

Namami Sri Vighneshwara Pada Pankajam

*“Gajaananam bhuuta ganaadhi sevitam
Kapiddha jambuu phala saara bhakshanam
Uma sutam shoka vinaasha kaarakam
Namaami Vighneshwara paada pankajam”*

He is the grantor of all good, who removes all the obstacles and grants auspiciousness. Before beginning any task, the first and foremost puja is done for Sri Ganesha. He has the foremost position in all the groups of devas. He is the first and foremost praiseworthy and respected Ganapati, who has hidden in his big belly all the joys and sorrows of his devotees.

There is nothing in the whole creation that is moving and non-moving where the real nature of Sri Ganesha is not present. That Ganesha who grants siddhi and buddhi is the same as Brahma, Vishnu and Ishwara and also the Omkara. He is the one, who graces everybody with joy, good health, energy and devotion. It is very essential to know the real nature or tatvam behind this form of Sri Ganesha.

Shloka:

*“Om Ganaadhipaa namastestu uma putra agha naashana
Vinaayaka Isha tanayaa sarva siddhi pradaayaka”*

Sri Ganesha swarupa is the form that has all the art forms that are residing within:

1. Sri Vinayaka's trunk is the symbol of Omkara.
2. Sri Ganesha's head is the symbol of yoga and knowledge.
3. Sri Ganesha's body is the symbol of the human body, which is maaya, illusion and part of prakriti, nature.
4. Sri Vinayaka's one hand holds an axe which is symbolic of destroying ignorance
5. Sri Vinayaka's other hand holds a paasam (cord) which is symbolic of tying all obstacles and throwing them away as a part of sadhana.
6. The broken tusk is symbolic of renunciation.
7. The mala is symbolic of earning knowledge through hard work.
8. The big ears are symbolic of Sri Ganesha listening compassionately to the vows of his devotees.

9. The naga bandham on Sri Ganesha's stomach is symbolic of power and kundalini.
10. The vehicle of Sri Ganesha is the mouse which is symbolic of a wise person having equal vision and respect toward all beings.

Shlokas:

*"Uthamamu GaNanaadhasya vrathamsampathkaram subham |
Bhakta Bhishtapradam, thasmaath dhyayeth tham vighna nayakam ||"*

*"Eka Danthaika vadana thadha mooshika vahana |
Kumara gurave thubhyam arpayaami sumanjalim" ||*

*"Om Thatpurashaya Vidhmahe Vkrathundaya Dheemahi |
Thanno Danthi Prachodayath" ||*

"Satatam namaami tam vinayakam"

11. Sri Ganesha's Ekadantam (one tusk) points out that knowledge and wisdom is greater than anything and symbolizes oneness and singleness.
12. The large belly means that Sri Ganesha has hidden in his belly many treasures of blessings to grant to his devotees. The whole treasury of vedic wisdom is stored in his belly and He grants those who worship him the vedic wisdom.
13. Moduka in Sri Ganesha's hand represents gratification and contentment and nourishing food. This indicates a beautiful message. We, humans should eat only as much as we need and not eat too much or too little, but we should eat as much as necessary with contentment.
14. It is said there is no other greater food that exists other than modukas that give positive thoughts. Modukas are the best prasadam that impart positive thoughts. Sri Vighneswara does not only remove just obstacles but he also grants sharp intellect, grandeur and greatness, and the power of undivided attention. Sri Vighnaraja Ganapati is the doer who gives the power of wisdom that leads to liberation.

15. Long trunk symbolizes that one should have long term plans and goals and follow them.

16. Sri Ganesha's small eyes are symbolic of sadhana with undivided attention.



17. The frontal globe on the forehead of Sri Vinayaka is called the kumbha sthalam which symbolizes the great heights of spirituality to be attained.

18. The true essence of Vighnaraja Vinayaka is to remove vighnam or obstacles. Cowardice is itself one of the obstacles. The essential nature of Vinayaka which is Vighna raja tatvam is his ShivaShakti swarupa or Consciousness, which removes the obstacles and expands one's self-confidence.

