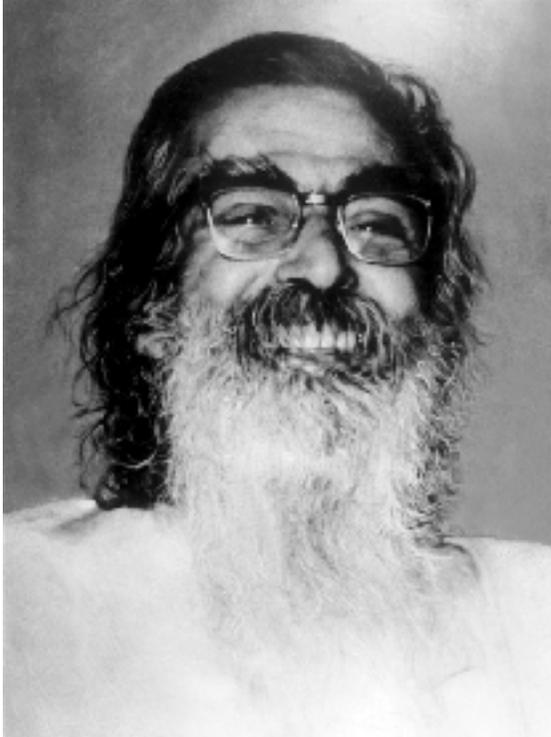


Shri Madhavrao
Sadahivrao Golwalkar
“Guruji”
(1906 - 1973)



For more information
about Guruji visit:
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बच्चुंसुं गङ्गाकाय सुयुक्तोते सगङ्गा
विशिखां बुद्ध मे देव सर्वकार्येषु सर्वदा ॥

A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO PERFORM LORD GANESHA POOJA

Prepared by
Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh and Samskrita Bharati, USA

PREFACE

The booklet is especially prepared for the Hindu children of America. It was first printed in year 2006, on the occasion of Shri Guruji's birth centenary. After getting a tremendous response from *saamuhik ganeshha pooja utsav* participants, *swayamsevaks*, and *sevikas*, we are happy to provide you with a 2nd edition of this booklet. Some changes are made based on the feedback received.

Dear Parents

We are happy to publish this booklet on the pooja-vidhi of Lord Ganesha. Our only intentions are to provide Hindu children of America with the primary information of Lord Ganesha and let them know the simple way of performing pooja. Although the contents of this booklet are verified from the scholars, there may be inadequacies or differences from the regional pooja-vidhi. In this regards, your feedback will surely be helpful to improve the contents when it is printed next time. In case you want to participate and contribute to this and other such several activities taken up by HSS, please feel free to contact us at info@hssus.org.

Publisher:

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh
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Lord Ganesha

Hindus accept the existence of several gods, goddesses, and deities in the forms of animals and planets. Hindus also believe that all these gods/goddesses are not separate entities but different forms (modes) of the same supreme reality (Supreme-God or Paramaatman). Supreme God manifests himself in different forms or aspects for specific purposes. Hindus have free will to choose any form of the supreme God (*Ishta Devata*) to worship and pray. Whichever form they may choose to pray or worship, ultimately it leads to the supreme God.

Lord Ganesha is also one of the many forms of the God. He is also the first child of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. He is known by various names such as Vinayaka (knowledgeable), Vighneshwara (remover of obstacles), Gajanana (elephant faced) or Ganapati (a leader). Lord Ganesha has all leadership qualities. HE is a very unique form of the Supreme God. HIS unique form also carries symbolic meaning. Scholars interpret it in various ways. Following is the most commonly believed symbolic meaning.

Symbolic Meaning:

