

1 Vakratunda Mahakaya Ganesha



वक्रतुण्ड महाकाय सूर्यकोटिसमप्रभ ।
निर्विघ्नं कुरु मे देव सर्वकार्येषु सर्वदा ॥

vakratuṇḍa mahākāya sūryakoti samaprabha
nirvighnaṁ kuru me deva sarva kāryeṣu sarvada

O Lord with a curved trunk, a mighty body and the
radiance of a million suns, always remove obstacles for
all my endeavours.

वक्रतुण्ड	vakratunda vakra tunda	curved trunk
महाकाय	mahakaya maha kaya	mighty body
सूर्यकोटिसमप्रभ	suryakoti samaprabha surya koti sama prabha	radiance that equals millions of suns
निर्विघ्नम् कुरु मे देव	nirvighnam kuru me deva	without obstacles please do, make it happen for me O God
सर्वकार्येषु	sarva karyeshu sarva karyeshu	in all endeavours all in endeavours
सर्वदा	sarvada	always

This shloka is dedicated to Lord Ganesha, who is depicted with the head of an elephant. His mighty form symbolises vast knowledge and has the radiance of a million suns.

Elephants use their trunks for a wide range of tasks, both heavy and gentle. They can uproot massive trees and carry heavy logs, yet can also delicately pick up a single blade of grass or a tiny needle from the ground. This ability symbolises adaptability and efficiency, reminding us to be both strong and sensitive, depending on the situation. At a

deeper level, it is about wisely adjusting our approach based on the circumstances, blending power with compassion.

Using its trunk, an elephant draws clean water from muddy or dirty sources, leaving the mud and impurities behind. Ganesha's trunk symbolises this very ability, the power of discrimination. It enables him to distinguish between right and wrong, always choosing what is ethical and proper.

Elephants do not let obstacles stop them. They remove any barriers in their path and continue moving forward.

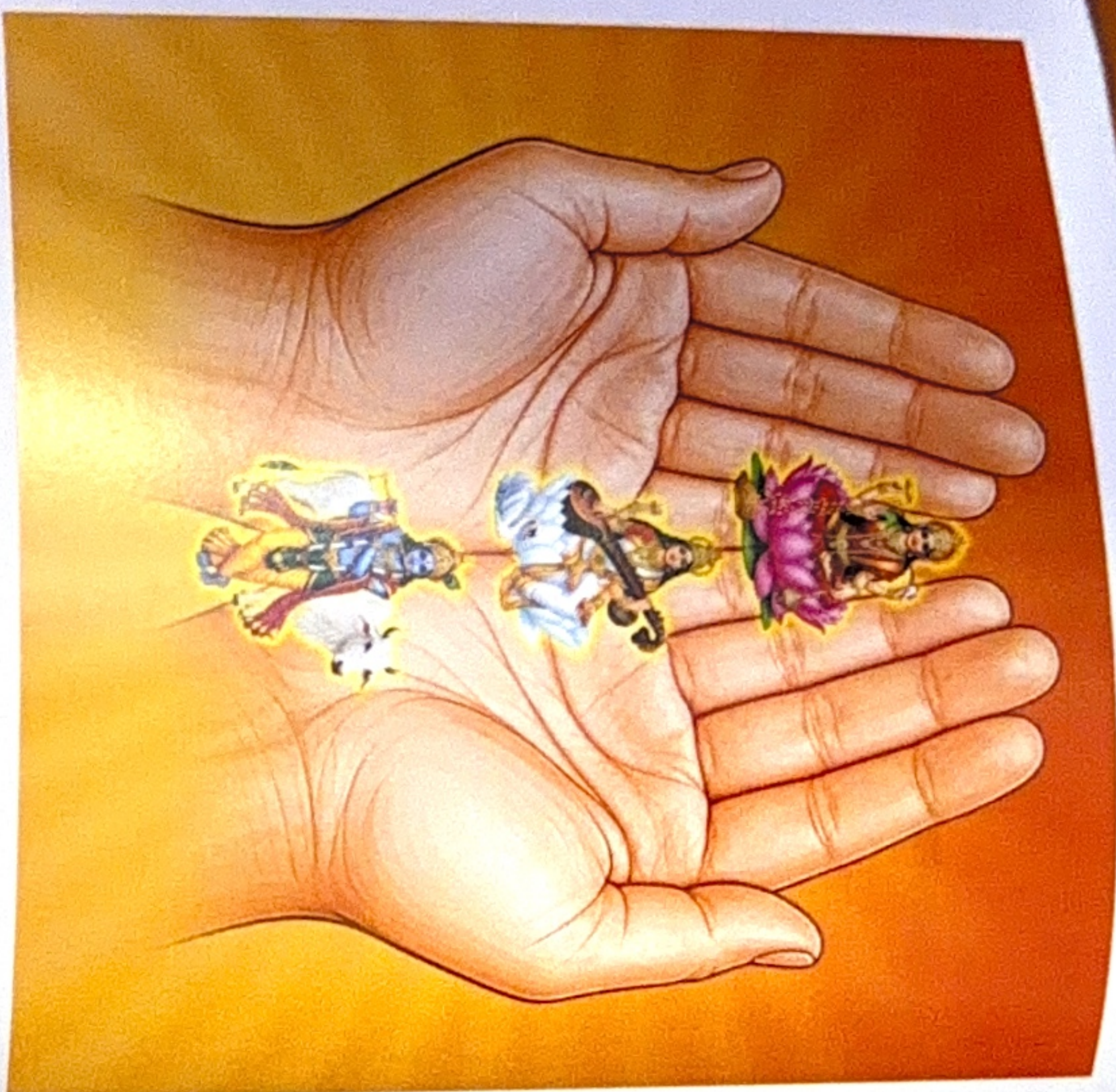
When we worship Lord Ganesha, these elephant-like qualities are awakened within us.



