

Respect Your Parents

We all wonder about the universe. We often ask questions like what is it, how vast is it, and what is in it. There are many explanations to these questions. Lord Ganesha gives us one of his most beautiful explanations by saying that parents are a child's universe.

Ganesha & his younger brother Subramanya, like any other brothers, were very competitive. Comparing himself to Ganesha, who was short and fat, Subramanya, who was tall and handsome, began to develop an ego.

Like any other good parents Siva and Parvathi wanted to teach Subramanya a lesson in humility and in the process test Ganesha. They told their children that they wanted to conduct a competition and the winner would get a prize. Siva and Parvathi challenged their children to go around the universe three times declaring that the person who finished first would be the winner and get a prize.

Subramanya felt supremely confident. He had a peacock which he could ride and he thought he would be much faster than Ganesha who only had his rat to ride. As soon as the competition started, Subramanya immediately climbed on his peacock and started flying. Meanwhile Ganesha sat down and started thinking about the problem. He knew that he could not travel as fast as his brother so he thought about it and came up with a plan.

He had learned that parents are the whole universe for a child. So, he thought if he could go around his parents with all sincerity and devotion, it would be equivalent to going around the universe. So, he got up and started to circle his parents.

As it so happened wherever Subramanya went he was seeing Ganesha ahead of him. Subramanya could not understand what was happening. Frustrated and tired after having traveled the universe three times, he realized that Ganesha had won.

He came to his parents and accepted his mistake about his ego. But, he wanted to find out from Ganesha how he had won. Then Ganesha explained the concept of the universe and that for a child, parents are the universe. That is the truth.

There are several morals to this story.

1. Respect your parents with sincerity and devotion
2. Never become egoistic. Be confident but never egoistic.
3. Never underestimate people based on their looks. External looks do not reveal real character or capabilities of the person.
4. Accepting a mistake helps you to learn more and become a better person. It does not matter from whom you learn (it could be your competitor).