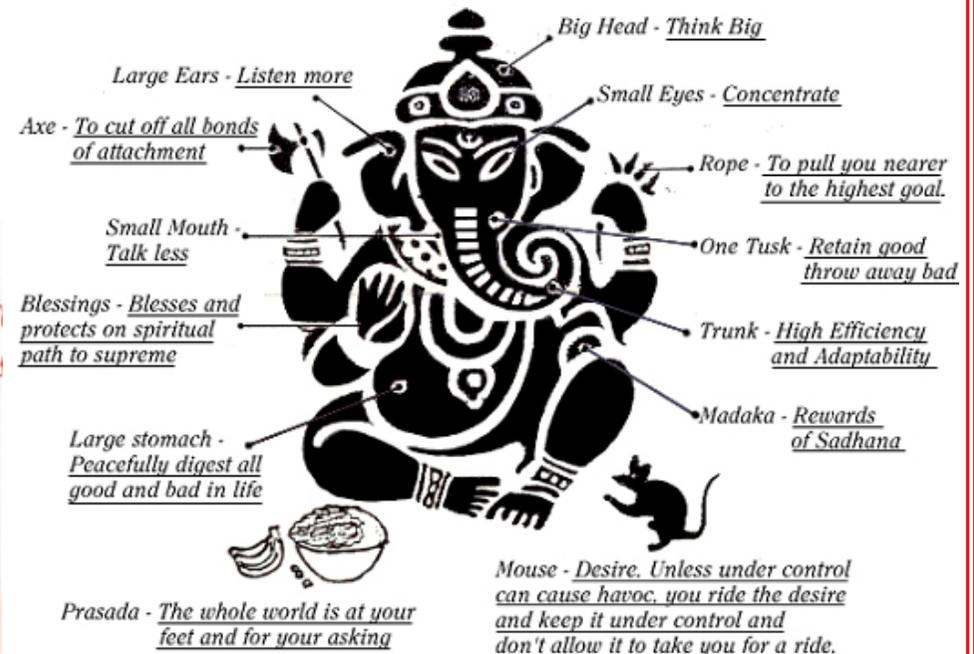
Ganesha has elephant's head, which is big. It symbolizes sharp intelligence and big thinking. An elephant's life is full of radiance, which comes from dignity and self-esteem. Also the elephant shares his food by scattering some around himself. It indicates the sense of generosity.

Ganesha has large ears, but small mouth. It indicates that one should talk less and listen more, but retain only the positive and constructive things. Large ears are also a symbol of acute and superior hearing. Ganesha's small eyes indicate sharp vision and concentration. Small eyes are also a symbol of foresight.

Trunk is the symbol of high strength, efficiency and adaptability. It can move the biggest obstacles and yet infinitely gentle in handling delicate objects.

Ganesha has one full and other half tusk. The partial tusk symbolizes intelligence and the full tusk symbolizes faith. Both are needed to progress in life. However, the intelligence often falls short in providing answers to life's burning questions. When it falls short, faith in God and ourselves can lead us in life successfully. Full tusk also symbolizes that one should retain good and throw away bad things.

Ganesha's four hands have four things - Ankush (Elephant driver's iron rod or axe) It indicates us to cut off all bonds of attachment and restrain desires and passions. Paash (cord or rope) symbol of restrain and punishment. Modak is dry and hard from outside and sweet from inside and nourishing. This represents that hard work (saadhana) brings joy, satisfaction and nourishment to our souls. Aashirwaad means that



Ganesha blesses and protects us on our spiritual path to the Supreme.

Ganesha has large stomach. HE peacefully digests all good and bad things without losing control. Ganesha's small legs indicate that one should not move hastily. One must not rush into anything. Each step must be slow, deliberate and well thought of.

Mouse-vehicle of Ganesha symbolizes desire. Desire, if not in control, can cause havoc. Ganesha rides on the mouse. One should ride the desire and keep it under control and do not allow it to take you for a ride.

Durva, meaning grass, is placed on the head of Ganesh. The grass is something that we constantly walk on or trample on, paying little heed to it, while in fact it contributes so much to our survival by giving us oxygen. But we give importance to durva by placing them on his head. This tells us no matter how much you are looked down upon or insignificant to others or not given the importance you deserve, you are important to Him. Red flower indicates red color. Red color stands for total change or revolution.

Lord Ganesha possesses all leadership qualities. The best pooja offered to Lord Ganesha is to inculcate those qualities in us.

Ganesha Chaturthi:

Chaturthi means a 4th day of the month according to the Hindu calendar. It is the day of Lord Ganesha. Especially, 4th day of the month Bhaadrapada (August-September) is celebrated as a Ganesha Festival. It is the most popular festival of Hindus. They install clay figures (moorti) of Lord Ganesha in their houses and perform pooja everyday in the morning and evening. The festival is so popular among the masses that its preparations start happening months in advance. His statues are also installed in the street corners and extravagant arrangements are made for decoration. Prayers are performed on the daily basis. The artists who make Ganesha statues compete with each other to make bigger

and more elegant statues. These statues are then carried on decorated floats to be immersed in the sea. This immersion is accompanied by drumbeats, devotional songs and dancing.

