



Bhrama – The Illusion of being

by Aamoda

"A 50-minute original Bharatanatyam trilogy"



Introduction

Life often deceives us.

*What we see, what we believe, what we chase—
are they truth, or are they Bhrama, the grand illusion?*

*Bhrama is our first original production, a trilogy of stories bound by a single thread:
the serpent. Mystical, feared, revered, yet profoundly human, the serpent embodies
desire, ego, and illusion. Each story coils like its form, revealing truths that slip beyond
time.*

*These were not just stories. They were mirrors—reflections of us, of illusions that pull,
bind, and shape our lives.*

The Serpent King's Wrath



From the Mahabharata, in the Khandava forest, Takshaka—the serpent king—lived in harmony with his family, his kin, his people. The forest was their home, a living sanctuary of roots, rivers, and sky.

But destiny turned when Arjuna, guided by Krishna, lent his bow to Agni, the fire god, whose hunger demanded the forest's destruction. As flames devoured the woods, Indra rose to protect, and what began as duty soon spiraled into pride: father against son, power against power.

Takshaka lost everything. Ash, ruin, and grief remained where life once thrived. The world sang of Arjuna's victory, but within that triumph lay a seed of wrath that would one day consume the Kuru dynasty.

The illusion of glory was laid bare—power hollowed into pride, victory revealed as emptiness, and the innocent left to pay the price.

The Serpent Princess and the Mirror



Nagakanyaka, the serpent princess, fell in love with a king. To be with him, she took human form, hiding her essence for love's sake.

At first, love was joy. But slowly, illusions crept in. The king, blinded by ideals of beauty, began to see flaws—in her walk, her figure, her being. Each time, he urged her to change. Each time, she looked into the mirror, and agreed.

Piece by piece, she transformed. Piece by piece, she disappeared. Until the day came when the reflection staring back was no longer her own.

Not a woman in love, not even a serpent princess—only a shadow, broken by the illusion of love twisted into demand.

The Price of Desire



A story drawn from the present—tragic, raw, unrelenting.

*A mother, longing for prosperity, trusted the false promise of a black magician.
Believing she was making a sacred offering, she convinced her husband to do the same.
Desire clouded judgment; illusion silenced truth.*

*But what they surrendered was not a token, nor a ritual's due—it was their children.
Not gifts to destiny, but victims of deceit.*

*No wealth came. No fortune rose. Only loss, unbearable and absolute. In reaching for
more, they lost what was most precious.*

*The serpent here is desire itself—coiling, tightening, suffocating—until love, family,
and meaning are stripped away, leaving nothing but emptiness.*


Reflection Beyond the Stage


*Bhrama – The Illusion of being
was more than a performance.
It was an inquiry into ourselves.
Where do we mistake shadows for truth?
Where do desire, pride, or love itself blind us?
Where do illusions shape our choices—and our fate?*


*This was our beginning. Our first creation. And we carry it with us still, as a reminder
that behind every illusion lies the search for truth.*

Performance Details

 Duration: ~1 hour


 Format: A trilogy of three stories (classical Bharatanatyam production)

 Language: Dance, music, and expression

 Ideal Venue: Proscenium stage, intimate theaters, cultural festivals

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Bring our magic to your stage.

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About Aamoda Narthaki

Aamoda Narthaki was founded to breathe life into Bharatanatyam as both tradition and innovation. With a passion for narrative storytelling, we create performances that are not only art but also mirrors for reflection, truth, and human experience.