

## CHAPTER TWENTYTHREE

*The Origin of Vināyaka**Prajāpāla said:*

1. O good sage, I am eager to know how Gaṇapati was born. Be pleased to tell me.

*Mahātāpas said:*

2. Formerly, the hosts of Devas and all the sages and saints began to do things to gain the result.

3. It was seen that the actions of the righteous faced numerous impediments to success while the actions of the unrighteous were unimpeded.

4. Then the gods and manes seriously deliberated on the matter and thought of ways for creating obstacles in the actions of the bad.

5. It occurred to Devas then that they may very well consult

the highly intelligent Rudra.

6. They, therefore, went to him in Kailāsa and, bowing to him, said in great respect.

*The gods said:*

7. "O great god with three eyes and trident in hand, it behoves you to create (a being) for obstructing the actions of the bad".

8. Thus requested by Devas, Rudra with great pleasure looked at Umā for a moment.

9. When he was looking at Umā in the presence of gods, he was worried why no form of his was seen in the sky.

10. "There is the body in earth, there is one in water; so also in fire and air.

11-15. How is it not there in sky?" So thinking he laughed. By the power of knowledge, by what was seen by Rudra in the sky, by what was said by Brahmā formerly as the body of all beings, by the laughter of Rudra, by all these four in the four elements Earth and the rest, there arose a boy effulgent with glowing face, looking like Rudra himself and stupefying Devas with the charm of his dazzling brilliance.

16. Seeing the person of this great boy, Umā remained with eyes stuck on him.

17. Looking at the beautiful form of the boy and thinking of the fickleness of women's minds Rudra got angry and cursed him.

18. "O boy, you will attain an elephant's face, protruding belly and yajñopavīta of serpents".

19. He cursed him thus in great anger, and then rose up shaking his body.

20. With each shake of the body, water fell on the earth and from it arose numerous Vināyakas, elephant-faced and dark-coloured, holding various weapons.

21-22. The Lord (Rudra) then got annoyed and wondered when even one of them could do extraordinary things, how much more will the multitude do?

23. When Devas were thus thinking, the earth became agitated by Vināyakas. Brahmā then rose up in the sky in his vehicle and said:

24. "O gods, you are lucky. You have been blessed by the wonderful Parameśvara (Rudra). The actions of demons will be surely hampered".

25. After telling them thus, he turned to the holder of fire in the palm (Rudra): "O Lord, let him who was born out of your mouth (i.e., laughter), Gaṇapati, be the chief of these Vināyakas, and let the rest be his followers.

26. Occupying the sky as well, let him be in the other four elements with you. And let the sky with all its parts be for him.

27. You be the master to give him great weapons."

When Brahmā departed after saying thus, the three-eyed (Rudra) told his son:

28-29. "May you have the names Vināyaka, Vighnakara, Gaṇeśa and Bhavaputra, and may all these (other) Vināyakas with fierce eyes and prowess be your servants, and let them with their flowing ichor and massive body, bring about success in all undertakings.

30. In sacrifices and ceremonies to propitiate the gods, and in other deeds, you will bestow success if you are worshipped in the beginning, and hamper the whole thing if not done so".

31. Then Rudra as well as Devas poured holy water on him in golden pitchers and declared him king of the Vināyakas.

32. The Devas then praised him in the presence of Rudra.

*Devas said:*

33. "Bow to the elephant-faced, bow to the leader of gaṇas (group of Vināyakas), bow to Vināyaka (the chief), bow to the valiant.

34. Bow to the creator of obstacles, bow to the serpent-girdled, bow to him who rose from the mouth of Rudra, bow to the pot-bellied. O lord of all, we prostrate before you to remove all obstacles".

35. The great Gaṇeśa thus praised by the gods, and anointed by Rudra, became the son of Umā.

36. All this occurred in the tithi Caturthī. Hence Caturthī is the most important of all tithis.

37. O king, on this day if one eats only sesamum and worships Gaṇeśa, the lord will certainly be pleased.

38. He who recites this stotra and he who listens to it never encounter any obstacles.