Pooja

Pooja is the Hindu ritual of worshiping God in a systematic manner as described in the Vedic scriptures. An image or symbol of the deity is kept and worshiped by chanting the mantras and verses. The various names of the deity and the mantras are recited. Various offerings like fruits, flowers, sweets, milk are offered. It is a way of expressing one's faith in God, a way of seeking salvation and a way of seeking His blessings. It also gives you discipline, satisfaction and peace of mind.

Worship of God in any form and in any way one likes is good as it reduces the negative side of one's Karma and improves the positive effects. Before doing any auspicious work, Lord Ganesha is to be worshiped. Before doing any pooja, Lord Ganesha's pooja is to be performed first. Gather following items to do pooja.

- ☞ Lord Ganesha's moorti (or a big framed photo)
- ☞ Plantain leaf (if available or a plate) and rice for installing Lord's prateema.
- ☞ One plate (preferably a metallic one) and some rice (2-3 cups)
- ☞ Ghanta (bell)
- ☞ two coconuts or bananas
- ☞ Betel leaves, supaari (betel nuts)
- ☞ haldi, kumkum, akshata, flowers, garlands
- ☞ panchaamrita (honey, milk, ghee, curds, sugar - all in one cup)
- ☞ 2 small lamps with ghee and a cotton wick
- ☞ Agarbatti (and no camphor) and a match-box
- ☞ 2 small cups and a spoon, preferably metallic
- ☞ Some money for dakshina (Offering) to Lord Ganesha
- ☞ Sweets and other items for naivedya

Before doing pooja, keep the surroundings clean and nice. Be yourself clean, neat and tidy and follow the instructions.

- 1) Sit comfortably, fold your hands in namaste. Close your eyes, take a deep breath and chant OM (ॐ) slowly three times. Sound the bell for five seconds.
- 2) **Chant the following prayers:**

Pray Lord Ganesha

vakratuNDa mahaakaaya soorya koTi samaprabha |
nirvighnam kuru me deva sarva kaaryeshu sarvadaa ||

वक्रतुण्ड महाकाय सूर्यकोटिसमप्रभ ।
निर्विघ्नं कुरु मे देव सर्वकार्येषु सर्वदा ॥

O, God Ganesha, you are as bright as ten million Suns. I pray to you please remove all obstacles from my path.

Pray Goddess Saraswati

saraswati namastubhyam varade kaamaroopiNi |
poojaarambham karishyaami siddhir bhavatu me sadaa ||

सरस्वति नमस्तुभ्यं वरदे कामरूपिणि ।
पूजारम्भं करिष्यामि सिद्धिर्भवतु मे सदा ॥

Goddess Saraswati, my salutations to you. I am starting the pooja, please bless me with success.

Pray Guru (our teacher)

gurur brahmaa gurur viShNuH gurur devo maheshwaraH |
guruH saakshaat parabrahma tasmai shri gurave namaH ||

गुरुब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णुः गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः ।
गुरुस्साक्षात् परब्रह्म तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः ॥

The teacher is the embodiment of the trinity – Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva. To that Guru who is none other than the God Himself, I salute.

Chant 'sahana vavatu'

OM sahanaa vavatu | sahanau bhunaktu

Saha veeryam karavaavahai ||

Tejaswi-naa-vadheetamastu maa vidvishaavahai |

OM shaantiH shaantiH shaantiH ||

ॐ सहनाववतु सहनौ भुनक्तु । सह वीर्यं करवावहै ॥

तेजस्विनावधीतमस्तु माविद्विषावहै ।

ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

OM. May we protect each other. May we eat together, may we study together, and may we achieve together. May there not be any animosity amongst us. May there be peace, peace and peace.

- 3) **Make a resolve to perform the pooja.**

mama upaatta durita kshaya dwaaraa shree-parameshwara preeti
artham sarva abhiishTa siddhi artham dhyaana aavaahana aadi
ShoDasha upachaaraIH shree-mahaagaNapati poojaam kariShye|

मम उपात्त दुरितक्षय द्वारा श्रीपरमेश्वर प्रीत्यर्थं सर्वाभीष्ट सिद्धयर्थं
ध्यानावाहनादि षोडशोपचारैः श्रीमहागणपति पूजां करिष्ये ।

To forsake all my problems and to earn the Supreme Lord's love, and for the fulfillment of all my wishes, I shall worship Lord Ganesha by several means.

