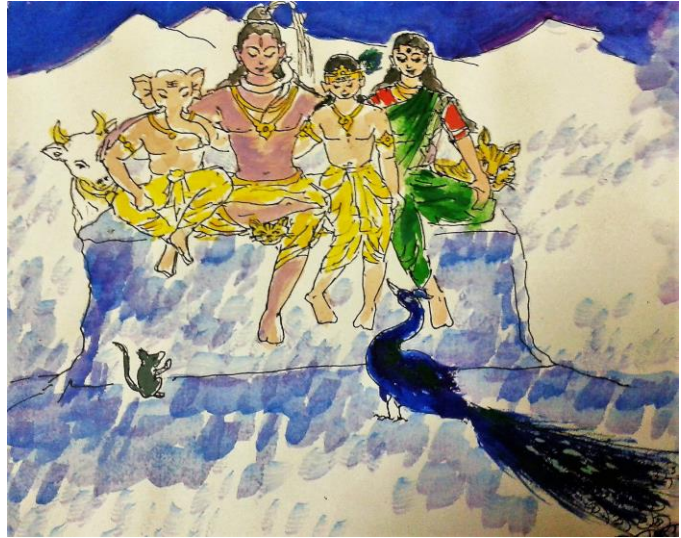




Ganesha and Kartikeya in Green Rameshwaram

By Dr. Narendra Joshi

The mount Kailasa, is the ancient mighty abode of the god Shiva which is piercing the veil of the infinite sky, ever transcending the unknown above. It stands as the bright and brilliant bridge between the heaven and the earth. Mahadeva, the great god Shiva is ever engrossed in his penance. However, when he opens his third eye, the eye of intervention, he creates new worlds and destroys for that the old degenerated worlds. He is the savior who drank poison of sins, falsehoods, vices so that mankind may have access to the nectar of virtues and truth. He gives boons to all who do penance for His blessings irrespective of their background, previous role, status or image. Whatever he thinks, plans and says is executed by his better half, Uma or Parvati who is Adishakti. She is the power of creation, power of sustenance, power of eventual destruction. She is the real mother of all of us, of humanity and entire creation. She is the earth, the Universe, She is Mother India, the ancient Punyabhumi. She is the power of Thought, Will and Action. It is her penance and love which forced Shiva to come down on the earth. She is Maheshwari, Mahakali, Mahasaraswati and Mahalakshmi: Calm Omniscient Wisdom, fierce Omnipotent Power, Enchanting Omnipresent Beauty and Harmony, and Unending Inexhaustible Abundance.



Though all are children of this divine couple, their chosen children are Ganesha and Kartikeya. The two are having many similarities and yet unique peculiarities. While Kartikeya is grown up, well built, impressive, dynamic, extrovert, achiever, demonstrating serious intelligence, valour and action in practical world; Ganesha is witty, childlike, subtle, intuitive, creative, innovative and mischievous due to his amazing command on enormous possibilities. Shiva's vehicle Nandi, the great bull, is power humbled and domesticated for wellbeing of mankind, has serene obedience and utmost dedication. Tiger, the vehicle of Parvati, is aggressive brutal power with captivating grace and commanding royalness. Kartikeya's or Muruga's vehicle Peacock is balance, rhythm and beauty, full of self assertive and self engrossed splendor. Mouse, the vehicle of Ganesha, has deceiving smallness and dissipating energy with surprising possibilities of making inroads even in nothing.

One day when all of them were sitting on the mount Kailasa, there was a contest between the two brothers. Who among them is cleverer, faster, achiever, who has more knowledge and power. To resolve the issue, they both approached their parents. Parvati and Shiva were surprised and started laughing. They said that there



can be no contest between the two. Both are winners when they are together. Still the arguments continued and so to resolve the issue, they were given a task to complete. To do Pradakshina of the entire world and come back. Pradakshina is to make a circle, to encircle around an object. Let's see who finishes it first. The brothers started with enthusiastic joyous minds. Each was sure of victory. Kartikeya first found the meaning of the world, the universe, the solar systems and the galaxies. Then he set forth to find all the details, dimensions, properties and components of the world. He made rigorous study, wrote a detailed plan and built an organization to achieve this goal. They all toiled with their heads, hearts and hands to built up a gigantic spaceship with most advanced controls to achieve this task. Then Kartikeya designed the journey, with optimized path, set forth himself, leading from the front, and started the Pradakshina. He and his team in control room, achieved an extraordinary feat of encircling the world and came back to the starting point i.e. mount Kailasa.