Ganesha is the first to be invoked at the beginning of all new undertakings and ceremonies. We seek his strength to overcome obstacles that may hinder our success. Known as the lord of success and remover of obstacles, he guides us on the path to achievement.

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Karāgre Vasate Lakshmi Prayer to Begin the Day



कराग्रे वसते लक्ष्मी करमध्ये सरस्वती ।
करमूले तु गोविन्दः प्रभाते करदर्शनम् ॥

karāgre vasate lakṣmī karamadhye sarasvatī
karamūle tu govindah prabhāte karadarśanam

At the forefront of the hand dwells Lakshmi, in the middle of the hand dwells Goddess Lakshmi, symbolising wealth and prosperity. At the base of the hand or the upper part of the fingers dwells Goddess Lakshmi, symbolising wealth and prosperity.

कराग्रे	karāgre	at the forefront of the hand
वसते	vasate	resides
लक्ष्मी	lakshmi	Lakshmi
करमध्ये	karamadhye	in the middle of the hand
सरस्वती	saraswati	Saraswati
करमूले	karamule	at the base of the hand
तु	tu	indeed
गोविन्दः	govindah	Govinda (a name of Krishna)
प्रभाते	prabhate	at dawn
करदर्शनम्	kara darshanam	the act of looking at one's hand
	kara darshanam	seeing

This is the first prayer to be recited as we begin our day. When we wake up in the morning, our very first act should be to look at our hands with profound respect and reverence. The word 'kara' means hand. Our hands are one of the five organs of action known as karmendriyas (karma - action, indriyas - sense organs).

At the forefront of the hand or the upper part of the fingers dwells Goddess Lakshmi, symbolising wealth and prosperity.



In the middle of the hand, the palm, resides Goddess Saraswati, representing knowledge.

At the root or base of the hand, the wrist, is Govindaraj Lord Krishna.

This symbolises that God resides within our hands. Placing three divine powers at the forefront, in the middle and at the base of the hand implies that divinity lies in sincere human effort. We are sanctifying all our actions and acknowledging God as the giver of the capacity to perform actions and as the giver of the fruits of those actions.

Through this prayer, we invoke God and dedicate all actions performed with our hands throughout the day.

him. It serves as a reminder to perform all deeds selflessly, as an offering and service to the divine presence.

Beginning the day by looking at our hands and chanting this shloka is considered highly auspicious. Visualising our hands in this way empowers us to start the day with gratitude, positivity, and a sense of purpose and responsibility.