

Ganesh Chaturthi Story in English – Birth of Ganesha and the Curse of the Moon

Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated as the birth festival of Lord Ganesha. It falls on the fourth day of the bright fortnight of the Hindu month of Bhadrapada. On this day, devotees install an idol of Ganesha, offer Durva grass, flowers, Modak and other Sattvic foods, and pray for wisdom, good judgement and auspicious beginnings.

The Ganesh Chaturthi story explains how Goddess Parvati created Ganesha, why Lord Shiva replaced his head, how Ganesha became the first deity to be worshipped and why seeing the Moon on Ganesh Chaturthi is traditionally avoided.

Ganesh Chaturthi Story

According to a well-known traditional story, Goddess Parvati was once preparing to bathe at her residence on Mount Kailash. She wanted someone trustworthy to guard the entrance and prevent anyone from entering without her permission.

Goddess Parvati created a young boy from the paste applied to her body. Using her divine power, she gave life to the form and accepted him as her son. She named him Ganesha.

Before going inside, Goddess Parvati instructed him:

“Do not allow anyone to enter until I give permission.”

Ganesha accepted his mother's command and stood faithfully at the entrance.

After some time, Lord Shiva arrived and attempted to enter the residence. Ganesha stopped him.

Lord Shiva explained that he was Goddess Parvati's husband and the master of the residence. However, Ganesha had never seen him before and remained firm in following his mother's command.

The attendants of Lord Shiva also tried to persuade and move Ganesha, but he refused to leave his position. A serious conflict followed.

Ganesha courageously faced the attendants and prevented them from entering. Eventually, Lord Shiva became angry and separated Ganesha's head from his body.

Goddess Parvati's Anger

When Goddess Parvati came outside, she saw her son lying lifeless. She was filled with sorrow and anger.

She declared that unless Ganesha was brought back to life, her divine power would create destruction throughout the universe.

The gods understood the seriousness of the situation and requested Lord Shiva to restore the child's life.

Lord Shiva ordered his attendants:

"Go towards the north and bring the head of the first living being you find."

The attendants first came across an elephant. They brought its head to Lord Shiva, who placed it upon Ganesha's body and restored him to life with divine power.

Goddess Parvati became peaceful after seeing her son alive again.

How Did Ganesha Become the First

Worshipped Deity?

To honour Ganesha and satisfy Goddess Parvati, Lord Shiva granted him special blessings.

He declared that:

- Ganesha would become the leader of the Ganas.
- He would be worshipped before every auspicious ceremony.
- He would guide devotees towards wisdom and thoughtful action.
- He would be known as Vighneshvara, the lord who governs obstacles.

Since then, Lord Ganesha has been worshipped as Ganapati, Ganadhyaksha, Vighnaharta and Pratham Puja, the deity worshipped first.

The Story of Ganesh Chaturthi and the Moon

Another popular story associated with Ganesh Chaturthi concerns Chandra, the Moon god.

One day, Lord Ganesha was returning after accepting Modak and other offerings from devotees. He was travelling upon his mouse vehicle when the mouse suddenly lost balance, causing Ganesha to fall.

Chandra saw this and laughed. Proud of his own beauty, the Moon mocked Ganesha's appearance.

Lord Ganesha was displeased by Chandra's pride and disrespect. He cursed him:

"Anyone who sees you on this day may become the victim of a false accusation."

Chandra soon realised his mistake and asked Ganesha for

forgiveness. He requested that the curse be withdrawn.

Lord Ganesha did not remove it completely but limited its effect. The custom of avoiding Moon sighting on Bhadrapada Shukla Chaturthi is traditionally connected with this story.

Some traditions advise those who accidentally see the Moon on this day to remember Lord Ganesha and listen to the story of Lord Krishna and the Syamantaka jewel.

Lessons from the Ganesh Chaturthi Story

The story contains several practical and spiritual lessons:

- **Commitment to duty:** Ganesha faithfully followed his mother's instruction.
- **Importance of communication:** Calm dialogue can prevent misunderstandings from becoming serious conflicts.
- **Freedom from pride:** The Moon's story warns against arrogance based on beauty or status.
- **Possibility of correction:** Even after a painful event, healing and a new beginning are possible.
- **Respect for parents:** Ganesha's devotion to Goddess Parvati is remembered as an example of obedience and loyalty.
- **Thoughtful beginnings:** Important work should begin with preparation, humility and good judgement.

When Should the Ganesh Chaturthi Story Be Read?

The story may be read after installing and worshipping Lord Ganesha. A simple sequence may include:

1. Cleaning the worship area
2. Installing the Ganesha idol

3. Taking the Puja Sankalp
4. Offering sandalwood, Akshata, flowers and Durva
5. Offering Modak or another Naivedya
6. Reading the Ganesh Chaturthi story
7. Chanting Ganesh mantras
8. Performing Aarti and distributing Prasad

Reading the story together as a family can help children understand the meaning and values behind the festival.

Important Mantras for Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Moola Mantra

Om Gam Ganapataye Namah.

Vakratunda Mahakaya Mantra

Vakratunda Mahakaya Suryakoti Samaprabha.

Nirvighnam Kuru Me Deva Sarva-Karyeshu Sarvada.

Ganesh Gayatri Mantra

Om Ekadantaya Vidmahe Vakratundaya Dhimahi.

Tanno Dantih Prachodayat.

What Should Be Offered to Lord Ganesha?

Modak is considered one of Lord Ganesha's most beloved offerings. Devotees may also offer:

- Modak
- Laddoo
- Kheer
- Puran Poli

- Fresh fruits
- Jaggery and coconut
- Dry fruits
- Fresh homemade Sattvic food

The offering should be fresh, clean and prepared with devotion.

Ganesh Chaturthi Story in Brief

Goddess Parvati created Ganesha and asked him to guard her entrance. Ganesha stopped even Lord Shiva from entering because he was following his mother's command. During the conflict, his head was separated from his body. He was later restored to life with an elephant's head. Lord Shiva then declared him the leader of the Ganas and the first deity to be worshipped before every auspicious activity.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When is Ganesh Chaturthi celebrated?

It is celebrated on Bhadrapada Shukla Chaturthi.

2. Who created Lord Ganesha?

According to the traditional story, Goddess Parvati created him.

3. Why was Ganesha given an elephant's head?

It was attached to restore him to life.

4. Why is Ganesha worshipped first?

Lord Shiva granted him the position of the first worshipped deity.

5. Why is Moon sighting avoided on Ganesh Chaturthi?

It is linked to the traditional story of Ganesha's curse upon Chandra.

6. When should the story be read?

It may be read after Puja and Naivedya.

7. What is Ganesha's favourite offering?

Modak is traditionally considered his favourite.

8. Can the story be read at home?

Yes. Any family member may read it with devotion.

Conclusion

The Ganesh Chaturthi story is not only about the birth of Lord Ganesha. It also teaches duty, respect for parents, humility, communication and freedom from pride.

Worshipping Ganesha before beginning important work represents the need to think clearly, prepare carefully and act with humility. Along with rituals and celebrations, applying the values found in the story makes the festival more meaningful.

O Lord Ganesha, bless us with the wisdom to make good decisions, the courage to fulfil our duties and the humility to remain balanced in success.

Ganpati Bappa Morya! Mangal Murti Morya!

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