

## Sri Ganesha



Ganesha is also known as “Ganapati or Vinayaka or Vigneshvara”. Ganesha is revered as the remover of obstacles. He is prayed to before any new beginnings or at the start of any pujas or ceremonies. Revered for his cleverness and wisdom, Ganesha is also known as the patron of letters and learning. Ganesha is the scribe who wrote down the legendary Indian epic the Mahabharata, dictated to him by sage Vyasa.

Ganesha is the lord of success and destroyer of obstacles. He is worshiped for education, wisdom and wealth.

Ganesha is usually depicted with an elephant head and a big belly. The Hindu tradition contains different versions of Ganesha's elephant head. Some stories say that Ganesha was born with an elephant head. Most say that he was born with a human head that was later replaced with the elephant head. In one version of the story, Ganesha's mother, the goddess Parvati, created Ganesha from her body while she was bathing. One day when Ganesha was guarding the entrance to Parvathy's adobe, Lord Shiva came home. Lord Shiva didn't know Ganesha was created by Pravathy and Ganesha also didn't know who Lord Shiva was. Lord Shiva was angry when the Ganesha blocked his way. He cut off Ganesha's head in a fit of rage. Learning this, Goddess Parvati was struck with grief, and to console her, Shiva restored Ganesha's life by giving him an elephant head.

### Symbolism of Ganesha

Ganesha's head symbolizes the Atman or the soul, which is the supreme reality of human existence, while his body signifies the illusion or maaya i.e. the mankind. The head denotes the wisdom, the trunk represents "Om" the sound symbol of cosmic reality. He holds a goad (removes obstacles), a noose (capture all difficulties), a broken tusk (symbol of truth – outward imperfections have to do nothing with inner perfections), a rosary (pursuits knowledge). The laddoo he holds in his trunk represents the sweetness of Atman. His big ears conveys us that he is ready to listen our prayers. The snake around his belly represents the energy in all forms. He is humble as he rides on a small creature, mouse.

### Ganesha slokas

*Shuklaambara Dharam Vishnum      Shashi Varnam Chatur Bhujam*

*Prasanna Vadanam Dhyaayet      Sarva Vighna Upashaanthaye*

Meaning: We meditate on Lord Ganesha - who is clad in white (representing purity), who is all pervading (present everywhere), whose complexion is gray like that of ash (glowing with spiritual splendor), who has four arms, who has bright countenance (depicting inner calm and happiness) and who can destroy all obstacles (in our spiritual and worldly path).

*Vakratunda Mahakaaya*

*Suryakoti Samaprabha*

*Nirvighnam Kuru Mey Deva*

*Sarva Kaaryeshu Sarvada*

Meaning: The Lord with the curved trunk and a mighty body, who has the luster of a million suns, I pray to thee Oh Lord, to remove the obstacles from all the actions I intend to perform.

*Gajaananam Bhoota Ganaadhi Sevitam*

*Kapitta Jamboophaala Saara Bhakshitam*

*Umaasutam Shoka Vinaasha Kaaranam*

*Namaami Vighneswara Paada Pankajam*

Meaning: The Lord with the elephant face, served by all the Ganas, One who takes as His food, the essence of Kapitta and Jamboophala (these are two favorite fruits of Ganesh), son of Uma (Mother Parvati), destroyer of misery of the devotees, controller of obstacles, we worship Your Lotus Feet.

## [Ganesha Gayatri](#)

Tatpurushaaya Vidmahe

Vakratundaaya Dheemahe

Tanno Danthihi Prachodayaat

Meaning: We meditate on that super power, we invoke the single tusked boon giver, Ganesh.