

Lady Subhadra



Personification of Yogamaya...

Su = Very **Bhadra** = auspicious

Srimati Subhadra devi is the personification of Yogamaya, God's mystical ability to bewilder the conditioned soul with grand illusions. Although born in the womb of Yasoda, the Supreme Lords directed Vasudeva to switch her with his son Krishna, at birth. Out of fear that she would mature and take the life of King Kamsa, the wicked King attempted to kill her at birth. But she slipped upward from his grip and appearing as Goddess Durga fully equipped with weapons in each of her eight arms she proclaimed: *"You fool! The Supreme Personality of Godhead who was prophesized to kill you has already taken birth therefore kill no more!"* (SB. 10.4.9-12)

As the full embodiment of womanhood, Subhadra soon became the favorite daughter of Vasudeva. When she reached a marital age Dyurodona was the residing King of Hastinipur. He was very corrupt and evil, but because he was the ruling monarch Krishna's half Brother, Lord Balaram, felt duty bound to offer his beautiful sister to him in marriage. However when Arjuna, Krishna's heroic friend of Bhagavad-gita fame, heard of Subhadra's extraordinary pulchritude, he went into a deep meditation and mystically conveyed to Lord Krishna his desire to marry His sister.

Not wanting to openly act against the intentions of his own brother, Krishna reassured Arjuna that despite Balaram's intentions, it was acceptable for

him as a member of the ksatria/warrior class, to contrive a way to win Subhadra's heart and elope with her. Accepting Krishna's advice, Arjuna adopted the dress of a renounced sage and schemed a way into Subhadra's domicile as a spiritual advisor. While disguised as Subhadra's mendicant priest, Arjuna took the opportunity to also elaborate about his own conquests as the renowned Pandava Prince. In this way he won Subhadra's attention. However due to the close proximity with the object of his own amorous passions, Arjuna grew sick with love! In time however his plan worked and soon Subhadra's feeling also blossomed into full unbound affection.

When Arjuna was convinced that Subhadra's feelings were reciprocal he revealed who he was and the chaste Lady Subhadra bowed her head feeling shy about the sentiments she had unknowingly disclosed to him. When Lord Balaram discovered what had happened, he was so furious about it his first inclination was to kill Arjuna. At that point Lord Krishna appeased Balarama with expert diplomacy. Balarama forgave Arjuna who then duly married the lovely Subhadra Devi

Subhadra's only son with Arjuna was Abhimanu, the husband of Uttara and the father of Maharaja Parikshit. He was expertly trained in the military arts by his uncle Sri Krishna and the Lords son Pradyumna. Midway thru the Kuksetra battle, at the mere age of 15, Abhimanu bravely entered the Kurava's Chakra-vyooch offensive (Seven circular layers of military phalanxes,) and was horribly slaughtered as ordered by the ruthless and cruel Dyurodona. Subhadra was so grief stricken by this terrible loss that after the war Krishna returned to Hastinipur just to console her.



This particular stylized rendering of Lady Subhadra has been popularized by the majestic Rathayatra Parade which originated in Orissa India hundreds of years ago. It has since been celebrated in cities all over the world under the name *"Festival of the Chariots."*

The Beautiful Lady Subhadra c/o Jagannatha Enterprises

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