



International Journal of Sanskrit Research

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ISSN: 2394-7519

IJSR 2018; 4(6): 32-33

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www.anantaajournal.com

Received: 11-09-2018

Accepted: 12-10-2018

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Qualities of Sri Ganeśa in a Brief

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Abstract

Ganeśa is the god of obstacle remover and known as threshold god for every starting new works. Ganeśa is also the god of an astrologer who possessed the knowledge of stars. He is the penman of sacred texts. He is called as *vināyaka*, *gajānana*, *jyēṣṭharāja*, *gajādhīpa*. Ganeśa possessed an elephant head. Lord ganeśa is the first invoked god in every ritual activities in Hindu religion. He is the *brahmā*, *viṣṇu*, *rudra*, *indra*, *agni*, *vāyu*, *surya*, *candramā* and he is the symbol of *om*.

Keywords: Ganeśa, parvati, gajanana, gajadhīpa, ganapatyupanisad, siva, indra, agni, vayu, surya

Introduction

Ganeśa is renowned as *gaṇapati* which means lord of the *ganas* and who controls all sense organs. Ganeśa who is the obstacle remover god and known as the threshold or entrance god in every new starting works. In Vedic temples where ganeśa is the first seeing god and every people pray him for removing the obstacles and protection.

The ganeśa is the god of an astrologer who possessed the knowledge of stars and also he knows the course of events of all human being. Ganeśa is called the penman of the sacred texts (*mahābhārata*-1.1.77). He acquired the post of transcriber of *vyāsadeva* and performed the works of *mahābhārata* writings and *śrīmad bhāgavata* writings which was uttered by the accumulator of Vedic texts, *Srīla vyāsadeva*.

Ganeśa is called *vināyaka* means commander, *Gajānana* (face of an elephant), *jyēṣṭharāja* (elder king), *gajādhīpa* (governor of elephants).

Sidhi and *ridhi* are the two wives of lord ganeśa. *sidhi* means achievement and *ridhi* mean wealth. The person who can able to satisfy the ganeśa through devotion, he gains also the good wishes of ganeśa's two wives.

Ganeśa possessed an elephant head which is his most important aspects. many other Vedic texts describe his elephant-head story in many points.

Birth story of lord Ganeśa

At a once goddess *pārvati*, wife of *śiva* bathed in a forest and she wished to keep a person as her guard in that place. As per other texts, goddess *pārvati* was bathed in her home. So she started message to her skin and she made a form of a son from her massage materials and gave him life. She was told him to stay as a guard in that place. But at the same time lord *śiva* came that place and wished to enter into that bathing place. But god *ganśa* created an obstacle to entering into the place where his mother *pārvati* was bathing. so a battle was started between them and as a result, ganeśa lost his head. At last ganeśa get his revival life by the grace of his father lord *śiva* as an elephant-headed face. From that time, Ganeśa is called *Gajānana*. The word entering means beginning and 'ja' means root.

The success of a man in his life depends upon his knowledge, strongness body, clean mind and sharp memory, mental peace and healthy body which are the main qualities to get good success. An elephant walks fearlessly but he is very vigilant in the jungle.

Lord ganeśa is the first invoked god in every ritual activities which are performed by all Hindus in their day to day lives. The picture of ganeśa and temple of ganeśa have seen in every small village and also major cities of India and abroad.

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Qualities of more headed Ganesa

Although ganeśa worshipped as a one elephant head god yet he is depicted in the picture and idol as a more headed in many other places.

The god of ganeśa with two heads considered as duality in every manner. Ganeśa with three heads considered as qualities like sattva, Rajas and Tamas and ganeśa with four heads considered *manas* (soul), *Chitta* (mind), *buddhi* (knowledge), and *ahankāra* (ego). Ganeśa with five heads regarded as *panca sukshma śarīra* (subtle body) and one physical body.

Every Hindu god possessed a bird or animal as their carrier but the mouse is the carrier of lord ganeśa whose carrier is very small among all the animals in the world. still ganeśa is ādyapujya in Hindu religion whose place is higher than all.

Youth of Ganeśa

An infant is the first stage of human being and gradually grows his knowledge time to time but ganeśa who was created as youth from his birth full of bits of knowledge. Goddess pārvati is the first woman who is the first appearance for him. So every woman looked by him as a mother in this world and physical marriage for god ganeśa is unthinkable. So he depicted as a lifelong bachelor in many other places in Hindu beliefs. Ganeśa is prayed as a simple form with four hands he holds *aṅkuśa*(goad), *pāśa*(rope) and *modak*(sweet) and he stayed with blessing position towards his devotees in all time.

Colors of Ganeśa idol

The idol of ganeśa is seen in various colors like red, white, grey, blue, gold, black and yellow. But his every color indicate to different qualities, which he has possessed. His red color indicates Rājasika guṇa which is the top performances, pride, love and grand success. But black, blue and grey indicates the quality of Tāmasika (guṇa)

Qualities of śrī Ganeśa in Gaṇapatyupaniṣad

In gaṇapatyupaniṣad, it is described that ganeśa is the literature, pleasure, brahmā and also immortal. He is a unique and truth holder, saccidānanda, science, and knowledge.

*tvam vāṅmayastvam
cinmayah/tvamānandamayastvam
brahmayah/tvam saccidānandādvitīyo. si/tvam
pratyakṣyam brahmāsi/tvam jñānamayo
vijñānamaya.si//1*

It is said in another place of gaṇapatyupaniṣad that, the whole world has created from ganeśa and enlightened by him. He is the form of earth, wind, fire, water. He is the four branches of speaking. He is the mūlādhara (origin). He possessed three powers and the saints are always meditate him. He is the brahmā, viṣṇu, rudra, Indra, Agni (fire), vāyu (wind), Surya (sun), candramā (moon) and he is known as the symbol of om̐

*Sarvam jagadidam tvatto jāyate/sarvam jagadidam
tvattastitasthati/sarvam jagadidam tvayi
layameṣyati/sarvam jagadidam tvayi pratyeti/tva
bhūmirāpo.nalo.nilo nabhaḥ/tvam catvāri
vākpādāni/tvam guṇatrayātitaḥ/tvam
kālatrayātitaḥ/tvam dehatrayātitaḥ/tvam
mūlādhārasthito.smi nityam/tvam
saktitrayātmakāḥ/tvam yogino dhayānti nityam/tvam
brahmā tvam viṣṇustvam*

*rdrastvamindrastvamagnistvam vāyustvam
suryastvam candramāstvam brahmā bhūrbhuvah
suvarom//2*

Gaṇapatyupaniṣad said the gāyatrī of ganeśa by which man get success in every step of his life whose life is full of obstacles and man thinks gāyatrī maṅtra can able to remove the obstacles and also man get peace with this maṅtra. Ganeśa is one tooth (Ekadanta). We think in mind to vakratuṅḍa. May the one tooth bearer inspire us to his gracious paths. This is his gāyatrī maṅtra.

*Ekadantāya vidmhe vakratuṅḍāya dhīmahi/tanno
danti pracodāyat//3*

Conclusion

From the above discussion, it is noticed that ganeśa is the god of obstacle remover and he is the treasury of knowledge. He possessed many other noble qualities. He is the soldier of lord śiva and called as Lambodara, Ekadanta. Man get success in every path of life by own devotion and meditation through the grace of ganeśa in this mortal world forever

Footnotes

1. Gaṇapatyupaniṣad. Mantra-5.
2. Gaṇapatyupaniṣad. Mantra-6.
3. Gaṇapatyupaniṣad. Mantra-10.

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