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# Birth of Lord Ganesha



This story is about Lord Ganesha's birth and how he gets the head of an elephant. Once upon a time during a war between the Gods and the Demons, Lord Shiva was away for a long time. His wife, Goddess Parvati, was alone for an extended period. One day before going to take the bath, she made a boy out of the dirt of her body, to guard the entrance of her house. She asked him not to allow anyone inside. After saying this, she went inside to take the bath.

When Lord Shiva and his army, returned victorious to his home, he was quite thirsty. Parvati was in her bath, and Ganesh had been strictly instructed not to allow anyone in. Ganesh stopped Lord Shiva at the door as he was unable to recognize his father.



Angered by Ganesh's refusal to allow him into the house, Lord Shiva chopped off the boy's head. When Parvati came out of her bath, she was shocked and grieved to see her son dead. Lord Shiva, to pacify her proclaimed that the head of Ganesh would be replaced by that of the first creature that came up the hill. The first visitor to the hill was an elephant and his head was promptly cut off and placed on that of the boy Ganesh.



His life was restored by Lord Shiva who also bestowed upon Ganesh the powers of a God and blessed him such that henceforth no activity will begin without invoking his name and blessings.

Since then, it is said, no new venture - the inauguration of a company, the opening of a shop, the foundation of a building, entering a new home - is deemed complete by Hindus without performing a Ganesh puja.



He is always honored first in most worship services and rituals. He is known as the god who removes all obstacles, one who gives you success in your ventures.

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