

INDIAN MYTHOLOGY & HISTORY

**GANESHA &
KARTIKEYA**

ABOUT LORD GANESHA

- Every Hindu recognizes Ganesha
- Vighneshwara - He is the remover of all obstacles.
- Ganesha is a god of wisdom, success and good luck
- He is the son of Lord Shiva – the Hindu God of Destruction and Goddess Parvati – the Hindu Goddess of fertility & love. Lord Ganesh has a brother in Lord Kartik – the Hindu God of War & Victory and two sisters in Goddess Lakshmi – the Hindu Goddess of Wealth and Goddess Saraswati – the Hindi Goddess of Knowledge.
- According to scriptures, Lord Ganesh had two wives Ridhhi (representing Prosperity) and Sidhhi (representing Intellectual Enlightenment). Furthermore, he had two sons – Ridhhi bore him Subha (representing Auspiciousness) while Sidhhi bore him Labha (representing Profit).



STORIES OF GANESHA

- His birth and his head severance – see video on next slide
- Around the World in seconds
- Why does he have only one teeth
- Scribe for Mahabharata
- Reason for Moon's phases
- Why he is considered the remover of obstacles
- How Gajamukhasur became his vehicle

VIDEO

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5E8dVk4XGM&vl=en>

FURTHER STUDIES

<https://www.scoopwhoop.com/Lord-Ganesha-Short-Stories/#.Icas2fpj2>

<http://www.vedsutra.com/amazing-facts-lord-ganesha/>

ABOUT KARTIKEYA

- God of War
- 6-headed son of Lord Shiva & Goddess Parvati
- A very popular deity for Tamilians.
- Also known as Murugan, Skanda, Subrahmanya.
- His mount is a peacock



Standing at 42.7 m (140 ft) high, the world's tallest statue of Murugan, a Hindu deity, is located outside Batu Caves, near the city of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

MORE FACTS ABOUT KARTIKEYA

- One story is that Parvati and Shiva could not conceive a child due to a curse, so they meditated and from that a ball of fire came out. Parvati had to become a lake, in which this ball of fire was deposited.
- Finally, this took the form of a child and appears on the banks of River Ganges.
- Kartikeya means "of the Krittikas". After he appears on the banks of the River Ganges, he is seen by the six of the seven brightest stars cluster in the night sky called *Krittikas* in Hindu texts (called [Pleiades](#) in Greek texts). These six mothers all want to take care of him and nurse baby Kartikeya. Kartikeya ends the argument by growing five more heads to have a total of six heads so he can look at all six mothers, and let them each nurse one.
- *Vana Parva* of the *Mahabharata* describes Skanda as the son of Agni, the [Shalya Parva](#) and the [Anushasana Parva](#) of the same text presents Skanda's legend as the son of Maheshvara (Shiva) and Parvati.
- He is considered the God of Tamil language and he is mentioned a lot in Tamil Sangam literature.
- He symbolizes power and strength.
- Kartikeya represents perfection and the need for every human to move towards being perfect.

TARAKASURA

- It is said that Kartikeya was born to kill demon Tarakasura, as Tarakasura had got a boon that only Shiva's son will kill him, thinking that Shiva will never marry anyone else.
- Taraka means Ego in Sanskrit.
- It is said that Kartikeya, which symbolizes power and strength, subdues Taraka i.e. Ego.

SWAMINATHA

- Kartikeya does not get a good explanation of what is Om from Brahma
- Shiva also agrees that he does not know the meaning.
- Kartikeya says that he can tell the meaning, provided he is considered Guru of Shiva. Shiva agrees and holds him on his shoulder!
- Om – entire creation is contained in the Om. The trinity is contained in Om.

FURTHER STUDIES

- <http://ritsin.com/seven-unknown-facts-lord-kartikeya.html/>