

# Shri Ganapati

## Preface

When we understand the spiritual science about a Deity, it strengthens our faith in the Deity. Faith increases bhāv (spiritual emotion) and worship with bhāv is more fruitful. With this perspective, emphasis has been laid upon providing information on Shrī Gaṇapati in this Text, which is not normally available elsewhere and is useful from the spiritual perspective.

Hence, in this Text, the following spiritual information has been included - implied meaning of the principal Names of Shrī Gaṇapati; various functions and specialties of Gaṇapati such as the interpreter of the language of light spoken by Deities into the language of sound of the humans, the augments of vital energy in our body etc.; the significance of Gaṇapati with His trunk curved towards the right and the left; why *dūrvā* (Bermuda grass, a fragrant grass used in the ritualistic worship of Shrī Gaṇēsh) and red flowers are offered to Gaṇapati; the method of offering *dūrvā* and its length and number; Chaturthī (Fourth day in a Hindu lunar fortnight) and its relation to the moon, etc. At the same time, seeing the deplorable manner in which publicly Gaṇēsh festivals are presently celebrated, there is also a brief on how the festival ought to be celebrated.

Devotees of Shrī Gaṇapati and those who perform sectarian spiritual practice of Shrī Gaṇapati will certainly benefit from this spiritual information; however, ordinary individuals should remember the following rule in this regard. When some people read the Rāmāyaṇ, they feel like worshipping Shrīrām, and upon reading the Atharvashīrsha, Shrī Gaṇapati.

Similarly, after reading the information in this Text some people may feel like worshipping Shrī Ganapati. However, undertaking such spiritual practice does not lead to rapid spiritual progress for all the devotees, because it will benefit only those who need that particular worship to make spiritual progress. An ordinary individual cannot decide if the worship of Shrī Gaṇapati is essential for him or not. Only those who are spiritually evolved can understand this; hence, an ordinary individual should read these Texts only for the sake of information. To get the spiritual experience of Shrī Gaṇapati, we must take the first step in spiritual practice, that is, chant the Name of our *Kuladēvatā* (Family Deity) Shrī should be prefixed to the Name of the *Kuladēvatā*, the Name that follows should be in the dative case (*Chaturthī pratyaya*) and should conclude with *Namaha*. (If *Kuladēvī* [Female Family Deity] is Bhavānī then chant 'Shrī Bhavānīdēvyai Namaha I). Later, if the Guru asks us to chant the Name of Shrī Gaṇapati or if it is necessary to chant His Name for our spiritual progress in the next stage of spiritual practice, then this information will help augment faith in Shrī Gaṇapati.

We pray at the Holy feet of Shrī Guru - 'May the faith of devotees of Shrī Gaṇapati strengthen further and may everyone get the inspiration to enhance their spiritual practice by reading this Text'. – **Compilers**

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