



Ganesha Chaturthi

Honoring the Remover of Obstacles

Who is Ganesha

Lord Ganesha is the Lord of Wisdom and the remover of all obstacles. Hindus pray to Lord Ganesh at the start of any *puja*. Ganesha is also Shiva and Parvati's son.

The image is full of symbolism. The elephant head symbolises wisdom, large ears and small mouth - speak less and listen more, large belly to digest peacefully all the good and bad that comes your way, the trunk represents efficiency and adaptability. Ganesha rides on a mouse. The mouse represents desire that is to be controlled.

Ganesha Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi is a ten day festival in August / September during which *puja* ceremonies are conducted honouring Lord Ganesha, the Remover of Obstacles.

Devotees make or purchase a Ganesha murti made of clay. Puja is conducted daily invoking the energies of the Deity. After ten days the Hindu community gather in a grand parade called *visarjan* to a body of water where the image is ceremonially immersed symbolising Ganesha's merging into the Universal Consciousness.