

The Cosmic Leader: Lord Ganesh

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INTRODUCTION

In general, by nature, an employee wants to be led effectively so that his capabilities may be utilized to the maximum extent and his confidence may be boosted. Charismatic leaders actively use their management systems to promote the development of people and societies, who could transform the present and future course of activities. Leadership is the ability of a leader to induce followers to work with confidence and zeal. The concept of leadership lies in the creation of followers. A good leader has creative aptitude and motivates teamwork, and willing cooperation among the people. Leadership is a continuous and dynamic process of influencing behaviors of the followers. It is the ability to gain harmony and commitment to achieve common objectives, beyond organizational requirements. Thus, leaders strive to serve beyond the expectations of an organization.

The purpose of this paper is to make every one work cooperatively to attain standards stipulated by the experts to comprehend the subject. The main thrust of the followers is to take up the challenging tasks and keep them motivated to get success under the guidance of effective leaders. It is the process of directing, guiding, and influencing the people to their best for the realization of specified goals.

Leadership is a social interaction influence, a process between the leader and his followers. A notable leader must be aware of the ethical values and try to understand others.

India is rich in tradition and customs and we have many 'icons' in our ethics that have a large number of followers. To mention, a few are Lord Krishna, Lord Shiva, Prophet Mohammad, Jesus Christ and Lord Ganpathi etc. In Sanskrit, '*Gana*' means qualities of knowledge and '*pathi*' means leader. Ganesh had organically emerged from the holy turmeric powder made by the Goddess '*Parvathi*'. Ganesh is a deity whose idol can be made from any material, be it gold, silver, wood, paper and clay etc., fit into any shape representing the qualities of love, simplicity and confidence, which have a profound effect on one's soul. *Vinayak*, is another name of Ganpathi, which indicates that there is no '*Nayak*' (Leader) above him. The leader should be like Vinayak for the acceptance of all kind of people. Lord Ganesh is believed to be the remover of all obstacles who promotes the qualities of wisdom, prudence and salvation. Leadership is exercised in a given equation. It is a function of the leader (l), the follower (f), and other situational (s), variables. $L=f(l, f, s)$. It is the process between leader and his followers. It is a continuous dynamic process influencing their behavior. The truth is that the global scenario is changing so rapidly where leaders may be able to spot and prepare for broad economic shifts, responding to the crux of the matter demanded. This moment requires lots of people at all levels with ideas, values energy and edge to make decisions. They are needed to act quickly and appropriately. Some of the vital qualities of a leader for the purpose of leadership are foresight, analytical ability, understanding of others, listening, friendliness and affection, technical mastery, capable to administer efficiently, open mindedness, good communication, team work, willingness to work etc. The core competence for sustained excellent performance is developing leadership skill and talents, which is the hallmark of a visionary leader. The illustrious elephant-headed Ganesh was the eldest son of Goddess Parvathi and Lord Shiva. He has his own distinct features in his physique with an elephant face as the head and the human body as the torso, four hands with an axe, a book, a flower and white laddus (*Undrallu*). Each and every part of Lord Vinayaka's body explains the distinct and different features of leadership qualities.

PHYSICAL STRUCTURE

The physical appearance of Lord Ganesh is the combination of the head of an elephant and the body of human being. By analyzing this structure, one can come out with different perceptions. Elephant is a wise animal. It is also a symbol of loyalty. It is used to carry heavy load that indicates hard work. The elephant has a long trunk, which catches the senses of other organisms that are far away. The nose (trunk) of an elephant can also handle heavy loads of goods. It explains that a leader should be able to handle the complicated situations with a sense of responsibility. A leader

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should be physically strong, bold and willing to work hard.

A leader should be industrious. Lord Ganesh is having a big head, which indicates a powerful thinking process. A leader should be able to carve out a right path for which the followers should be able to perform the right things. An elephant is used to show the way for people who are unable to find their way in a thick forest. Therefore, a leader is considered to show the right way to his followers. A leader should have the willingness and practice to work hard as his followers will emulate him. The leader should be a pathfinder and path layer for his teammates. He should be a well knowledgeable personality. The large forehead of Vinayak indicates the intellectual capabilities of a leader. Similarly, a good leader should process the information gathered in a sensible way and put it to use in an appropriate manner. The big flat ears illustrate the quality of listening to every one and a wide spectrum of listening and thinking for finding out an innovative process. A leader, in this context, has to listen to various people's about their different opinions for taking right decisions. Because of his wide ears, he can grasp each and every thing from others and can attend to others very tactfully, which means good leadership quality of understanding others. Listening is considered to be a good quality trait of a leader. A good leader hears out everyone before taking a decision.

❁THE EYES

The eyes of an elephant are small but have a sharp vision. His eyes are small (eagle eyes). This represents the good leadership quality of vision and foresight. The leader should have a better vision and sharp sightedness about the future course of actions. It explains that a leader should have a clear vision, clear view about his subordinates. The small eyes of Lord Vinayak represents the keen penetrating insight of a leader in order to approach problem formulation and find out its possible solutions practically.

❁THE TRUNK

The huge trunk of an elephant illustrates the quality of accessibility, which is quite essential for a leader. A leader should be able to observe things in order to identify various issues. The leader should have strength to deal with crises. His trunk allows him to move things from his sitting place without moving the body; which means a leader can manage things from his resting place only. It indicates that effective management lies in maximum results with minimum efforts. Trunk is also representative of sensitivity and strength.