19. Sri Ganapati is the Supreme Lord of Brahma Vidya, knowledge of the Supreme and sacred learning. He is the compassionate one, who grants you the accomplishment of Brahma Jnana by simply remembering Him.

A Story of Sri Vighneshwara from Sri Shiva Purana

One day in Kailasa, Paravati Devi's close confidantes, Jaya and Vijaya asked, "O Mother! Parama Shiva possesses all the pramatha ganas (attendants), which are not easy to achieve. However, they do not belong to us." And so they prayed to Her and wished, "Therefore, Mother please create for our convenience, a gana (attendant) who is humble and obedient to you, O Jagan Mata, Universal Mother!"

It is then that Sri Parvati, thinking deeply about Sri Shankar Bhagavan with much reverence, while taking her bath, started gently smearing the paste of green gram powder and turmeric powder on her body to cleanse herself. From the leftover paste thinking of Shiva's form in her mind, she created a small form of a little boy. She filled that form with prana shakti (vital life force) thereby immediately enlivening that form. He came to life and called out to Sri Parvati saying "Amma!" and sat in her lap. She became ecstatic on seeing Her child, and Her heart overflowed with motherly love. She repeatedly cuddled and kissed the little boy, Ganesha (Bala Ganesha).

Mother Parvati offered and fed modukas and laddus to little Ganesha, which he ate with much delight and joy. "Son, please take a few more with you and sit by the front entrance. Remember that no one is allowed to come inside under any circumstances without my permission". Instructing him thus Sri Parvati Devi went inside to complete her bathing rituals. He took a handful of modukas and laddus from the big plate and while keeping a watchful eye started pacing across the room. Meanwhile Sri Parameshwara came back, and as he was about to enter the room. The little boy prevented him from doing so.

He challenged Sri Parameshwara to a fight and exclaimed "unless you fight and win against me, it is impossible for you to get inside. These are my mother's orders." So, there was a big fight between both of them and in the process Sri Shankar Bhagavan beheaded the boy with his trident and threw the head very far away. Upon knowing about this incident, Sri Parvati Devi was deeply saddened. Lord Shiva who couldn't see Sri Parvati Devi in such a sad state, immediately brought in an elephant's head and joined it to the headless body. Thus, this boy was brought back to life again.

This boy's complexion was a mixture of glowing red and yellow, with an exceedingly pleasant and pleasing demeanor. Seeing his radiant and graceful and distinct form, Sri Parvathi Devi was extremely happy, "Son you are so tiny and tender and have so many challenges already?" Saying this, she patted him very affectionately.

"I shall bless you with a benediction!" Saying thus, Sri Gauri Devi granted him a boon saying, "from this moment on you will receive the very first prayer or worship from all the 3 million Gods around. Whoever worships you with undivided attention and focus every day, they will get their wishes granted and will be under your shade of protection constantly. You will also have the power and ability to negate all the hurdles of the human race". Saying this, Divine Mother other put Him in Her lap. This is how Parashakti bestowed Sri Ganesha with several boons. Sri Shiva himself granted the boon that Sri Ganesha, the son of Jaganmatha, Universal Mother, will be first and foremost God to be worshipped even prior to the Trimurtis, Trinities of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara themselves. All the devatas performed the first and foremost prayers to Sri Ganesha and since that time, the tradition of praying and worshipping him has continued to be the first priority.

On this occasion of Sri Ganesha Navaratri, we are sending our best wishes to all the devotees. Appealing on behalf of everybody and surrendering to Sri Ganapati, we pray for prosperity, good health, and pleasant life for all human race in the whole world. Blessings for each and every one to have good health, wealth and happiness in their lives and have a rich material, spiritual, and successful life.

Om Shanti, Shanti Shantihi

Sri Manidweepa Mahasamsthanam

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