

# WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION IN MAHABHARATA WAR

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## ABSTRACT

During Mahabharata War which took place between Kauravas and Pandavas, in 18 Days 1660 Million warriors were killed. Gods and Demi Gods have given a variety of celestial weapons in the form of astras and chakras to both Kauravas and Pandavas. They were considered as Weapons of Mass Destruction. Some weapons were considered as Nuclear Weapons. They were invoked by mantras. This has resulted in killing 1660 million warriors and leaving only 10 alive, 7 from Pandavas and 3 from Kauravas.

**Key words :** Weapons of Mass Destruction, Celestial weapons, Astras, Chakras, Mantras evoked weapons

## 1. INTRODUCTION

During Dwapara Yuga, 5000 BC [1] , the dispute between the Kauravas and Pandavas arose from a game of dice in which Duryodhana won by decit, forcing the Pandavas to transfer their entire territoner to the Kauravas and go into exile for thirteen years. A dispute escalated into a war when Prince Duryodhana refused to restore the Pandavas their territories after the exile as decided earlier. The war took place in Kurukshetra over an area of 80 square miles. Almost all the kingdoms in the Bharat participated in the war and became Mahabharata war. At the end of 18 Days war, only 10 warriors have survived, 7 from Pandavas and 3 from Kauravas. As per Stri Parva of Mahabharata epic, 1660 million warriors [2] were killed in the Mahabharata war. After 36 years of Mahabharata war, a civil war broke among Vrishnis and Andhakar resulting in killing of 50,000 of the race in a single day.

## 2. WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

How, 1660 million warriors were killed in just 18 days during Mahabharata war and 50,000 Vrishnis and Andhakar in a day? During 5000 BC, the civilization was not advanced. During the war, warriors generally

used earthly weapons such as bows & arrows, swords and mace. Mahabharata epic narrates strange technologies such as Mantra evoked celestial weapons, Flying Vimanas, Men in space suit, Space travel, Planetary orbits, Divya Dristi, Human cloning, Vitro Fertilization, Artificial Insemination etc [3] . Probably, all these strange technologies were provided by aliens such as Gods (Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, and Shakti) and Demi Gods (Sun, Indra, Vayu, Yama and Aswini stars). Number of celestial weapons of different destruction capability was used by great warriors in Mahabharata war. The celestial weapons used in the war are

considered as Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in terms of modern weapons terminology. Until the testing of first nuclear test in Trinity and bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with nuclear bombs in 1945, the modern world has not realised that some of the selected celestial weapons used during Mahabharata war is indeed nuclear weapons.

## 3. ASTRAS

Astra refers to celestial weapons [4]. They are not weapons that are wielded by the hand, but rather weapons that are invoked by chanting a mantra and then directing through a medium such as an arrow. Astras require no

physical effort, but intense mental concentration to invoke, direct, and withdraw them. Improper use of an astra, such as not knowing all the words in the mantra or attempting to use the weapon on an unworthy foe can be disastrous or even fatal.

Astra is endowed with divine powers. It is capable of destroying a person or an army. Some powerful astras can destroy earth and other planets. An astra is said to be presided over by a particular god and when invoked enters the astra. Some astras returns back to the person who launches it, some astras are used only once and others can be used multiple times

Astras can be both physical and or illusory. Some astras cause destruction through showers of arrows, fire, or radiation while others can cause mental afflictions such as confusion, unconsciousness or sleep. Each astra has a presiding deity and to obtain the astras one must meditate and conduct severe austere, and through ascetic merit obtain the sanction of the deity in question. Alternatively, a mantra can be learned from someone who already knows it via word of mouth. However, astras are only passed on to worthy disciples who have the wisdom to use them responsibly. Word of mouth may weaken the potency of the astras as it is passed down over the course of generations. In the Mahabharata, Arjuna had learned many astras from his preceptor Drona (who had learned them from Bharadwaja who in turn had learned them from Bhargava) but he still went in search of

the celestial weapons from the source (Shiva and others) because they were more potent when learned directly from the Gods. For the most powerful astras, knowing just the mantra is not enough to invoke the weapon. One must also obtain the sanction of its presiding deity to use the weapon. This is most likely due to the destructive nature of the astras, and the consequence of using it improperly. For instance, the Brahma Astra is said to be powerful enough to destroy the entire universe if not properly directed at an individual or army.