- 4) **Meditate upon Lord Ganesha.**

shukla-ambara-dharaM viShNuM shashi-varNaM chatur-bhujam|
prasanna-vadanaM dhyaayet sarva-vighnopa-shaantaye ||

शुक्लाम्बरधरं विष्णुं शशिवर्णं चतुर्भुजम् ।
प्रसन्नवदनं ध्यायेत् सर्वविघ्नोपशान्तये ॥

I meditate upon Lord Ganesha who is wearing white clothes, bright colored and has four arms. Pleasant faced Lord Ganesha removes all obstacles.

gajaananam bhootagaNaadi sevitam
kapittha jamboo phalasaara bhakshitam |
umaasutam shoka vinaasha kaaraNam
namaami vighneshwara paada pankajam ||

गजाननं भूतगणादिसेवितं कपित्थ-जम्बू-फलसार-भक्षितम् ।
उमासुतं शोकविनाशकारणं नमामि विघ्नेश्वर पादपङ्कजम् ॥

I pray to the lotus feet of elephant headed Lord Ganapati, who is served by one and all, who likes fruits, who is son of Goddess Paarvati and who removes root cause of all miseries.

shrii-mahaa-gaNa-adhipataye namaH| dhyayaami||
श्रीमहागणाधिपतये नमः । ध्यायामि ।

5) **Invite the Lord to come to you to receive your worship.**

atra aagachcha jagadwandya suraraaja architeshwara |
anaathanaatha sarvajna gourii garbha samudbhava ||
Shrii-mahaa-gaNa-adhipataye namaH| Aavaahayaami||

अत्रागच्छ जगद्वन्द्य सुरराजाचितेश्वर ।
अनाथनाथ सर्वज्ञ गौरीगर्भसमुद्भव ॥
श्रीमहागणाधिपतये नमः । आवाहयामि ॥

I invite you to come here, O Lord Ganesha, saluted by the world, the one worshipped by the king of Gods, lord of all, the all-knower, son of Goddess Gowri.

6) **Offer seat to Lord Ganesha.**

mouktikaiH puShya raagaishca naanaa ratna viraajitam |
ratna simhaasanam caaru priityartham pratiguhyataam ||
Shrii-mahaa-gaNa-adhipataye namaH| aasanam samarpayaami||

मोक्तिकैः पुष्यरागैश्च नाना-रत्न-विराजितम् ।
रत्नसिंहासनं चारु-प्रीत्यर्थं प्रतिगुह्यताम् ॥
श्रीमहागणाधिपतये नमः । आसनं समर्पयामि ।

I offer to you, Lord Ganesha, to please you and seat you, all gems-studded throne. Please accept it.

7) **Offer Lord Ganesha water, milk and honey.**

mahaa-gaNa-adhipataye namaH |
paadayOH paadyam samarpayaami|
महागणाधिपतये नमः ।
पादयोः पाद्यं समर्पयामि ।

I offer water to wash the feet of Lord Ganesha, the leader of all troops.

gowri-putraaya namaH | hastayoH arghyam samarpayaami |
गौरीपुत्राय नमः । हस्तयोः अर्घ्यं समर्पयामि ।

I offer water to wash the hands of Lord Ganesha, the son of Goddess Gowri.

anaatha-naathaaya namaH | aacamaniyam samarpayaami |
अनाथनाथाय नमः । मुखे आचमनीयं समर्पयामि ।

I offer drinking water to Lord Ganesha, who is the Lord of all.

gajavaktraaya namaH | madhuparkam samarpayaami |
गजवक्राय नमः । मधुपर्कं समर्पयामि ।

I offer the traditional mixture of milk and honey to the elephant headed Lord Ganesha.

