

# Lord Shri Ganesha

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*om hrim gam hrim mahaganapataye namah swaha*

Ganesha is the deity of the south node called Ketu, or that node which is described to be one *without a head*. In order to understand Ketu and his role in one's horoscope, it is important to learn mythological stories which will give to the astrologer completely new depth in understanding Ketu's role and impact on one's life.

But let's start with story of creation of nodes, both Rahu and Ketu, given in Vishnu purana as a part of Parashara's teachings to his disciple Maitreya:

*"On the occasion of churning the ocean to produce nectar of immortality called Amrita, Asura changed the appearance and mingled with the Devas. At the time Asura was about to get the nectar, Surya recognized the trick and Lord Vishnu immediately thru the Sudarshan chakra and severed his head from the rest of his body. But, Amrita was already consumed and asura gained immortality as Rahu (or the head of the asura without a body), and Ketu (or the tail without a head)."*

Note: This well known story speaks volumes on the nature of the two nodes which can be widely used in the horoscope interpretation. They are Asura in nature and highly intelligent (they tricked Devas), can be deceitful and take on the appearance of those with who are they in company with. Rahu or head of the asura is all about intelligence, desires, high ambitions and he is the one who always looks for the body (tail). Whilst Ketu is headless one who is always longing for the head as a seat of the Dhi Shakti, he is without the desires (having no eyes to see) and instead he is instinctive and goes into meditation. Because of this, he is Moksha karaka or signification of the final liberation, state where there are no more material desires. Because of this, Rahu is sad to be beneficial for material gains, whilst Ketu is always supportive of spiritual endowers.

Ganesha is very well known and highly respected Hindu deity and reason for that can be read, just like many other important aspects, in following puranic story. There are different stories on birth of Ganesha which are taught in different kalpas. One sad in Sveta kalpa is that story in which his head was cut off by Shiva himself.

*“On one occasion Parvati was taking bath and despite instructing one of Shiva gana’s on her door not to let anybody into the house, on the arrival of Shiva, gana let the master come in. That enraged Parvati and made her think that she needs her own personal and faithful gana to serve her. Then she created Ganesha from the saffron paste from her own body. When she finished, she was so happy to see the handsome and strong boy. She blessed her son and instructed him to stand on the door and let no one to enter without her permission.*

*Ganesha took on mother’s advice and did not let in anybody, even lord Shiva himself what made Lord Shiva very angry. Shiva then sends his gana’s to fight Ganesha. To everybody’s surprise, Ganesha fought all the battles with unbelievable success which made Shiva think that this battle can be won only by power of delusion. Whilst Ganesha was fighting with Vishnu, Shiva stroked with his trident and cut off his head.*

*War was ended, but when Parvati learnt of her son’s death, she become so enraged that she created numerous shaktis to disturb the whole world and destroy all the devas and ganas. On hearing this, devas came to Mother to pray for forgiveness asking what can they do to gain her forgiveness. Parvati answered that she wants her son to regain his life and to have honorable status among highest devas.*

*Shiva on hearing this, told to his ganas to go north and bring the head of the first animal they find in that direction. It was a single tusk elephant that they found and brought back. When they fitted the head on the boy, boy sat up alive again. Than Shiva placed his hand on boys head and bestowed on him the best of boons. Shiva made his son lord of all ganas and called him Ganesha! Shiva adored Ganesha to be adored first before other deities and with that gave him highest status between them and one to be worshiped first forever. Ganesha became remover of obstacles and one who can bestow rewards off all desires.*

*After this episode, Parvati and Shiva together with Ganesha and Kartikeya, continued to have happy life in the mountain of Kailasha.”*



Note: Ganesha's name is made of: gana+isha, and means Lord of the ganas, title which was given to him after he won over all the Shiva ganas. He is sad to be a doorkeeper and that is one of the reasons why worshipping Ganesha is first to be done, before approaching the other deities. Ganesha is also removal of the obstacles which is done with the noose and axe in his hands. He is without head and hence he is perfect follower which is the reason why he also represents Parampara and that is why famous parampara yoga is formed by the certain combination of the Jupiter and Ketu in ones horoscope. He is also called Gajapathi (Gaja meaning an elephant) because he is caring the head of an elephant, but this is not the only rupa (form) which can grant certain type of knowledge. Depending on the respective Veda, forms are: Gajamukha (face of an elephant), Gomukha (cow), Aja (goat), Haya (horse) and Markata (or monkey head like Hanuman). This is not the end of different names of Ganesha, in fact, there is a well known Ganesha yantra which is recommended for the all types of the studies and is consist of the twelve different names of the Ganesha:

ॐ गजाननाय नमः	ॐ वक्तुण्डाय नमः	ॐ एकदन्तय नमः	ॐ कृष्णापिंगक्षय नमः
ॐ गजापतये नमः			ॐ गजवकाय नमः
ॐ विनायकाय नमः			ॐ लम्बोदराय नमः
ॐ भालचन्द्राय नमः	ॐ धूम्रवणय नमः	ॐ विघ्नराजाय नमः	ॐ विकटाय नमः

Next episode is related to the time period when Parvati and Shiva realized that it is time to marry sons.

*“After hearing about parents planes, both Kartikeya and Ganesha became eager to marry first, hence their parents decided to make a task in front of them and one, who accomplishes the goal first, gets to marry first. The task was to go around the world seven times and come back. On hearing this, Kartikeya ran to gain advantage whilst Ganesha sat down and start thinking and meditating on to how can he accomplish the given task. After some time, he proposed to his parents to sit down on asanaas so that he could adore them. Whilst doing so, he went seven times around them. After completing the offerings he spoke to his parents: “you can prepare my marriage ceremony because for one, his parents are the world and by going seven times around you, I have completed my task as per all the shastras and secret scriptures”. Shiva and Parvati were very happy for their son’s wisdom and married him for Siddhi and Budhi at an auspicious day. Ganesha got two sons, Kshema and Labha.*

*Soon after, Kartikeya came back from his journey, and found out what has happened. He became enraged on his parents and decided to leave them and that he will never marry and instead became perfect brahmancarya.”*

Note: It is of vital importance to know whilst interpreting horoscope, that Ketu is always favorable towards Kula, being that of family or spiritual and protects the same. Ketu is likely to give marriage for the sake of progeny and continuation of the lineage being that he is not interested in the material gains. He can grant Siddhi (or accomplishments) and Budhi (intelligence) as indicated by his shaktis, hence he is one of the grahas (or planets) which are givers of the intelligence. In matters of the

marriage, he tends to give two partners when in certain positions (as indicated in the story) because of the curse of the Tulsi devi, which is the message given in the following story:

*“Tulsi fell in love with Ganesha and wished to marry him. Ganesha, who was interested only in meditation, refused to oblige her. This made Tulsi enraged and she cursed him to marry not one but two wives! And he then cursed her back to marry none else but the Vishnu himself.”*



Note: Based on this story comes the principle that, when Ketu is connected with the upapada or marriage, there is a problem of having the two partners and appropriate worship of Lakshmi is to be performed as well as placing figure of dancing Ganesha (picture given above) next to the marital bed of the couple. This also confirms that Ketu is interested in marring only for the purpose of progeny.