



O Sleep Well Beautiful Baby

Why are we so fascinated with the image of Christ as a baby? There are countless lullabies to the infant Christ, written throughout the ages. Nearly all young girls are fascinated with being mother to a baby, but they seem to innately know that there is something special about baby Jesus, long before they are able to completely understand the miracle of God's incarnate.

When we hold a baby, and more specifically, when we rock a baby to sleep, something special happens. There is an effect from this repeated, quiet action that is incredibly calming, yet incredibly empowering. As we watch the young child fall slowly asleep, there is a peacefulness that passes over us as sleep passes over the child. Why does this happen? Perhaps the peacefulness the child feels while falling asleep in the safety of our arms is felt by us as we look into their faces; perhaps we see the innocence of God in their young faces as they slumber.

No matter how young or old we are, we always have a satisfying feeling when we know that others feel safe and protected with us. When we rock a child to sleep, we are empowered with this burden of another. The fact that their sleep signals that they trust us completely causes us to rise to the occasion of "protector", and we love a child even more for loving us.

When we envision ourselves as Mary rocking Jesus, a whole new level of depth enters the picture. The baby Jesus shows us many things--the fully human, fully divine Son of God, the truth in the prophecies, the innocence and purity in the very nature of God, and the mystery of life and of God. When we think of Jesus as a baby, these very things can be incredibly comforting to us. We need to be reminded that God relates to children, and finds joy in the very simplest of things. The baby Jesus is the real fulfillment of the prophecies that were told for hundreds of years, and is the key to our salvation, and it is incredible to think of actually seeing that child; of actually seeing the human form of our God.

Jesus as a baby brings the mystery of life to a whole new level.