8) **Offer panchamritam (milk, curd, ghee, honey and sugar) to Lord Ganesha. Take milk, curd, ghee, honey and sugar in small cups. Use separate cups or mix them all in a cup. Dip a flower in the cup and worship with that flower.**

snaanam panchaamritaiH deva grihaaNa gaNa naayaka|
anaatha naatha sarvajna giirvaaNa paripoojita ||
Shrii-mahaa-gaNa-adhipataye namaH|
panchaamrita snaanam samarpayaami||

स्नानं पञ्चामृतैः देव गृहाण गणनायक ।

अनाथनाथ सर्वज्ञ गीर्वाणपरिपूजित ॥

श्रीमहागणाधिपतये नमः । पञ्चामृत-स्नानं समर्पयामि ॥

Oh gaNa naayaka, Lord, God, all-knowledgeable! please accept
panchaamirta snaanam.

mahaa-gaNapataye namaH| kshiireNa snaapayaami ||

महागणपतये नमः । क्षीरेण स्नापयामि ॥

I wash him with milk

mahaa-gaNapataye namaH, dadhnaa snaapayaami |

महागणपतये नमः । दध्ना स्नापयामि ।

I wash him with curd

mahaa-gaNapataye namaH, aajyena snaapayaami |

महागणपतये नमः । आज्येन स्नापयामि ।

I wash him with ghee

mahaa-gaNapataye namaH, madhunaa snaapayaami |

महागणपतये नमः मधुना स्नापयामि ।

I wash him with honey

mahaa-gaNapataye namaH, sharkarayaa snaapayaami |

महागणपतये नमः । शर्करया स्नापयामि ।

I wash him with sugar

9) **Finally offer clean water to Lord Ganesha to finish his bath.**

gangaadi sarva tiirthebhyaH aahritaiH amalaiH jalaiH |

snaanam kurushva bhagavan umaa putra namostute ||

mahaa-gaNapataye namaH|

shuddhodaka snaanam samarpayaami |

गङ्गादि-सर्वतीर्थेभ्यः आहितैरमलैर्जलैः ।

स्नानं कुरुष्व भगवन् उमापुत्र नमोस्तुते ॥

महागणपतये नमः । शुद्धोदकस्नानं समर्पयामि ।

Salutations to you, O God, the son of umaa putra! Please take bath with
this fresh, clean water from all the tiirthaas like ganga. I offer clean water
bath to Lord Ganesha.

10) **Now offer dress-pair to Lord Ganesha.**

mahaa-gaNapataye namaH| vastra yugmam samarpayaami|

महागणपतये नमः । वस्त्रयुग्मं समर्पयामि ।

I offer dress pair to Lord Ganesha.

11) **Worship the Lord Ganesha with a bit of turmeric, kumkum,
sandle paste and akshata.**

candanaagaru karpooram kastoorii kumkumaanvitam |

vilepanam sura shreshTa priityartham prati grihyataam ||

चन्दनागरु कर्पूरं कस्तूरी कुङ्कुमान्वितम् ।

विलेपनं सुरश्रेष्ठ प्रीत्यर्थं प्रतिगृह्यताम् ॥

I offer sandal wood paste (chandana), incense sticks (agaru), camphor
(karpooram), kumkuma for applying, to Lord Ganesha.

mahaa-gaNapataye namaH| gandhaan samarpayaami|

महागणपतये नमः । गन्धान् समर्पयामि ।

I offer sandal wood paste.

mahaa-gaNapataye namaH|
haridraa kumkumena cha poojayaami|

महागणपतये नमः । हरिद्रा कुंकुमेन च पूजयामि ।

I worship Lord Ganesha with haridra (turmeric) and kumkum.

mahaa-gaNapataye namaH. akSataan samarpayaami.

महागणपतये नमः । अक्षतान् समर्पयामि ।

I offer grand, good akshataas (colored rice) to Lord Ganesha.

12) Worship the Lord with flowers.

sugandhaani pushpaaNi jaajiiikunda mukhaanicha |
eka vimshati patraaNi samgruhaaNa namostute ||
mahaa-gaNapataye namaH| pushpaiH poojayaami||

सुगन्धानि पुष्पाणि जाजीकुन्दसुखानिच ।

एकविंशति पत्राणि सङ्गृहाण नमोस्तुते ॥

महागणपतये नमः । पुष्पैः पूजयामि ।

I offer fragrant flowers and 21 types of leaves. Please accept them.

13) Praise Lord Ganesha by famous twelve names.