❁BIG BELLY

The big belly indicates a digestive system that excretes the unnecessary and unwanted foodstuff and keeps the useful material. The leader should remain informative and useful to make his career and should remove the unwanted material. The serpent around the belly of Lord Vinayak indicates the quality of managing good and bad equally well. A manager in a sense should tackle the good and bad in an appropriate manner satisfying and convincing all parties. Lord Vinayak has a snake on his shoulders as “*Yagnopaveetham*”. Though the snakes are poisonous and dangerous, Lord Vinayak can control them. Thus, a good leader can make use of each and every one irrespective of the evils inherent in them besides analyzing good qualities in them. Lord Vinayak, being a good leader, is friendly even to inimical people and exhibits his remarkable qualities of “friendliness with affection”. A leader should be able to find those followers who are not good and should be able to control them and make use of them. We find serpents or snakes are the ornament of Vinayak that means he has control over the snakes, which indicates to be a good controller of the followers.

❁FOUR HANDS

The hands of Lord Vinayak describe the power and superiority of a leader to exercise his authority in order to solve the conflicting problems of the organization. The left side of the body symbolizes emotion and the right side symbolizes reason. A leader should be capable of protecting himself from enemies and his followers from various problems. As he has an axe in the upper left hand, he is capable of protecting his followers and guarding himself. It represents his “span of control”. The axe is a weapon symbolizing courage and self-defense. In the upper right hand, the lotus signifies for honesty, integrity, character, and ethical values. The lotus is a symbol of freshness. In the same way, a real leader should always be loyal and honest. The lotus lives in muddy water, but no dirt will spoil its whiteness. In the same way, a leader should not be corrupted by the acts of any person. He should have “Open mindedness”.

Lord Ganesha is also said to be holding a book in his third, which specifies that a leader should be a knowledgeable personality to deal with different kinds of situations; representing wisdom with intelligence. The fourth hand contains the plate of sweet (*modaka*) that is nutritious. This represents how healthy he is, “physical and nervous energy”. In some attributes, one other hand contains a sword with and it represents a good leadership 'quality' of mastering.

❁LEGS AND MOUTH

Lord Vinayak has strong legs, which can bear the weight of his huge body without falling. In the same way, Vinayak is a good leader and he can manage all the burdens and responsibilities. He deals with problems very successfully. It indicates his ability to administer effectively and efficiently. The mouth of Vinayak tells us that the leader should have the capacity to speak lucidly and sparingly. A leader should not be garrulous.

❁RAT

The mouse is, in every respect, comparable to the intellect. It is able to slip unobserved into places which we would have not thought it possible to penetrate. In doing this, it is hardly concerned whether it is seeking virtue or vice. The mouse thus represents our wandering, wayward mind, lured to undesirable or corrupting grounds. By showing the mouse paying subservience to Lord Ganesha, it is implied that the intellect has been tamed through Ganesha's power of discrimination. The rat moves swiftly, so there is every chance of Vinayak completing his tasks on time. Then we should consider the size of the mouse. Ganesha is capable of making use of even the small things. This quality of Lord Vinayak represents one of the good leadership traits. It indicates that means are limited but ends are beneficial. So the leader consumes little inputs to the maximum output.

PALLAVILLEE (THE POOJA MANDIR: ABODE OF WORSHIP)

Vinayak is considered as a global personality because this “*Palavillee*” represents that the whole world is under his control. For taking right decisions, we can illustrate the competition between *Kumara Swami (Kartikeya)*, *Ganesha's* younger brother and Lord Vinayak. The race was that who ever came first after completing three rounds of the earth would be considered as “lord of lords”. *Kumara Swami (Kartikeya)* flies off on his peacock to complete the race. However, Vinayak pays obeisance to his parents and goes around them three times. Thus, *Kumara Swami* accepted his defeat and requested Lord Ganapathi to be the Lord of Lords and people take Ganapathi's name before beginning any work or before 'pooja' is performed.

Lord Vinayak has '*Buddhi*' and '*Siddhi*' as his wives. His two wives represent the qualities in him. *Siddhi* is efficiently getting things done successfully by following the rules and regulations. *Buddhi* has knowledge of getting things done with 'tact and intelligence' that represents the good leadership qualities.

Lord Vinayak has utmost affection towards his mother. He is prepared to fight against his father Lord Shiva to keep-up the promise he gave to his mother. A leader should have strong determination and utmost affection towards his followers and should lead the team for the right cause keeping in view the welfare of the society.

CONCLUSION

To meet global competition, Indian managers must be better than their counterparts by incorporating the leadership qualities from the rich Indian tradition. Leadership is the key source of inspiration that makes and moulds many people working in the organization at the global level. The policies, practices, values attached to the performance of various tasks by a leader's people for achieving the objectives are noteworthy. A leader should not forget that while he is assessing the performance of others, he is also being assessed by the people above, with and below him; even people around him who are unconnected to him get influenced by him and by his activities in the organization as he is a social being who forms an integral part of the community for whom he also works and derives certain benefits as and when required. A leader is responsible for building a dynamic organization and developing more and more productive people.

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- ✳ Provide subsidies and reduce taxes for the manufacturing companies in SEZs rather than software companies already enjoying competitive advantage.
- ✳ Duties imposed on the sale of goods to the DTA from SEZ should be reduced or should get away within case of goods which are imported.
- ✳ Government should include the development of SEZs in its 5-year plan. It may be a public-private partnership initiative like Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model.

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