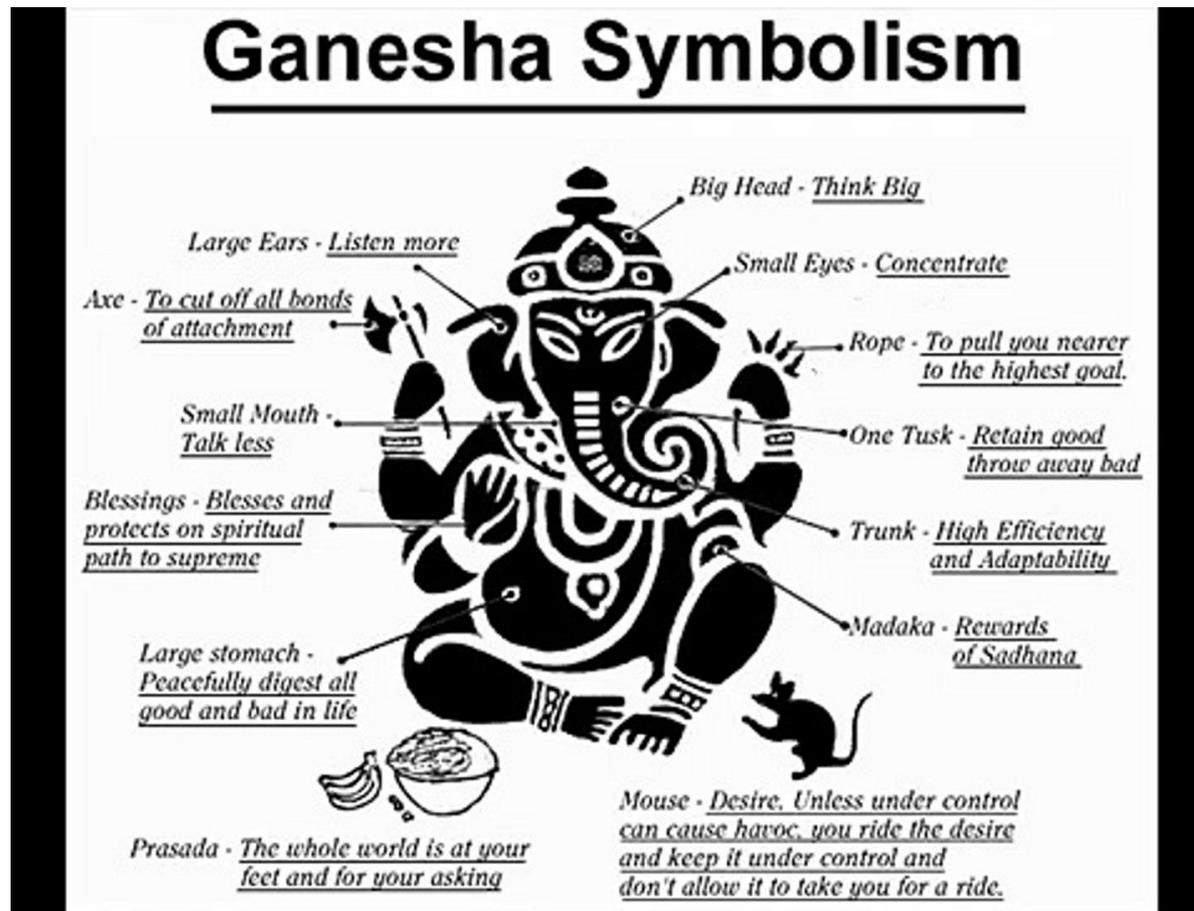


## Appendix 2

### 1) Picture of Ganesha with meaning:



## 2) Symbolic Description of Lord Ganesha

- \* The large elephant head of Lord Ganesha symbolizes wisdom, understanding, and a discriminating intellect that one must possess to attain perfection in life.
- \* The large ears signify that a perfect person is the one who possesses a great capacity to listen to others and assimilate ideas. Ganesha being the ruler of the worlds, he possesses large ears to keenly listen to the prayers and needs of all his subjects.
- \* The trunk of the elephant has the capacity & ability to hold anything and everything, from a small blade of grass to huge tree trunks. Similarly, the individuals should possess qualities of high adaptability and efficiency in life.
- \* The two tusks denote the two aspects of the human personality, wisdom (intellect) and emotion (mind). The right tusk represents wisdom and the left tusk represents emotion. The broken left tusk conveys the idea that one must conquer emotions with wisdom. The two tusks also represent the two aspects of life - good & bad, joy & sorrow etc. The single tusk represents One God-principle.
- \* The small eyes denote alertness, keenness and focus.
- \* The Trishul-like mark on the forehead symbolises time (past, present and future) and Lord Ganesha's mastery over it. Also the Lord is the Ruler of all the three worlds.
- \* The four arms of Lord Ganesha represent the four inner attributes of the subtle body, that is: mind (Manas), intellect (Buddhi), ego (Ahamkara), and conditioned conscience (Chitta). Lord Ganesha represents the pure consciousness - the Atman - which enables these four attributes to function in us.
- \* In one hand, Ganesha holds a sharp instrument "ankusha" which indicates destruction of desires. It also indicates life's hard & bitter lessons to help us grow up.
- \* In the second hand, he holds the "pasha" (noose), to pull the individual onto the path of righteousness.
- \* The third hand is "abhaya-hasta". It signifies fearlessness & protection bestowed upon the devotee.

- \* In the fourth hand, Ganesha has the "modaka" (sweet made of jaggery & rice flour). It represents happiness, success, joy & fulfillment that the Lord gives to us for our sincere & honest efforts.
- \* Lord Ganesha is usually portrayed wearing red and yellow clothes. Yellow symbolizes purity, knowledge and truthfulness. Red symbolizes the noble and purposeful activity in the world.
- \* Lord Ganesha is "sindoora-varna" (orangish in colour). It represents vairagya or detachment. It also indicates discipline.
- \* The big belly represents the whole cosmos. All the worlds are within Him. The big belly also signifies the good & bad experiences which one has to go through in life.
- \* The snake that runs round his waist represents energy in all forms which keep the worlds dynamic. It also represents the ego or the mind under control (snake is wound round & tied up). It is an ornament round the Lord's waist. Similarly, a mind under control is an ornament the individual.
- \* The mouse also represents the "Mind-Intellect" which is also under His control & He uses it as His vehicle (controlled inner equipment used to move ahead & progress in life).
- \* A mouse sitting near the feet of lord Ganesha and gazing at the Laddus denotes that with purified or controlled desires one can live in the world without being affected by the worldly temptations.
- \* The right foot represents the intellect firmly rooted in knowledge (rooted on the ground). The left leg which is folded and pointing towards the right leg signifies the well-controlled mind seeking knowledge.