

## the survival of the wisest:

Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati had two wonderful sons, Lord Ganesh and Lord Kartikeyan. One day, they thought that their sons had reached the right age to get married. They discussed their views with them. The two brothers were excited and they started squabbling as to who would get married first. To settle this argument, the parents thought of an exceptional plan.

"My dear sons, you both are unique and we adore you equally. We cannot decide who should marry first so let us play a game. You will go around Mother Earth and the one who returns the quickest, will be married first."

Lord Karthikeyan's vehicle is the peacock and when His parents signaled for the race to begin, He swiftly flew away on his bird. Lord Ganesh remained there and instead asked His parents to sit in the seats that He provided. The parents were astonished by His unusual request but they complied. Lord Ganesh joining His hands, prayed before them to accept His humble prayers. He then worshipped them with sincere devotion and circumbulated seven times, paying His obeisance. As He was completing His last circumbulation, Karthikeyan flew in. He had completed the task as per the instructions of his parents but his elder brother had not traveled around the earth at all



Lord Ganesh explained, "The Vedas say that those who go around their parents or circumnavigate achieve the blessing of Bhu Pradakshina (Bhu – Earth, Pradakshina – Going around deity or temple). If that is meant for mortals then what will be its significance when it is done around universal parents. By going around my divine parents I have not only covered the distance around Mother Earth but the entire universe. Do I need to go anywhere else?" Everyone was speechless. Needless to say they had a clear winner. Prajapati Vishwaroopa's two daughters Riddhi and Siddhi were selected to be His wives. The wedding plans were managed with great care and the arena where the union took place was designed by the divine sculptor Vishwakarma. Lord Ganesh thus proved

that He is truly an embodiment of wisdom. Lord Ganesh is an eternal Brahmachari (Celibate) and so are all the gods. They are mentioned as married so that we in the mundane world can understand and can relate to them.