

CHAPTER 13 Birth of Gaṇeśa

सूत उवाच

तारकारेरिति श्रुत्वा वृत्तमद्भुतमुत्तमम्।

नारदः सुप्रसन्नोऽथ पप्रच्छ प्रीतितो विधिम्॥ १॥

Sūta said, "Listening to the astonishing type of the story of the enemy of Tārakāsura, Nārada delightfully asked Brahmā."

नारद उवाच

देवदेव! प्रजानाथ! शिवज्ञाननिधे! मया।

श्रुतं कार्तिकसद्वृत्तममृतादपि चोत्तमम्॥ २॥

Nārada said, "O Prajāpati, O God of gods, well-versed in the *Śiva-tattva*, I have listened to the story of Kārtikeya, which is far better than the nectar."

अधुना श्रोतुमिच्छामि गाणेशं वृत्तमुत्तमम्।

तज्जन्मचरितं दिव्यं सर्वमङ्गलमङ्गलम्॥ ३॥

Now I would like to listen to the story of the birth of Gaṇeśa, who bestows welfare even to the welfare."

सूत उवाच

इत्याकर्ण्य वचस्तस्य नारदस्य महामुने!।

प्रसन्नमानसो ब्रह्मा प्रत्युवाच शिवं स्मरन्॥ ४॥

Sūta said, "Listening to these words of Nārada, the delightful Brahmā, devoting his mind at Śiva's feet said."

ब्रह्मोवाच

कल्पभेदाद्गणेशस्य जनिः प्रोक्ता विधेः परात्।

शनिदृष्टं शिरश्छिन्नं सञ्चितं गाजमाननम्॥ ५॥

Brahmā said, "Because of the difference in the *kalpas*, there are several stories of the birth of Gaṇeśa. Once, because of Saturn's casting his gaze over Gaṇeśa, the latter's head was cut off and it was replaced with the head of an elephant."

इदानीं श्वेतकल्पोक्ता गणेशोत्पत्तिरुच्यते।

यत्र छिन्नं शिरस्तस्य शिवेन च कृपालुना॥६॥

Presently, the story of the birth of Gaṇeśa in the *Śveta kalpa* is being narrated, wherein, the compassionate Śiva, had himself cut off his head.

सन्देहो नात्र कर्तव्यः शङ्करः सूतिकृन्मुनेः॥

स हि सर्वाधिपः शम्भुर्निर्गुणः सगुणोऽपि हि॥७॥

O Sage, there should be no doubt about the performance of Śiva, the creator of the universe. The same Śiva in spite of his being with and without attributes, happens to be the lord of all.

तल्लीलयाऽखिलं विश्वं सृज्यते पाल्यते तथा।

विनाश्यते मुनिश्रेष्ठ! प्रस्तुतं शृणु चादरात्॥८॥

O Excellent sage, because of his divine sport there is the creation, preservation and the destruction in the world. You listen to the rest.

उद्धाहिते शिवे चात्र कैलासं च गते सति।

कियता चैव कालेन जातो गणपतेर्भवः॥९॥

Long time after the marriage of Śiva and his proceeding to Kailāsa, Gaṇeśa was born

एकस्मिन्नेव काले च जया च विजया सखी।

पार्वत्या च मिलित्वा वै विचारे तत्पराऽभवत्॥१०॥

Once the maids of Pārvatī, known as Jayā and Vijayā, entered into consultations with Pārvatī.

रुद्रस्य च गणाः सर्वे शिवस्याज्ञापरायणाः।

ते सर्वेऽप्यस्मदीयाश्च नन्दिभृङ्गिपुरःसराः॥११॥

“The *gaṇas* of Śiva, are always obedient to him, including Nandī, Bhr̥ṅgī and others.

प्रमथास्ते हासङ्घाता अस्मदीयो न कश्चन।

द्वारि तिष्ठन्ति ते सर्वे शङ्कराज्ञापरायणाः॥१२॥

The number of *Pramathas* is beyond counting, but none of them belongs to us. They also guard the gate at the command of Śiva.

ते सर्वेऽप्यस्मदीयाश्च तथापि न मिलेन्मनः।

एकश्चैवास्मदीयो हि रचनीयस्त्वयाऽनघे॥१३॥

They are ours no doubt, but we are not mentally akin to them. O Auspicious one, you should with the permission of Śiva, patronise some one as your own.”

