṛṣṇa, was as good as dead 7. 155. 12; when Karṇa was relieved of his Śakti, he became an ordinary human being (*so 'dya mānuṣatām prāpto vimuktaḥ śakradattayā* 7. 155. 27), and Arjuna could dare attack him 8. 22. 33. D. Why the Śakti was not used against Arjuna : Both Dhṛtarāṣṭra and Śātyaki asked Saṁjaya and Kṛṣṇa respectively why the Śakti was not used by Karṇa against Arjuna 7. 157. 1; 7. 158. 2-3; 7. 157. 31; (1) according to Saṁjaya's reporting, Duryodhana, Śakuni, Duḥśāsana, and he himself urged Karṇa every night after the day's war to use his Śakti the next day against Arjuna or Kṛṣṇa (7. 157. 19-21), but that counsel was forgotten the next day during the fight due to the watchfulness of Kṛṣṇa (*sā tu buddhiḥ kṛtāpy evaṁ jāgrati tridaśeśvare / aprameye hṛṣikeṣe yuddhakāle vyamuhyata*) 7. 157. 27; Kṛṣṇa also never brought Arjuna face to face with Karṇa as long as the latter was equipped with Śakti; Kṛṣṇa managed to see that other warriors faced Karṇa 7. 157. 28-29; according to Saṁjaya, again, the previous night's counsel (7. 158. 4-5) was forgotten by Karṇa the next day due to the deities (unfavorable) to him and to the other heroes (on the side of the Kauravas), and thus

It was primarily due to the working of the fate that Karṇa did not employ his Śakti against Arjuna or Kṛṣṇa to kill any one of them (*tataḥ prabhātasamaye rājan karṇasya daivataiḥ / anyeṣāṁ caiva yodhānāṁ sā buddhir naśyate punaḥ // daivam eva param manye yat karṇo hastasamsthayā / na jaghāna raṇe pārtham kṛṣṇam vā devakī-sutam //* 7. 158. 6-7; also 8-9; (2) according to Vyāsa too it was due to fate (*diṣṭyā*) that Arjuna was not locked in a duel with Karṇa prior to the latter's being relieved of the Śakti 7. 158. 54; according to him Ghaṭotkaca was killed by Time using Vāsavi as his means (*vāsaviṁ kāraṇam kṛtvā kālenāpahato hy asau*) 7. 158. 58; (3) according to Kṛṣṇa he deluded the mind of Karṇa and hence he did not use his Śakti against Arjuna (*aham eva tu rādheyam mohayāmi yudhām vara* 7. 157. 37; (4) according to Dhṛtarāṣṭra both fate and the intelligence of Kṛṣṇa came together to defeat the purpose of the Kauravas and hence the Vāsavi (Śakti) killed Ghaṭotkaca instead of Arjuna (*daivenaiva hatā yūyam svabuddhyā keśavasya ca / gatā hi vāsavi hatvā tṛṇabhūtaṁ ghaṭotkacam*) 7. 158. 10. E. Use : (1) By Karṇa : All the Kuru warriors urged Karṇa to kill the demon Ghaṭotkaca by using the Śakti given to him by Vāsava and save the Kauravas and their warriors from destruction; hearing that call, Karṇa held the Śakti desiring to kill Ghaṭotkaca, that Śakti given to him by Śakra and which he had preserved for Arjuna for years; when the missile was released, Ghaṭotkaca, afraid, assumed a huge form of the foot of the Vindhya mountain and fled; the beings in the mid-region wailed