



Lord Ganesha and the Moon

Long ago, gods and goddesses gathered at a grand feast held in honour of the divine. Among the deities was Lord Ganesha, the elephant-headed god of wisdom and the remover of obstacles. Ganesha, with his fondness for sweets, was delighted to find all his favourite treats prepared in abundance. He indulged with boundless joy, savouring each morsel until his belly grew round and full.

As the feast concluded, Ganesha felt self-conscious about his now enormous belly. Seeking to adorn it with dignity, he wrapped a snake around his waist like a bejewelled belt. However, even the serpent's coils could not conceal his size. Embarrassed, Ganesha decided to leave under the cover of darkness, hoping to avoid the watchful eyes of others.

Mounted on his loyal vahana (vehicle or carrier), the small but swift mouse, Ganesha made his way home. The mouse, though diminutive in stature, carried his divine master with unwavering devotion, darting gracefully through the night. The world was quiet, and the stars shimmered above - until a sudden snort of laughter shattered the silence.

The Moon was radiant and proud, laughing at the sight of Ganesha atop his tiny mount. The laughter echoed through the heavens, drawing the attention of all. Humiliated and angered, Ganesha halted, his divine eyes blazing with resolve. "No one mocks me and escapes unscathed", he declared, his voice reverberating like thunder.

The Moon, known for its luminous beauty and serene glow, had long been vain, boasting of its splendour. To humble the celestial orb, Ganesha pronounced a curse: the Moon's brilliance would fade, and its light diminished, leaving it to dwell in darkness and obscurity. The Moon's once-proud glow dimmed, and the balance of night was disrupted.

Days turned into nights, and the absence of the Moon's steady light unsettled the world. Darkness prevailed and the were people lost without the Moon's guidance. They prayed fervently to Ganesha, begging him to restore the celestial harmony.

Moved by their pleas, Ganesha, compassionate as ever, relented. Yet, he imposed a condition. The Moon's sight would return but no longer shine steadily. Instead, it would wax and wane, cycling through phases of brightness and shadow. This perpetual ebb and flow would serve as a reminder of the Moon's arrogance, teaching the lesson of humility and the importance of knowing one's place in the cosmic order.

However, Ganesha decreed that no one must gaze upon the Moon on the sacred night of Ganesh Chaturthi. To do so, would invite misfortune—a subtle echo of the moon's once-boastful pride.

Thus, from that day forward, the Moon began its eternal dance of growth and decline, a luminous reflection of life's cycles. Its shifting phases remind mortals and gods alike to tread the path of respect, grace, and self-awareness. Never forgetting the lessons of the wise and gentle Ganesha.