I salute Lord Ganesha who is

Om sumukhaaya namaH	ॐ सुमुखाय नमः ।	Pleasant faced
OM ekadantaaya namaH	ॐ एकदन्ताय नमः ।	One toothed
OM kapilaaya namaH	ॐ कपिलाय नमः ।	Kapila
OM gaja karNakaaya namaH	ॐ गजकर्णकाय नमः ।	Elephant eared
OM lambodaraaya namaH	ॐ लम्बोदराय नमः ।	Big stomached
OM vikaTaaya namaH	ॐ विकटाय नमः ।	Wise
OM vighna raajaaya namaH	ॐ विघ्नराजाय नमः ।	Master of all obstacles
OM gaNaadhipataye namaH	ॐ गणाधिपतये नमः ।	Leader
OM dhoomaketave namaH	ॐ धूमकेतवे नमः ।	Powerful

OM gaNaadhyakShaaya namaH ॐ गणाध्यक्षाय नमः । President of all groups

OM phaalachandraaya namaH ॐ फालचन्द्राय नमः । Having crescent moon on forehead

OM gajaananaaya namaH ॐ गजाननाय नमः । Elephant faced

14) Offer the Lord agarbatti (incense sticks) Take one or two sticks, lighten them and circle the photo/idol three to five times in clockwise direction.

dashaamgam guggulopetam sugandham sumanoharam |
umaa sutam namastubhyam gruhaaNa varadobhava ||
mahaa-gaNa-pataye namaH. dhoopaartham diipam darshayaami.

दशाङ्गं गुग्गुलोपेतं सुगन्धं सुमनोहरम् ।

उमासुतं नमस्तुभ्यं गृहाण वरदोभव ॥

महागणपतये नमः । धूपार्थं दीपं दर्शयामि ॥

15) Show him deepam with a solitary lamp or a lamp with an oil soaked cotton wick.

saadyam trivarti samyuktam vahninaa yojitam mayaa |
gruhaaNa mangalam diipam iishaputra namostute ||
mahaa-gaNa-pataye namaH| deepam darshayaami||

साद्यं त्रिवर्तिसम्युक्तं वह्निना योजितं मया ।

गृहाण मङ्गलं दीपं ईशपुत्र नमोस्तुते ॥

महागणपतये नमः । दीपं दर्शयामि ॥

16) Offer Lord Ganesha all fruits that you have specially made for Him to eat. Take a flower along with few grains of colored rice in your right hand. Pour a spoon of water into your right hand. Sprinkle the water on all the items and offer the flower and rice to God. Feel as if God has actually eaten what you offered him.

Fold your hands do namaste to God.

OM lambodaraaya namaH| mahaanaivedyam samarpayaami||

ॐ लम्बोदराय नमः । महानैवेद्यं समर्पयामि ।

- 17) Offer taamboolam – beetle leaves and supaari to Lord Ganesh after His Meal.

OM mahaa-gaNā-adhipataye namaH. taamboolam samarpayaami.

ॐ महागणाधिपतये नमः । ताम्बूलं समर्पयामि ।

- 18) Now offer aarti to the Lord. Show the lamp and circle the image/photo three times in the clockwise direction. Sound the metallic bell as well.

OM mahaa-gaNāpataye namaH. mangala niiraajanam samarpayaami.

ॐ महागणपतये नमः । मङ्गलनीराजनं समर्पयामि ।

- 19) Stand up straight. Fold your hands and do namaste. Turn clockwise three rounds.

yaani kaani cha paapaani janmaantara krutaanicha |
taani taani pranashyanti pradakshinam pade pade ||

यानि कानि च पापानि जन्मान्तरकृतानि च ।

तानि तानि प्रणश्यन्ति प्रदक्षिणं पदे पदे ॥

Please forgive all my mistakes.

- 20) Do saashTaanga namaskaar to the God (with your feet, knees, chest, palms and forehead touching the ground.)

anyathaa sharaNam naasti tvameva sharaNam mama |
tasmaat vaatsalya bhaavena paahi maam gaNaadhipa ||

अन्यथा शरणं नास्ति त्वमेव शरणं मम ।

तस्मात् वात्सल्यभावेन पाहि मां गणाधिप ॥

You are the final solace and protector. That's why protect and guide me out of love.

- 21) Take prasaad (anything offered to God is prasaad – water, fruits and other eatables.) Eat/drink it happily.

mahaa-gaNāpati-prasaadam aanandena sviikaromi.

महागणपतिप्रसादम् आनन्देन स्वीकरोमि ।

I happily partake Lord Ganesh's prasād.

