

# Religious Symbols and Significance

# Why do we need symbols

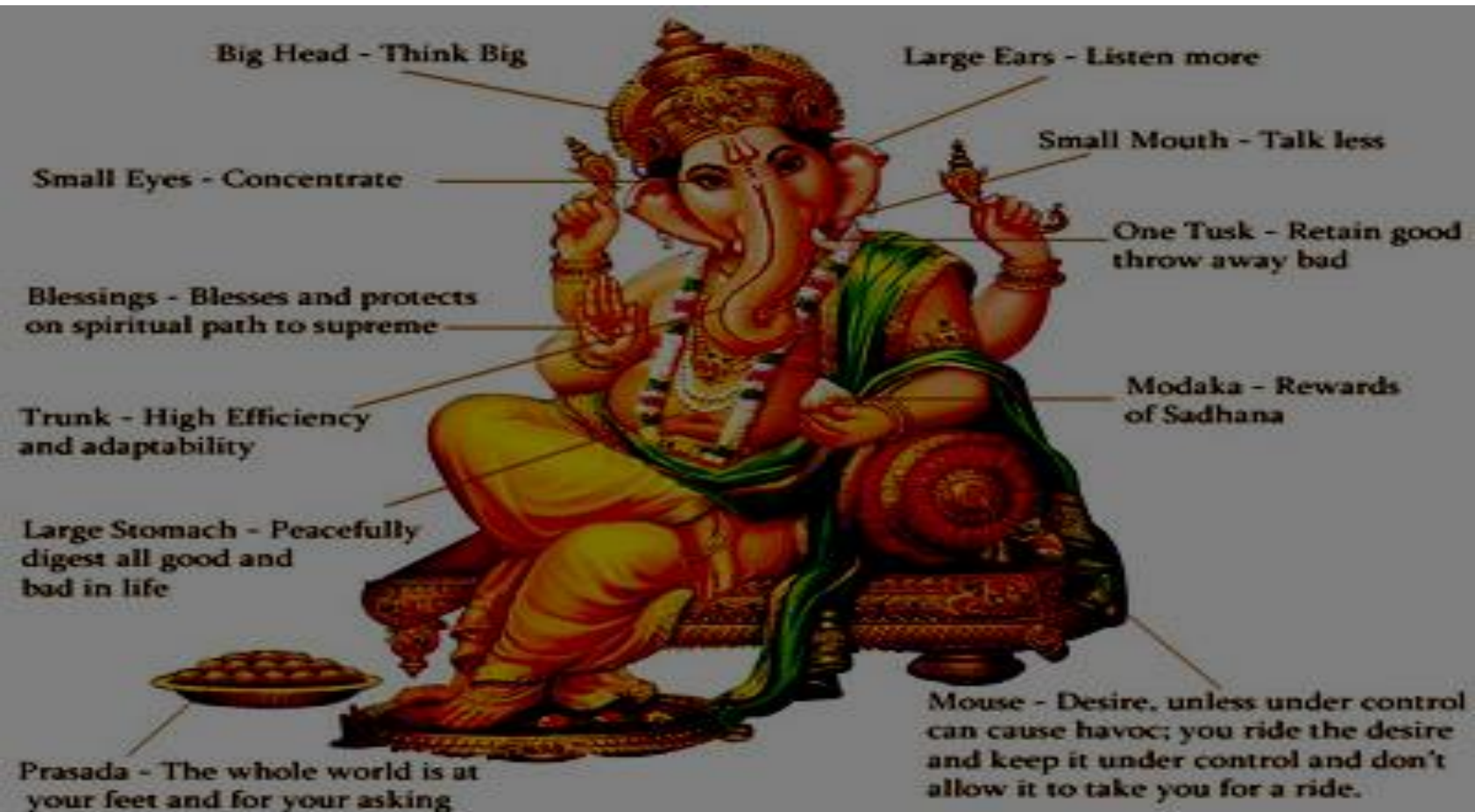
- .Brahman – Nameless and formless supreme reality
- .“Ekam Sat Vipraha bahuda vadanti “ – Rig Veda  
(Forms are many reality is one)
- .Visual Representation

A **symbol** is an object that represents, stands for or suggests an [idea](#), visual image, belief, action or material [entity](#). Symbols take the form of words, sounds, gestures or visual images and are used to convey ideas and beliefs.

Symbols are a quick way to communicate often complex ideas. For e.g: mathematical symbol, navigational symbol, gender symbol etc.

Religions usually employ a large amount of symbolism to represent their beliefs. Religious symbolisms have a long history that is over 100,000 years old.

# OM GANESHAYA NAMAH



# OM or AUM

- .Principal symbol of Hinduism
- .Symbol of Brahman
- .A- Beginning (Adimatva)
- .U – Progress (UtKarsha)
- .M – Dissolution (Miti)
- .Meditation
- .Divinity



# Cow

Cow is the most sacred animal for Hindus. Cow is a symbol of good ( calm and serene)nature, motherhood and prosperity.



# SWASTIK

- .Brings Good Fortune
- .(RIGHT) Symbol of Vishnu
- .Earth's Rotation
- .(LEFT) Symbol of Kali
- .Hitler chose this symbol

Because it depicts Aryan symbol of purity and superiority



# SRI YANTRA



9 Interlocking Triangles

4 Triangles upright denote  
Shiva

5 inverted triangles denote  
Shakthi

Central Point between  
physical universe and its  
unmanifest source



# LAMP

Lamps are always found near the Hindu altar at home or in the Temple. This lamp symbolizes the light and hence is sacred. Many cultural and social functions in India are opened with lighting the lamps by chief guests.



# Lingam

- Representation of Shiva
- Limitless / form less
- Lingodhbhavam



# Lotus

- .Represents Beauty and
- .Non attachment
- .Sign of Purity
- .Path to Enlightenment  
(just like lotus opens its petals)



# Banyan Tree

Banyan tree is a Hindu symbol of longevity. It is not only a Hindu symbol but also is the national tree of India.



**Purna Kumbha**, or **Purnakumbha**, sometimes also **Kalasha**, is an essential part of worship practices in Hinduism. The term is derived from the word **Purna**(full) and **Kumbha** (pitcher) and it denotes a metal (silver, copper, gold, or brass) pitcher full of water, but also with fresh leaves of the mango tree and a coconut placed on its top. Matsya Purana and Skanda Purana, too, mention this object. It is used during various religious rites. An arrangement of this pitcher is called Purnakumbha or Purnakalasha. **It is considered to be a symbol of abundance.** It is the **Brahmani's weapon**(one of the goddesses Durga created in Her battle against demons; this story is described in Devi Mahatmyam).



# Gods and Vahanas

WHY IS THERE A VAHANA FOR GOD

Vehicle symbolizes the deity it carries

Also depicts the evil forces the deity crushes

# Gods and Vahanas

- .Shiva - Nandi ( Strength and Virility)
- .Vishnu – Garuda (Divine Power and Authority)
- .Ganesha – Mouse (Crush Useless thoughts)
- .Muruga – Peacock (Splendour and majesty)
- .Saraswathy – Swan ( Wisdom,Grace,Beauty)
- .Durga – Lion (Ferocious)

# PUJA

- .Ritual of Worship
- .P – Parayana (Repetiion of god names)
- .Ja – Japa (Meditation)
- .Offer flowers , waters (Pushpam,Jalam)
- .Can be very simple or complicated





