

# Krishna's Life and Women Rebels



Shri Krishna is one of the most amazing personality in Indian mythology and Indian Philosophy

He has many unique facets

- Son
- Lover
- Friend
- Philosopher
- Teacher
- Savior
- Husband
- God

Each one with its great attributes

In this article we will see how Krishna is a reason for Rebel for many women on Indian History

# Radha's Rebel against the societal norms



“Ra” in Sanskrit means a call and “Dha” means one who runs

Radha's name itself talks about rebel- When Krishna calls her she runs to him

According to some scripts Radha was already married, still she is considered as prime lover of Krishna, so much so that her name is taken before Krishna's Name in some communities. They salute each other with a phrase “Radhe- Krishna”

She is one who breaks all social norms by leaving her marriage

Krishna-Radha love story is a metaphor for divine-human relationship, where Radha is the human devotee or soul who is frustrated with the past, obligations to social expectations and the ideas she inherited, who then longs for real meaning, the true love, the divine (Krishna).

# Rukmini and Her Rebel Against Her Own People

Vidarbha was one of the ancient and powerful Kingdoms during Mahabharata. The ruler of this place was Bhishmak. Bhishmak had 5 sons and 1 daughter. Eldest among them was Rukmi and the name of princess was Rukmini.

Rukmi wanted Rukmini to get married to Chedi King Shishupal, a strong enemy of Shri Krishna. The Strategy of Jarasandh, Shishupal and Rukmi was to encircle the new kingdom of Shri Krishna-Dwaraka and catch the trade advantages of both Mathura and Dwaraka.



Rukmini wrote a letter to Shri Krishna and Requested him to abduct her and save Vidharbha from her brother and his allies.

Krishna and Balrama on her request attacked Vidarbh and Krishna abducted Rukmini and later married her.

Rukmini's such a political step to save Vidharbha was a rebel against her own influential Brother, family and her own people.

# SatyaBhama and Her Rebel Against Society and its belief

Satyabhama was the only child of the Yadava chief Satrajit.

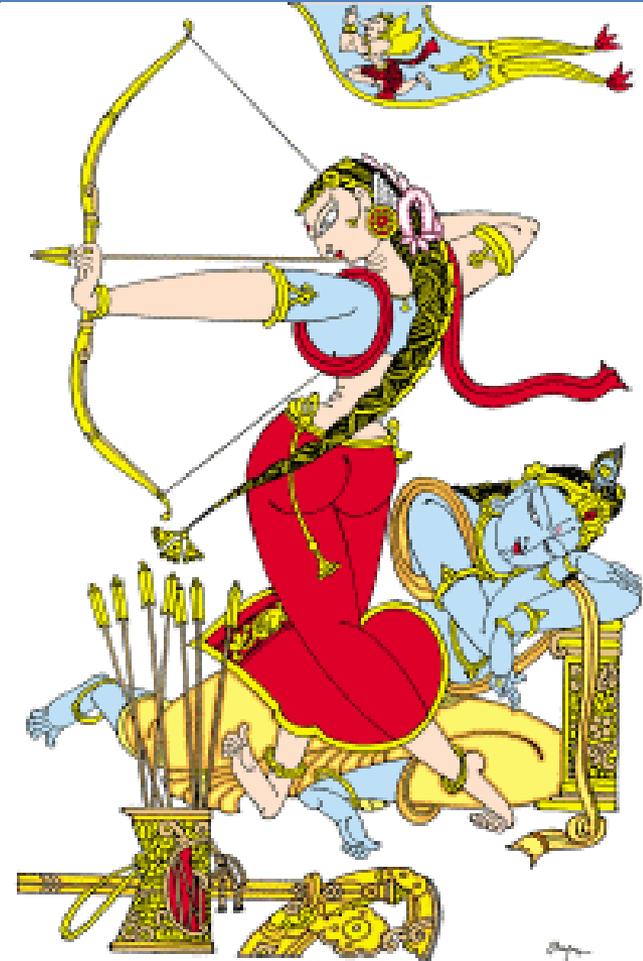
She was married to Krishna. Unlike his other wives who were satisfied to stay at home, Satyabhama demanded to accompany Krishna as a help mate in all fields, including warfare, for which her father had given her ample training. Krishna encouraged her attitude and social rebel.

When Satyabhama heard of Narakasura's cruelty towards 16000 women and his behaviour with Aditi, she was infuriated. Satyabhama discussed this problem with Lord Krishna and took permission to declare a war against Narakasura. Krishna agreed and presented his Garuda as her mount and both rode to the city ruled by Narakasura. captives.

In this war against Narakasura at times she saved Krishna.

When Krishna fainted she took charge of the army and defeated Narakasura

After her victory, Satyabhama freed all the prisoners of Narakasura. Satyabhama rescued the sixteen thousand women and Lord Krishna married them or the reason of their purity which they preserved regardless of being made prisoners by Narakasura.