- 22) Take akshataas and listen to the following story. At the end, do namaskaar to the God and your parents. Have your parents bless you with the mantra akshataas that you had in your hand.

Story: The great land of bhaarat (India), which is referred in all the dharma literatures, puraaNaas and itihaasaas (history), was full of greenery, beautiful landscapes, with all rivers giving fresh water, fertile land, eco-balance. In there, sage soota, who is an ancient historian, used to teach several shaastraas to other sages like Sounaka.

Dharmaraaja, who is born in the chandra dynasty, lost all his kingdom, wealth and power to kauravaas by losing the gambling game. In the forests, during exile, he, along with his brothers and wife, visited several sages. He also visits sage soota and says “O great soul! We lost all our kingdom and wealth. We are pleased by your darshan now. Please prescribe any vrata with which we can get back all that we lost.” Sage Soota replied, “There is a vrata which removes all sins and gives all wealth. Bhagavaan Shiva first described this to kumara swami.” Sage soota continues to tell the vrata story details.

Shiva tells kumara swami “Vinaayaka vrata gives health and wealth. That needs to be done on the fourth day of shukla paksha of the Bhaadrapada month. Finish all ablutions early in the morning, and with whatever one can afford (Gold, silver or clay), make an idol of Lord Ganesh. Install Him in the northern area of your home, on a dias well decorated with flowers, rice and rangoli. Do all the pooja activities like dhoopa, diipa, niiraajana, naivedya.... offerings. Meet friends and family and have lunch and dinner with them. Whoever does it this way, is always happy and meets all his wishes. This is one of the great vrataas, which is performed by several great people like Shri Krishna, Shri Rama, Bhagiratha and Indra. Soota tells dharmaraja “So, dharmaraja! You also do this ganesh pooja. You can win over your enemies and get back all the wealth.

Earlier, Shri Krishna also performed this vrata and obtained jaambavati along with shamantakamani. King satraajit obtained shamantakamani, a bright shining gem, as a gift from Lord soorya. Shri Krishna liked it and asked Satraajit for it. He denied giving it. Satraajit's brother wore that shamantakamani and went for hunting. A lion killed him and was running away with the gem. Jaambavanta, a bear-king, killed that lion, and took the shamantakamani with him to his cave. Satraajit accuses Shri Krishna that he killed his brother and stole shamantakamani. Shri Krishna realizes and tells balaraama, that this is because he had to violate the ganesh chaturthi shaapa, not to see moon that night. He happened to see the reflection of moon in the cup of milk that he was having that night. Balaraama asks Krishna to tell the details of the shaapa.

Krishna tells "On this chaturthi day, vinaayaka had a heavy meal of all the sweets and dishes that he likes most. With a heavy, large stomach when he was walking, chandra looks at him and mocks. Indignified, vinayaka gives shapa to the moon, that whoever sees moon on this day, shall be falsely accused. Chandra realizes his mistake and begs pardon of Ganapati. He then tells that, as told by Shiva to kumara swami, if one does ganesh pooja on this 4th day of bhadrapada maasa, they will not face these blames. So, then onwards several people, including chandra did Ganesh pooja."

Then, Shri Krishna and balarama do Ganesh Pooja, take prasadam, and go to jaambavanta. Jaambavanta gladly gives back shamantakamani and offers jaambavati in marriage to Shri Krishna. Upon return, Shri Krishna goes to satraajit and gives back his shamantakamani. Satraajit feels sorry, and happily offers his daughter satyabhaama in marriage to him."

Soota continues saying the story that "indra, in order to kill vrutthaasrua, shri Rama, when searching for Sita, bhagiratha, when

bringing ganga to earth performed this vrata." Dharmaraja also performs this vrata and gets back all that he lost and lives happily. By doing this vrata, since everybody is able to fulfill (siddhi) his wishes, vinayaka has become popularly known as "siddhi vinayaka." So, all people can do this vrata and may live happily forever.

23) After reciting the following shaanti mantra, clean-up your pooja place.

sarve bhavantu sukhinaH | sarve santu niraamayaaH ||
sarve bhadraaNi paSyantu | maa kashchid duHkha bhaag bhavet ||
OM shaantiH shaantiH shaantiH ||

सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः । सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः ॥

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु । मा कश्चिद् दुःखभाग् भवेत् ॥

ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

Let all live happily. Let all live without misery. Let all see, hear and perceive only good things. Let no one ever be sad.