

The Birth of Lord Ganesha



The story of Lord Ganesh is a strange one, but interesting nonetheless. While Lord Shiva was out destroying a demon that was trying to take over the Earth, Goddess Parvati was busy at home on Mount Kailash. She took care of the day-to-day activities, and started getting ready for his arrival when she heard that her husband was going to come home.

She cleaned herself and her body, using turmeric as soap. After washing herself off, she used the remainder of the turmeric to make a small figure of a boy in a cup. She was so happy with this figure that she took it to Lord Brahma, asking him to make it a real boy. Brahma, the God of creation, poured life into the little figure, making a baby boy for Goddess Parvati. Parvati took the little boy home with her and loved him very much. She asked him to guard the door of her room while she showered and waited for his father. When Shiva returned home, he found a little boy at his door, refusing to allow him inside his own home. He slashed the little boy's head off in anger, and entered the home.

When Parvati saw that her husband had returned home, she was very happy, but got very sad when she realized that her son had been killed by his father. Parvati started crying, and explained to Shiva that the little boy was her son. Shiva promised to fix the mistake he had made, and sent some of his followers to find the head of any creature that was sleeping with his head facing north. His followers brought back the head of an elephant, and attached it to the little boy's body. Shiva asked Brahma to pour life into this little boy again, making him a real boy.