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## A STUDY ON SELF-AWARENESS IN PRAYING LORD GANESHA AND MANTRA

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### The great message of Ganapathi

The most basic Ganpati Mantra is:



*“Om Gam Ganapataye Namah”*

#### Benefits of the basic Mantra

- It wards off all negativities from our life
- Before beginning any new work, chanting of this mantra ensures success in the venture with good results

The Ganpati Mantra is:



*“Vakratunda mahakaya suryakoti samaprabha  
Nirvighnam Kurume deva subh karyeshu sarvada”*

What do these words mean?

**Vakra** -means one that is not straight

**Vakratunda** -means curved trunk

**Mahakaya**- means large body, if we see that in a more divine sense it means most powerful

**Suryakoti** -means Surya-sun and koti means crore

**Samprabha** -means prabha- aura, grandeur sama- like



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**Suryakoti samprabha** -means whose aura is like light of crores of sun put together

**Nirvgnam**-obstacle free

**Kurume**-give me

**Deva**-means god

**Sarva**-means all

**Karyeshu**-work

**Sarvada**-always

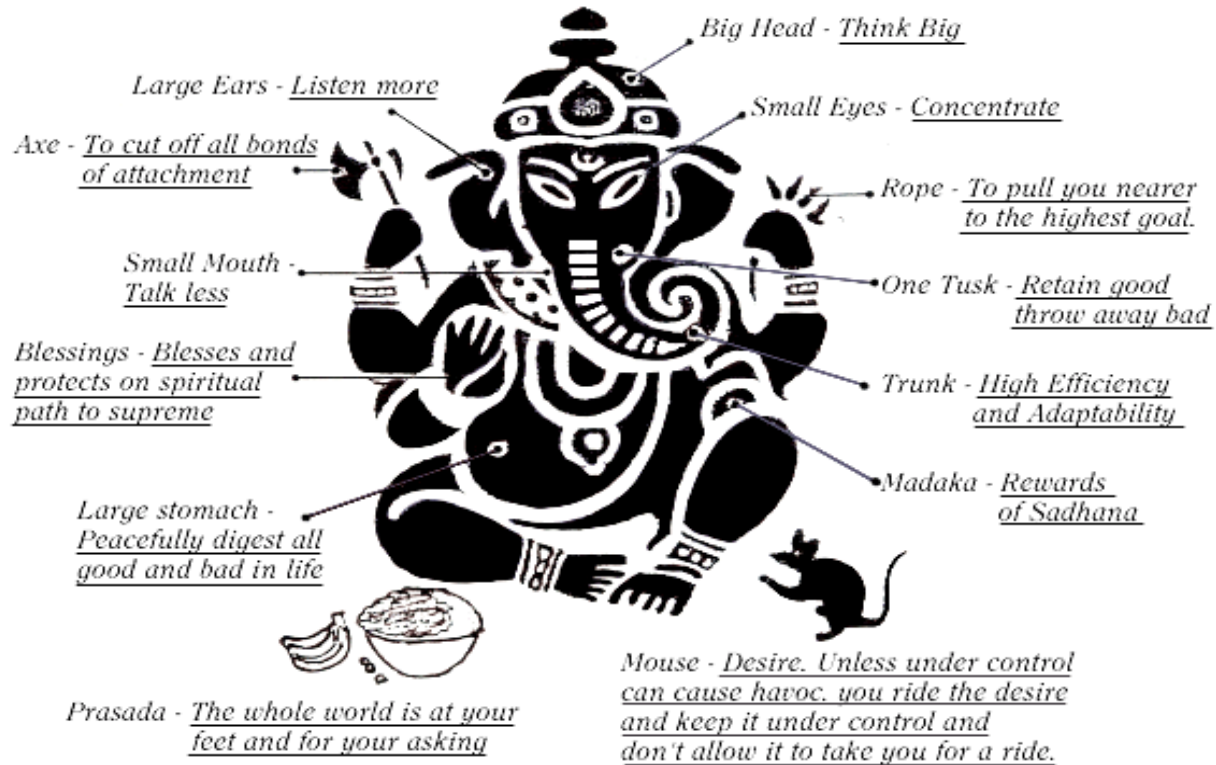


### Message of Ganapathi

Knowledge of the seer and the seen is the great message of Ganapathi, whose advent we are celebrating today. "Ga" means *Buddhi* (intelligence). 'Na' means *Vijnaana* (wisdom). 'Pathi' means master. So, Ganapathi is the master of all knowledge, intelligence and wisdom. There is also another significant meaning for the word, that He is the Leader of all the *Ganaas* who are celestial. He is also called *Vinaayaka*, which term means that he is one who has no master above Him. He is the Supreme master. He is beyond the mindless stare. One who has stilled the mind cannot have any master.

