

12 Life Lessons From Lord Ganesha

Life

Lessons

Lord Ganesha

The simple guide to help you to live your life successfully

"To keep a watch at the door, and don't allow anybody to enter the palace without my permission." said Mother Parvati to the boy she created.

Lord Shiva saw a boy sitting at the doorway, but ignoring him he proceeded to enter the palace. As no one was eager to answer first so the dispute grew to the point of a fierce battle. Ultimately cutting the head of the boy, Lord Shiva entered the palace. Seeing Him, Parvati asked surprisingly! "How did you enter? Has nobody stopped you?" At that Lord Shiva asked, "Who was that boy? I have cut his head."

"He was my own son. Now you give him a new lease of life", said Mother Parvati to Lord Shiva.

Lord Shiva then ordered his Ganas to go out and bring the head of any creature they saw first. It was an elephant that the Ganas found first. So they cut its head and brought it to Lord Shiva. Putting the elephant head at the boy's torso, Lord Shiva infused a new lease of life in him.

I surrender to you, Lord Ganesha. You are the speaker. You are the listener. You are the giver. You are the sustainer. I am your disciple. Protect me from the front and back. Protect me from the north and the south, from above and below. Protect me from all directions.

Of all the multitudes of deities and gods that constitute the Hindu religion, Lord Ganesha is probably one of the most loved and revered of all, regardless of individual beliefs and customs. Considered the god of good beginnings and wisdom, it is in his name that new ventures are undertaken and important life decisions made.

While there are many spiritual lessons to be learned from the stories of Lord Ganesha, there are some lessons that find a place in our every-day professional and personal lives as well. We take a look at some of them:

Lessons # 1 : Successful persons must destroy selfishness & pride

The son of Shiva and Parvati, Ganesha has an elephantine countenance with a curved trunk and big ears, and a huge pot-bellied body of a human being. He is the Lord of success and destroyer of evils and obstacles. Ganesha is also the destroyer of vanity, selfishness and pride. This teaches us that when we become the successful persons, we must destroy vanity, selfishness and pride.

Lessons # 2 : Always see the goings in the world with a microscopic sight

Elephant is the only animal that can't see the things in right perspective. It sees all the things bigger than itself. All this implies that never take the opponent for granted. Don't go on his size, but regard everyone bigger, better and more virtuous than yourself. Always see the goings in the world with a microscopic sight, reflect over them and be serious. Thus you will be able to anticipate the crises that may be fall on you.

Lessons # 3 : Sustain high morale & reputation

The gentleman who wish to keep their traditions without any obstacle, must always keep in mind the long nose (high reputation) of their ancestors, family and the country. That is, they should not do such petty things that might lead to cutting of their nose. The nature has given the elephant the longer nose than other animals. Lord Ganesha is shown with a long nose.

Lessons # 4 : Keep our ears as big as "Surpa"

One of many names for Lord Ganesha is Surpakarna, the one with big flappy ears. We should always be alert so as not to change our conduct for the people related to us. Just because of back-biting. We should keep our ears as big as Surpa, so that they can accept only just talks and avoid all the unwanted and unjust gossips. Finally, we will live in peace.

Lessons # 5 : Think before speaking out about the others

All the obstacles that crop up in the life are due to the unwanted talks. The reason for showing this type of tongue in Ganesha's idol is that, the people before speaking out about the others, must first take an introspection of oneself. Elephant's tongue is pointed towards its neck instead of outwards, whereas tongue of all other animals, including human beings, keeps on lolling out.

Lessons # 6 : Have feeling of love, affection and well being for the others

The lower part of Ganesha's body is human like, whereas only the head is elephant-like. It is universally accepted that all the other animals than humans have emotionless heart. Only the humans have such a heart that beats with emotion. Human heart is the only organ on earth that generates good or bad feelings for others. One must have the feelings of love, affection and well being for the others.

Lessons # 7 : Act in good faith

Whatever Lord Ganesha undertook, he undertook with conviction and self-belief. It is this that we need to inculcate in ourselves, in the way we work. Any job, if it is worth doing, is worth doing well. Whatever the task you are faced with, face it with courage and conviction and do it to the best of your ability. At the end of the day, you have the satisfaction of knowing that you gave it your best shot.

Lessons # 8 : Depend on yourself

One of the other names Ganesha is known as is Vinayak, meaning master of oneself. This signifies independence in thought and action. Take ownership and responsibility for your actions and their outcome. Just knowing that you alone are responsible will make you take the decision that much more seriously.

Lessons # 9 : Every obstacle can be overcome

Lord Ganesha is also known as Vigneshwara, one who removes obstacles. You must believe that every obstacle can be overcome and also make removing obstacles a dharma in your life. Whether in your professional or personal life, with the right attitude -- a never-say-die attitude -- even what seems like the most insurmountable difficulty can be handled without your world falling to pieces.

Lessons # 10 : Do not go into the realm of dark imaginings

It is not at all what you say, and certainly not all that you know. It is the rites of passage that heal you—not the easing of strife which calms. Open your breath unto the morning. Open your eyes unto the dawn. Rest your weary head upon these silken pillows of dreams, and dream of a new life—for you haven't even yet been born.

Lessons # 11 : Modesty

Lord Ganesha is considered one of the most powerful gods in Hinduism, but his vehicle is the modest mouse. Ganesha wins hearts through simple methods, and this too holds a lesson. A shiny car or extravagant lifestyle might impress, but to win hearts, the simplest way is through one's actions -- through simple gestures of affection and respect.

Lessons # 12 : Seek knowledge

Lord Ganesha has two wives - Riddhi & Siddhi. It implies that all the Riddhi and Siddhi (knowledge and perfections) of the world kiss those who adopts all the virtues of Lord Ganesha in his life. It also means that whoever wishes to gain knowledge and perfections, he must make Lord Ganesh his ideal and follow his virtues in life. Read, explore, listen and learn.

Reflecting these lessons, imagine that if Lord Ganesha, be considered as a creation of a skilled artist, then how skilled mother Parvati would be, who gave all the teaching with just one of her creations, These teachings should be adopted by every wise person.

Salutation to the Ganapati whose seed mantra is AumGam. We know Ekadanta, the One-tusked God, the unique God. We meditate upon Vakratunda, the curved-trunk God. May that unique elephant God illumine our consciousness and direct us along the right track.

Thank You Very Much