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“Class for Children & Youth” on 17th March, 2013

WTT Retreat Centre, Vizag.

- Master K. Parvathi Kumar

(Master begins the class with the chanting of the Ganapati Shodasanamas for 3 times.)

Ganapati Shodasanamas:

OM Sumukhaaya namah
OM Ekadantaaya namah
OM Kapilaaya namah
OM Gajakarnakaaya namah
OM Lambodaraaya namah
OM Vikataaya namah
OM Vighnaraajaaya namah
OM Ganaadhipaaya namah
OM Dhoomaketave namah
OM Ganaadhyakshaaya namah
OM Phaalachandraaya namah
OM Gajaananaaya namah
OM Vakratundaaya namah
OM Surpakarnaaya namah
OM Herambaaya namah
OM Skandhapoorvajaaya namah
OM Sarvasiddhipradayakaya namah
OM Sri MahaGanapadhipataye namah

If you know the meaning of these 16 names, it will give you better orientation and inspiration. We start every mantra with OM because it is the seed sound for all mantras. Without OM, the mantra has no effect. It is a tradition to begin every mantra with OM except for a few mantras which are equivalent to OM (Eg. Gum Ganapataye Namah, Kleem Krishnaya).

1) Sumukhaya - One who is pleased with us and we should pray to Ganapati that he should be pleased with us. When Ganapati is pleased with us, he will grant us boons. When he is pleased with us, everyone will be pleased with us and respect us because he is present in all. Everyone will cooperate with us when they are pleased with us. When we go to an interview, if the interviewer is pleased with us, we will get that job. Similarly when we write an exam, if the examiner is pleased with us, we will get more marks. In fact, these are very small things. This applies to bigger things as well. So this applies for every single activity in our life. Everyone would be pleased with us if the Lord is pleased with us. Closing our eyes, we should visualize that Ganapati is seeing us in a pleased manner.

2) Ekadanya - Ganapati has only 1 tusk because he killed a Rakshasa (diabolic one) with the other tusk. The 2 tusks correspondent to the divine and diabolic natures in us. The 1 tusk of Ganapati corresponds to divine nature and divine thoughts in us. So we pray to Ganapati to ensure that we get only divine thoughts and we perform only actions in accordance with divine thoughts. Divine thoughts are those which are useful to us. This is very important. Otherwise there will be no expansion in your life. If you feel like owning a car now, it is not the right thought for your age. Only when you grow big and earn enough, you can think of buying a car. Live in the present and don't dream too much about the future. You will end up nowhere. If you are not able to wake up early, if you are sleeping more, if you wasting most of your time, all these mean that you are dominated by diabolic nature. So if you pray to Ganapati, he will ensure that the diabolic nature recedes and divine nature expands in you.

3) Kapilaya - Kapila is the first Lord on earth. He gave the knowledge of the whole creation for the first time. He is present in our Muladhara (Base Centre). He grants devotion, Yoga and renunciation. It is said that Ganapati and Kapila belong to the one principle. So he is also known with the name Kapila.

4) Gajakarnakaya - Karna means ear. Gaja means elephant. Elephant has huge ears and is the largest among all the animals. Here the sublime meaning of large ears means listening more and talking less. One who cannot listen well cannot talk well. Ganapati has amazing hearing capability. Large ears also exemplify knowledge.

Elephant is the symbol of wisdom in the Veda. By praying to Ganapati, our listening becomes more attentive and we talk less. The more you talk, the less you do and the less you talk, the more you do. You also know what is to be heard and what is not. That which expands your wisdom should be heard and other things can be ignored. All the useless chit chatting that happens need not be heard. Ganapati also helps you in that discrimination. He grants you lot of wisdom when you are attentive in your listening.

Ganapati may even speak to you but if you really have to hear him, you should be very good in listening. He may give you some instruction through some medium but you can receive it only when you are subtle keen listener. So listening is very important. Jupiter presides over listening ability. Ganapati is the presiding deity of Jupiter. Once you become a keen listener, with an ability to filter unnecessary content, then lot of useful information will gather in you and your actions will also be guided.

5) Lambodaraya - It means large stomach. We should see that the idol of Ganapati that we get has a large belly. It indicates plentiful and fulfilling; plentiful and fulfilling in every aspect. He ensures that we are plentiful and fulfilled in every aspect. People are not satisfied because of their un-fulfillment. He ensures that you are fulfilled and satisfied.

6) Vikataya - The form of Ganapati is strange but attractive. It even attracts children. A human body with elephant head and a huge belly is strange. He is very short. He has only 1 tusk. He has moon on his forehead. Even with such a form, he does magnificent acts. As his form is very

uncommon, he attracts everyone's attention. That is what always happens. We are attracted when anything is uncommon.

7) Vignarajaya - He is the Lord of hindrances. It means that any hindrance works under him. Sometimes it is good for us if some work does not happen as we like. He ensures that such things which are not good for us are hindered. He will ensure that only that which is good to us happens. Such things happen in our life. When a thing does not happen as planned, we feel sad but later we come to know that it has saved us from some danger. So Ganapati causes hindrances to some of our acts to ensure that we are in the right path. There are many stories in the Puranas as well where Ganapati has hindered some acts for the good of the creation.

