



S.K.S. SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE (LONDON) – BAL YUVAK MANDAL

Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 9EA Est. 1966 Charity Reg. No. 271034

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GANESH CHATURTHI

Ganpati, son of Shankar, manifested Himself on Sunday, in the auspicious month of Bhadarvo sud (bright half) 4th. This occasion should be celebrated with Ganpati poojan and aarti. The 4th day of the month is considered an auspicious day. On this day, jaggery sweets (sweets made of jaggery and wheat flour) shall be offered. Ganpati poojan shall be performed with sindoor, chabbar (type of grass), and bilipatra leaves. Tulsi leaves are also considered very auspicious on this day compared to other days of the year. Chandra darshan should not be done on this day by anyone. If darshan is done, false stigma befalls upon you. (mithya kalank). Performing pooja or prayers (stuti) on this day destroys all bad obstacles befalling upon the person. The prayer (stuti) is as follows:-

'He Ganesh! Aap garib na nath cho, daya na samudra cho, saghda ashubhna nivaranma chatur cho, tran lok na naath cho, sarve manorath puran karnara eva tamo te tamari devtao seva kare che. Mara koi pan apradh samu nahi jota mari bhakti ne safal karo. He Gauri putra! Hu aapnu poojan, aahavan ke visarjan jaanto nathi, maate kshama karjo.'

Oh Ganesh, the Lord of the poor, ocean of kindness, destroyer of all evil, Lord of the three worlds, fulfiller of all wishes, such is your power that all demigods are at your service. Make my prayers successful regardless of my mistakes/faults. Oh son of Gauri, I am ignorant about your poojan, Assertion and dissolution methods, so please forgive me.

Ganpati has one tooth, big ears, face of an elephant, and four hands holding loop (ankush), rudhraksh mala, noose (paash) and plate of sweets (ladoo). He has a big body and is beautiful like shining gold. He is also known as Siddhivinayak.

Origin of Ganpati

Mahadev and Parvati reside on Mount Kailash. One day Mahadevji, went for a bath at Bhogavatti river. On the same day, Parvatiji prepared herself for a bath. She created an idol from the dirt of her own body, gave it life and called him 'oh son!' and named him Vinayak. She then told him to guard the palace gates while she has a bath. She instructed him not to



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allow anybody in without her permission. Hence Vinayak stood at the gates with weapons in his hands to protect his mother.

Soon Shankarji arrived and was stopped by Ganpati at the gates and asked him who he was and why he wanted to go inside. He asked Shankarji to wait while he gets permission from his mother, Hearing these words, Mahadevji got angry and asked him ‘ who are you and what are you saying? This is my house and I do not need anyone’s permission.’ Saying this, Mahadevji slashed Vinayak’s head with his *Trishul* and went inside and asked Parvatiji who the boy was at the gates.

Parvati said with pride, I made a son from the dirt of my body and requested him to guard the palace while I have a bath. Hearing this Mahadevji got upset and told Parvati that when he was coming inside, Vinayak stopped him and therefore he slashed off his head in a fit of anger.

Hearing this, Parvati became unconscious. After gaining consciousness, Parvati said she will only eat after she gets her son back. Mahadevji consoled Parvatiji and promised to make him live again. Saying this, Mahadevji went out and hunted the first animal he saw which was a elephant and brought back its head to replace Vinayak’s head and gave life. Seeing this Parvati was happy. From this day, he is also known as ‘Gajaanan’.

Of all the Demi Gods, Ganpati got a boon that he will be worshiped first before any rituals are performed. From this day our Rishis have given great importance to Ganpati poojan in all auspicious rituals like wedding ceremonies, Laxmi poojan, from laying of the foundation stone to installing the *Kalash*. Even during installing (*Pran Pratishtha*) Bhagwan’s Murti’s, Ganpati poojan is performed first to avoid any obstacles.

Shreeji Maharaj has instructed in the Shikshapatri (shloka 127) to perform Ganpati poojan on Bhadarva sud 4th. Hence this day must be celebrated with joy.