ब्रह्मोवाच

इत्युक्त्वा पार्वती देवी सखीभ्यां सुन्दरं वचः।

हितं मेने तदा तच्च कर्तुं स्माप्यध्यवस्यति॥१४॥

Brahmā said, “The words spoken by the maids, were taken to be favourable by Pārvatī and started making efforts to materialise the proposal.

ततः कदाचिन्मज्जत्यां पार्वत्यां वै सदाशिवः।

नन्दिनं परिभर्त्स्यथ्य ह्याजगाम गृहान्तरम्॥१५॥

After sometime, Pārvatī was taking bath. Then Śiva entered the house scolding Nandī.

आयान्तं शङ्करं दृष्ट्वा समये जगदम्बिका।

उत्तस्थौ मज्जती सा वै लज्जिता सुन्दरी तदा॥१६॥

When the mother of the world found Śiva arriving, she felt shy and got up.

तस्मिन्नवसरे देवी कौतुकेनातिसंयुता।

तदीयं तद्वचश्चैव हितं मेने सुखावहम्॥१७॥

She was filled with curiosity and wonder, and she realised the proposal of her maid to be quite practicable.

एवं जाते तदा काले कदाचित्पार्वती शिवा।

विचिन्त्य मनसा चेति परमा या परेश्वरी॥१८॥

Thus after the lapse of sometime, Parameśvarī Śivā thought in her mind.

मदीयः सेवकः कश्चिद्भवेच्छुभतरः कृती।

मदाज्ञया परं नान्यद्रेखामात्रं चलेदिह॥१९॥

“I should have a servant exclusive to myself, who should be extremely competent and efficient and who should not move even slightly, without my command.”

विचार्येति च सा देवी वपुषो मलसम्भवम्।
पुरुषं निर्ममौ सा तु सर्वलक्षणसंयुतम्॥ २०॥

Thus thinking, she took some dirt out of her body and made a human figure.

सर्वावयवनिर्दोषं सर्वावयवसुन्दरम्।
विशालं सर्वशोभाढ्यं महाबलप्रराक्रमम्॥ २१॥

It was free of all the defects. All the limbs of the body were made beautiful and were of big size. It looked graceful and was immensely valorous.

वस्त्राणि च तदा तस्मै दत्त्वा सा विविधानि हि।
नानालङ्करणं चैव बह्वाशिषमनुत्तमाम्॥ २२॥

It was clad with the best of costumes and adorned with the best of ornaments. She then pronounced the best of blessings for him.

मत्पुत्रस्त्वं मदीयोऽसि नान्यः कश्चिदिहास्ति मे।
एवमुक्तः स पुरुषो नमस्कृत्य शिवां जगौ॥ २३॥

Then she said to him, "You are my son, you belong to me, there is no one else who could be called as mine, except you." At these words of Pārvatī, the person, bowed in reverence to Pārvatī and praised her.

गणेश उवाच

किं कार्यं विद्यते तेऽद्य करवामि तवोदितम्।
इत्युक्त्वा सा तदा तेन प्रत्युवाच सुतं शिवा॥ २४॥

Gaṇeśa said, "What is your task for me today, which should be performed by me at your command?" When he so asked Pārvatī, she replied.

शिवोवाच

हे तात! शृणु मद्वाक्यं द्वारपालो भवाद्य मे।
मत्पुत्रस्त्वं मदीयोऽसि नान्यथा कश्चिदस्ति मे॥ २५॥

Pārvatī said, "O Son, you listen to my words. You function as my gate-keeper today. You are my son. No one else, except you, belongs to me.

विना मदाज्ञां सत्पुत्र! नैवायन्मद्गृहान्तरम्।
कोऽपि क्वापि हठात्तात! सत्यमेतन्मयोदितम्॥ २६॥

O Son, no one should enter my house without my command, even forcibly. I have spoken truthfully to you."

ब्रह्मोवाच

इत्युक्त्वा च ददौ तस्मै यष्टिं चात्तिदृढां मुनेः।
तदीयं रूपमालोक्य सुन्दरं हर्षमागता॥ २७॥

Brahmā said, "O Sage, thus speaking she gave him a strong staff. She got pleased at his beautiful form.