Without understanding this truth, we think of the physical form of *Vinaayaka* with the elephant head and human body. Whenever people want to commence any undertaking or start learning music or the fine arts or any branch of knowledge, they first offer worship to *Vinaayaka*. He is also called *Lambodhara*, which means Guardian of Wealth--*Lakshmi Svaruupa*. Here *Lakshmi* represents all wealth and prosperity and not only *Dhanam* (money) for which there is a separate deity called *Dhanalakshmi*, one of the eight *Lakshmi*. Here wealth means *Sukha* and *Amanda* (pleasure and bliss). What is the use of having all other things when one has no Pleasure or bliss?

# Ganesha Symbolism



## Stories about Ganesha

There are many stories that explain important events from Ganesh's life. Here are just a few.



### How Ganesha Got His Elephant Head

The great god Shiva was away from home for some time when his wife Parvati became very lonely. While taking a bath, Parvati washed the dirt from her body and used it to form a baby boy. As the years passed, the boy grew in to a young man who did not know his father, but loved his mother so much that he wanted to help her in every way. One spring morning, Parvati asked her son to stand guard at the entrance to her bath.

A stranger approached and tried to enter, but the young man blocked his way. In a fit of anger, the stranger attacked Parvati's son and ripped off his head. Hearing the commotion, Parvati quickly stepped out of her bath and opened the door.

There she found her son without a head and her husband Shiva (the "stranger") who had returned from his long journey. Although glad to see her husband, Parvati was filled with sorrow at the sight of her son. Realizing the grief he had caused, Shiva promised he would replace the head



with that of the first creature he could find. Shiva's attendants, called ganas, found an elephant sleeping by the side of the river.

They brought the elephant's head to Shiva who placed it on the neck of Parvati's son, thus restoring him to life. From then on, Shiva called the young man Ganesha, lord of his ganas.

When her son was born, Parvati was so filled with joy she called the gods together to celebrate. All the gods gazed adoringly at the beautiful baby boy, except for Sani (SAH-nee), who stared down at the ground. Sani did not want to look at the baby because of a curse—anyone who crossed his sight would turn to dust. The proud mother Parvati pleaded with Sani, finally convincing him to look at the boy.

As Sani raised his eyes to catch a quick glimpse, the poor baby's head disappeared into a fine dust. Parvati became very upset. To calm her, the god Vishnu, preserver of life, mounted his bird and flew in search of a head to replace the lost one. On the banks of the river, he found an elephant who was actually a heavenly being. Vishnu took the head of that elephant, attached it to the body of the boy, and named him Ganesha.



### **How the Rat Became Ganesh's Vehicle**

Once there was a wicked demon that terrorized the land. The people of the earth cried out to Ganesha to save them from this terrible monster. When Ganesha asked him to stop bullying the people, the demon simply laughed, because he did not believe Ganesha could stop him.

So Ganesha lifted his foot and stomped on the monster, turning him into a lowly rat. With his kind heart, Ganesha took pity on there at and could not abandon him. Instead, Ganesha decided to keep the rat and make it his vehicle. As the Hindu god responsible for removing obstacles, Ganesha tramples everything in his path. His rat, however, creeps through small cracks and narrow spaces where Ganesha would never fit. And so, each animal reaches his goal by overcoming obstacles in a different way.



### **How Ganesha a Broke His Tusk**

One evening, after eating a very large bowl of sweets, Ganesha was riding on his vehicle the rat, when a snake crossed his path. The rat bolted away in fright, throwing Ganesha a on to the ground. When he fell, the impact caused his stuffed stomach to burst open and all the sweets rolled out onto the ground. Patiently, Ganesha picked up the sweets and put them back into his belly, using the snake as a rope to hold them all in. The Moon, who had seen this unfortunate accident, burst out laughing. Ganesha became embarrassed, so he snapped off his tusk in anger and hurled it at the Moon to teach it a lesson for laughing at another's bad luck.



### Lord Ganesha Blessings

May Lord Ganesha bestow you power, destroy your sorrow and enhance happiness in your life. May Ganesha always stay your mentor and protector and remove obstacles from your life. Wish you a happy day, May the grace of God keep enlightening your lives and bless you always.

### Related Resources for Students

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