# Draupadi Sakhi of Krishna and Iconography of Rebel

Draupadi called as “Yagya seni” and also as “Krishna”, was sakhi or friend of Krishna. Krishna and Draupadi had a unique relationship.

She was born out of Yagya- sacrifice, hence Yagya-seni. She was wife of 5 warriors.

When her husband Yudhishtira, put her at stake in a game of dice, she questioned his act instead of submitting to what he wanted. She also questioned the court as to why was it that when Yudhishtira had bet himself and lost the game, he has the right to still bet against her.

in a predominant male society, she raised her voice. She argued and pleaded to defend her honour several times. After the shameful incident of her attempted disrobing, she cursed the Kauravas that they would pay for their acts.

She informed to the court about she informing such an incidence to Krishna. All were aware about the Sakhi and Sakhha relationship of her and Krishna.

With this her form became so fearful, that the King had to apologise for his sons’ disorderly conduct and offer her a boon.

She is till date an iconography of rebel and respect for womanhood.



# Meera the Devotional Rebel for Krishna

Meera is an iconography of devotional rebel. Born in Rajput family, accepted Krishna as her husband. Later married in a royal family.

Most legends about Meera mention her fearless disregard for social and family conventions, her devotion to god Krishna, her treating Krishna as her husband, and she being persecuted by her in-laws for her religious devotion.

Her devotion towards Krishna was of highest level. She sang and danced taking name of Krishna.

Her poetry is sung even today in various parts of India. Her poetry is also included in “Prem Ambodh Pothi” of Sikhism.

She calls him as “Meera Ke Prabhu Giridhar Nagar” – Meera’s master who is gentle and saviour



# Kanhopatra, Rebel Against the Ruler

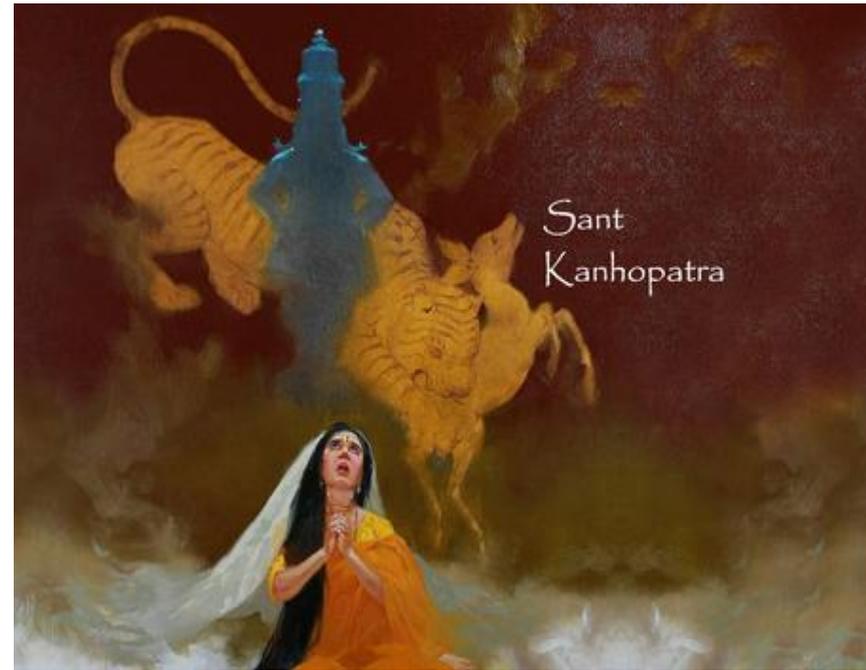
In Maharashtra Kanhopatra was courtesan and dancing women.

She died inside the temple of Vithoba (form of Krishna) at Pandharpur. She is the only person whose Samadhi (mausoleum) is within the precincts of the temple.

Kanhopatra was a daughter of a rich prostitute and courtesan named Shama or Shyama.

Kanhopatra was trained in dance and song from early childhood so that she could join her mother's profession. She became a talented dancer and singer. Her beauty was compared to the Apsara (heavenly nymph)

Hearing tales of Kanhopatra's beauty, the Badshah of Bidar ordered her to be his concubine. When she refused, the king sent his men to get her by force. Kanhopatra took refuge in the Vithoba temple.



# Known and Unknown Rebels for Krishna

**Sakhubai:** Devotee of PandurangaVittala. Though suffering hardships from a cruel mother-in-law and a foolish husband, she bore it and reposed pure 'Bhakti' (devotion) in Lord vittala who, for her sake, served her people.

**Andal:** The Girl who would marry no one but God. She lived a life of innocence, purity and total dedication to her God and was finally united with Him. Popularly known as South India's Meerbai

So many names can be added in the list of women rebels for Krishna. It is one common thread we see in all these rebels is, going against the societal norms and reach to the goal of life.

[Gretchen Rubin](#) says that **Rebels** wake up and think, **“What do I want to do today?”** They're very motivated by a sense of freedom, of self-determination. They *really* don't like being told what to do.

We see all these in the women rebels in the life and after life of Krishna



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