मुखमाचुष्य सुप्रीत्यालिङ्ग्य तं कृपया सुतम्।
स्वद्वारिं स्थापयामास यष्टिपाणिं गणाधिपम्॥ २८॥

She kissed his face lovingly, embracing him she gave him a staff to be held by him in his hand and then placed him on duty at the gate to guard it.

अथ देवीसुतस्तात! गृहद्वारिं स्थितो गणः।
यष्टिपाणिर्महावीरः पार्वतीहितकाम्यया॥ २९॥

O Dear one, the valorous Gaṇeśa, holding a staff in his hand, was guarding the gate at the instance of Pārvatī.

स्वद्वारिं स्थापयित्वा तं गणेशं स्वसुतं शिवा।
स्वयं च मञ्जती सा वै संस्थितासीत्सखीयुता॥ ३०॥

Placing her son Gaṇeśa, on duty at the gate, Pārvatī was taking bath with her maid.

एतस्मिन्नेव काले तु शिवो द्वारिं समागतः।
कौतुकी मुनिशार्दूल! नानालीलाविशारदः॥ ३१॥

At the same time, Śiva, who was quite curious and well-versed in the divine sports, reached the gate.

उवाच च शिवेशं तमविज्ञाय गणाधिपः।
मातुराज्ञां विना देव! गम्यतां न त्वयाऽधुना॥ ३२॥

Then Gaṇeśa, without recognising Śiva, said to him, "O Deva, you cannot enter the house without the permission of my mother.

मञ्जुनार्थं स्थिता माता क्रु यासीतो ब्रजाधुना।
इत्युक्त्वा यष्टिकां तस्य रोधनाय तदाग्रहीत्॥ ३३॥

My mother is taking her bath inside. Where are you going? You better leave this place at once.” Thus speaking, he raised the *danḍa* to stop the entry of Śiva into the house.

तं दृष्ट्वा तु शिवः प्राह कं निषेधसि मूढधीः।
मां न जानास्यसद्बुद्धे शिवोऽहमिति नान्यथा॥ ३४॥

Looking at him Śiva said, “O Fool, whom are you obstructing? O Evil minded one, don't you know me? I am Śiva in reality.”

ताडितस्तेन यष्ट्या हि गणेशेन महेश्वरः।
प्रत्युवाच स तं पुत्रं बहुलीलश्च कोपितः॥ ३५॥

Then Gaṇeśa, struck Śiva with his *danḍa*. Then Śiva who was well-versed in divine sports, said to the boy.

शिव उवाच

मूर्खोऽसि त्वं न जानासि शिवोऽहं गिरिजापतिः।
स्वगृहं यामि रे बाल! निषेधसि कथं हि माम्॥ ३६॥

Śiva said, “You are a fool Don't you know me? I am Śiva, the husband of Girijā. O Boy, I am entering my own house. Why do you prevent me from doing so?”

ब्रह्मोवाच

इत्युक्त्वा प्रविशन्तं तं महेशं गणनायकः।
क्रोधं कृत्वा ततो विप्र! दण्डेनाताडयत्पुनः॥ ३७॥

Brahmā said, “Thus speaking, when Śiva again tried to enter his house he was again beaten by Gaṇeśa with the *danḍa*.”

ततः शिवश्च सद्बुद्धो गणानाज्ञापयन्निजान्।
को वाऽयं वर्तते किं च क्रियते पश्यतां गणाः॥ ३८॥

Then getting enraged, Śiva commanded his *gaṇas*, “Who is he? What does he want to do? O *Gaṇas*, you look at him.”

इत्युक्त्वा तु शिवस्तत्र स्थितः क्रुद्धो गृहाद्धिः।
भवाचाररतः स्वामी बह्वद्भुतमुलीलकः॥ ३९॥

Thus speaking Śiva, following the worldly traditions and who performed several types of astonishing sports, sat outside the house getting annoyed.

इति श्रीशिवमहापुराणे द्वितीयायां रुद्रसंहितायां चतुर्थे
कुमारखण्डे गणेशोत्पत्तिवर्णनं नाम त्रयोदशोऽध्यायः ॥१३॥