As per literature, the most common medium for an astra is an arrow shot from a bow. However, not all astras are invoked in such a way. In the case of Aisika, the medium is a grass stalk or reed because it was the only object available on hand. Spears, maces, and other weapons can also be used and some astras do not require any medium and could be considered a weapon of pure thought.

#### 4. ASTRAS USED AS WMD

Following astras are considered as WMD [5].

- ❖ Agni Astra
- ❖ Aindra Astra
- ❖ Antardhana Astra
- ❖ Bhauma Astra
- ❖ Brahma Astra
- ❖ Brahmasira
- ❖ Naga Astra
- ❖ Narayana Astra
- ❖ Parvata Astra
- ❖ Pasupata Astra
- ❖ Prajna Astra
- ❖ Sakti Astra
- ❖ Sammohana Astra
- ❖ Surya Astra
- ❖ Vaishnava Astra
- ❖ Vajra Astra
- ❖ Varuna Astra
- ❖ Vayu Astra
- ❖ Visoshana Astra

#### 5. CHAKRAS AS WMD

Cakra was the most destructive of all weapons that was given personally by Lord Vishnu. It is also called as Sudal Sana. This is more powerful than Barma Satara the other WMD. It was said that if released, it would generate a great hot ray, reddish sky and fire-ball. It is considered as Nuclear weapon. It was believed that as a result of this launch it has created layers upon layers of hot rays that penetrated the sky and slowly settled on to the earth. It was also told that the nuclear cloud and heat-wave were noticeable in the area tens of kilometers wide and approximately 10 nautical miles in thickness.

First and highest Chakra is called Sudal Sana. The energy from this weapon is capable to destroy dozens of planets. Second

Chakra is called Barma Satara and has 7 levels. Third Cakra has eleven sub levels.

Chakra can only be manifested through mantras and key words that could activate them. They could only be manifested through a few mantras. These concepts were commonly written in the old ancient scriptures and existed in historical periods. The attraction is that in physical form, these weapons could be launched and also could be stopped or prevented before they cause destruction to the earth.

## 6. LAUNCHING OF ASTRAS

Mantras or passwords are required to invoke an astra. Before launching the astra, the invoker chants a mantra with utmost concentration. This is some sort of telepathic communication to the provider of the weapon viz Gods or Demi Gods or his control unit. This in turn results in a remote method invocation. Then the astra is navigated and controlled from distant planets. The person through telepathy uses the mantra, logs in and then communicates the object to be reached to the controller and it takes control. The controller need not be an alien in another planet but an advanced navigational system. All the weapons are not guided and navigated. Most of the weapons are aim and shoot and depends on the precision of the warrior. Some travel to a long distance if the navigational system prevails. In Kurukshetra war, arrows, maze and grass (biological address) were used as mediums. The force, the characteristics of destruction and the after effects of these weapons are described in ancient Vedas.

## 7. WMD OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITY

The following astras and chakras are considered deadly and have the destructive capability equivalent to nuclear weapons [6].

- ❖ Selected Brahmastras from Lord Brahma
- ❖ Brahmashira from Lord Brahma
- ❖ Bramadandum from Lord Brahma
- ❖ Pasupathastra from Lord Siva
- ❖ Selected Chakras from Lord Vishnu

## 8. CONCLUSION

It is observed that, the divine astras and chakras mentioned are considered as WMD.

Using these WMD, both Kauravas and Pandavas killed 1660 million warriors in Kurukshetra war in just 18 days. The casualties are much higher than that of First World War and Second World War.

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Uncertainty is the only certainty there is, and knowing how  
to live with insecurity is the only security

- John Allen Paulos