In Ramayana, Vibhishana (Ravana's brother), who was coronated as the King of Lanka after Ravana was killed by Rama, attended the coronation of Rama as the King of Ayodhya. Before returning to Lanka, Rama grants Vibhishana a boon and Vibhishana requests Rama to come to Lanka. As it was not possible, Rama gives Vibhishana an idol (It is idol is named Sri Ranganatha) and says "My energies are completely present in this idol. You install this idol in Lanka and it will ensure my presence in Lanka." Lanka is actually a place where Rakshasas live and the devas (intelligences) fear that installing such a powerful idol in Lanka would be dangerous.

So the intelligences request Ganapati to do something. On the way to Lanka, Ganapati appears in disguise before Vibhishana at a place now called Thiruvananthapuram (also called Trivandrum, capital city of Kerala state in India) and tells him "The idol will have its effect only when you take bath in the nearby river and get purified." So Vibhishana places the idol at that place and goes for a bath. It gets stuck to that place and it could be moved.

We don't know what is good for us and what will uplift us. Ganapati ensures that we do only such acts.

After completing my PUC, I did not get enough marks to join in engineering. I got seat in the University in different branches of which I had to choose one. I joined in a course with Chemistry as main subject. After completing 3 months of course, my father wrote a letter to leave that course and join in a course with Commerce as main. It was a subject which had no significance at that time. But I joined that course as told by my father. Now-a-days this course has become very prominent. While studying commerce, I prepared for the Indian Administrative Services Exam along with my brother. Everyone opined that I was better than my brother in many aspects and I was sure to become an officer in the Indian Administrative Services. But my father told me not to go for IAS and he told me to do CA. Only because of doing CA, I stand now on my own and I have complete control over my time. I did not have to work under anyone. I had complete freedom. If I had done any other course, I would have not had time for many other activities. And I had the opportunity and time to associate with Master EK and WTT. I feel that all the events in my life turned out in this manner only because of worshipping the divine.

So when you are worshipping Ganapati ardently, he will ensure that you are in the right path.

8) Ganadhipaya – There is a groups called Pramada Ganas working with Lord Shiva. Ganapati is the Lord of that group. They do not function without the consent of Ganapati. He is the Lord of all groupings in creation.

9) Dhoomaketave – It means speed beyond our imagination. Ganapati moves at such speed. Ganapati is faster than thought. It is said that thought is the fastest but Ganapati can move faster than thought. It is the speed at which he can move. Ganapati's vehicle is the Rat. Rat stands for skill. A Rat has the best skills among all the animals. Its movement is so fast and skillful. If he wants to save you, he can be present instantaneously. So Dhoomaketave means spontaneity in movement.

10) Ganadhyakya - He is the ruler of all groupings. He not only stands as the presiding one, he also rules them. He is both the President and Prime minister of all the groups of intelligences in creation.

11) Phalachandraya - Ganapati has moon on his forehead. Moon represents our mind. He has waxing and waning. Our mind also wavers like that. We require a stable mind. One with stable one is said to be Phalachandra or one having moon on his forehead. If there is no stable mind, we get tired very easily. Ganapati ensures that our mind is stable. A mind which is highly exalted is stable.

12) Gajananaya - Anana means face. Gaja is elephant. Elephant face is a symbol of wisdom. Ganapati has elephant face and he ensures that we grow in wisdom. It may be worldly wisdom or spiritual wisdom; for all wisdom Ganapati is the Lord. That is why for students, worship of Ganapati is very important.

13) Vakratunda – Ganapati's trunk is curved or twisted. It is a symbol for us to remember that as we are not fulfilled, there will be twists (skewed behavior) in us and we pray to Ganapati that any such twists are eliminated. Non-alignment in thought, speech and action is one of biggest skewed behaviors' in this world.

14) Surpakarnaya – It means the one with large ears. It is similar to the name Gajakarna. The meaning coming in two names tells us that there is more emphasis on the aspect of listening. It is very important for one to learn and expand.

15) Herambaya - Ganapati would be pleased when we praise him. He responds and works for our welfare when we praise him. The acts that we do would be simplified and happen effortlessly. All the intelligences would cooperate with us when Ganapati is pleased with us. None of the devas (intelligences) need anything from you. You need not give Ganapati any money or riches. Just praise him and he will take care of you. It is not that the intelligences feel great and happy when you praise them but they respond to your call and cooperate with you. They are elder to us and can help us in every aspect. It is just that we need to salute them to receive their help. The results of your work would be very fruitful.

By worshipping Ganapati, not only Ganapati but all the intelligences and Masters help you because he the Master of all Masters in this universe.

16) Skandapurvajaya - It means the one who is born before Kumara (Subrahmanya). Ganapati is one above Kumara in all aspects. Ganapati is also said to be the first Master of Kumara.

17) Sarvasiddhipradayakaya - He will grant you many Siddhis. Siddhis means the ability to do magnificent acts just by thinking. We know Masters like Shirdi Sai Baba who displayed many Siddhis. He did magnificent acts just by the wave of his hand. There are many others Masters who can do so. So Ganapati will also grant us such Siddhis and we can use them for the welfare of others.

So chant all these names of Ganapati daily in the morning and also try to remember the meaning of each name when you chant it. You can learn many other things if this is stabilized in you. This is the basis for any learning. Before you start any work, recollect Ganapati once. This is a very simple instruction. Do it daily without fail. It should become an integral part of your life.

We will continue in the next class.

-Swasthi