

## **The Story of Ganesha**

Shiva had a wife named Pravati. One day Shiva left on a long trip. Pravati had no one to protect her and so she made herself a son and called him Ganesha. One day, she asked Ganesha to guard the front door while she bathed. Ganesha was an obedient son and did as his mother asked. At this time, Shiva was on his way home. When he came to the door he noticed the boy guarding this house. The boy did not know Shiva and would not let him into the house. Shiva became enraged and cut the boy's head off. When Pravati saw what had happened, she became very upset. To calm her down Shiva promised to replace his head with the head of the first living thing he saw (this happens to be an elephant). Pravati is pleased with Ganesha's new appearance and all is well again.

Ganesha is worshipped all over India and his image is in many homes. It is said that praying to Lord Ganesha can create wealth and remove obstacles from your life that may prevent success.