There to his utmost surprise, he found that Ganesha was already sitting, enjoying his modaks-bliss givers. (sweets from rice flour, coconut and jaggery) and with a garland around neck. Kartikeya was furious and asked how that is possible. Ganesha explained it all. He saw and started examining the world, the infinite sky and the stars above. The mesmerizing beauty and infinity of that sight made him silent. He was totally captivated by that vision and started contemplating on the task. He sat in silence for hours in deep meditation. He almost lost himself in that trance. When the vision was over, it was extremely painful, he could not eat or breathe as usual. He strived hard for re-experiencing that bliss of infinity. After several days and nights and may be more, for he had lost all sense of space and time, he understood and then suddenly got an insight: what he was searching out was all inside him. The beyond of the world, the core of the universe was again the familiar Kailasa, and lo behold, the centre of the core of that universe was his own parents, Shiva and Parvati. He was not ready to believe that in the beginning and argued a lot with himself and then questioned repeatedly to his parents to know what is meaning of that vision. His parents smiled and told him to go deeper and find out himself, there is no easy answer. Ganesha continued his penance and then one day he had the grand vision in totality. Shiva was not just his father but the Aadikaran, the primal cause of the universe, he is the pure existence, the Sat whose power is the Chit, the conscious force, Parvati. The Mother was mother

of not just Ganesha but of all that exists. This world is the divine play of the two and they play it for sheer joy of it. The world existence is ecstatic dance of Shiva where numberless forms are emanating from the rupture dance and majestic stillness of the Nataraja, the king of names and forms. That is the universe that is the encircling, that thou art! Ganesha opened his eyes, said nothing, went to his parents with folded hands and asked for their permission



to make Pradakshina around them. They smiled and gave their blessings to him. After completing it, he was given Modaks and a garland. After listening to his story, Kartikeya thought this is cheating, a shortcut. What about the world he found, is it just an illusion, a nothing, is there no value to human efforts, will, his reason and action? Should the world be left as it is, because it is mere trick, an illusion or a hopeless mess, should individual be rewarded only for his liberation, leaving the world as it is? He was silent and fuming. But his anger was melted by touch of his mother, who took him in her arms and gave a plate of sweets with Paisam. Some people came forward to put garland around his neck. He was also the winner. The parents clarified that both are winners, both have done great exploration, one by controlling nature externally, other by controlling nature internally. But now both must work together, for the future of this world. They are complementary not competitive. They were hugged lovingly by both their parents and cheered by all the persons there. Shiva advised them to take up an assignment of understanding same object or concept from their own point of views and then try to see the point of integration. The concept can be as simple but as important as a circle.

Ganesha and Kartikeya / Muruga

The same story is told in Tamilnadu with a little variation. Instead of Modakam, a Mango is offered as the prize for the winner of the competition. Kadikkulam, a Shiva temple in the Thiruvavur district of Tamilnadu is cited as the scene of the episode.

The moral of the story too is the same. PINDA – ANDA AIKYA – the similarity of the microcosm and the macrocosm. This concept unifies the whole of Bharat.

3) Both started working on the concept. Circle means what?

Kartikeya said that circle is a wheel, a wheel of potter, of vehicle for transport, a gear, a pulley, ratchet, spring, it is root of all mechanisms, zero is circle, so are many number coming from circles, binary code is zero and one, so circle is root of information theory and technology, circle

is atom, root of atomic structures, neutron, proton, electron, it is orbits of the particles, neurons and nervous system, blood circulation system, cycles of water, life and carbon is circle, circle is also orbits of stars, galaxies, it is in dish, glass, utensils, motors, generators, windmills, fans, mixers, grinders, giant wheel, ball bearings, tops, toys, dies and punches, buttons and pins, planets and stars, suns and blackholes, ... circle is all we have, all we can see, all we can do, it is our life, our civilization, our world.

Ganesha said that circle is an ever expanding spiral, Akhandamandalakar, it is complete and perfect which is always complete and perfect, Purnamadaha Purnamidam. It is Shunya, nothing, which is womb of everything, it is cycle of evolution, ages, yugas, kala or time, it is generating patterns of inseparably interrelated and yet independent entities, circle is hierarchy of wholes, it is yin and yang, is Omkara and Shree, it is one without beginning and without end, it is Shri-yantra, Gopura, Shikhara, Pradakshina, it is Damaroo, Tabla, Sitar, Chimbali and Dhol, it is therefore rhythm and music of life, it is repetition, aavartan, it is japa, nam, it is fruit and flower, tree and river, it is pearl in Indra's palace, it is chamaspata of yajna, it is web of spider, purushottama with many arms, it is inverted tree Ashwattha, it is panchakosha or five sheaths, it is surya and the worlds beyond, it is golden lid covering the face of the truth, chakras in body from muladhara to sahasrara. It is curve and so beauty, it is essence of art, basis of aesthetics, ... circle is our life, it is what we are, what we will be, it is our culture.



So now you see? Same concept, same object has two sides, but two sides of same coin, which is again a circle. Shiva and Uma hugged both their children, completing a circle. Fulfilling each other in oneness. They were told by the parents to work together, explore together.

4) Shiva said, 'Go forth my sons!! Victory will be yours. And what can be better place to start than Rameshwaram! Why? That is one of the place of Jyotirlinga, the endless column of infinite light of the truth whose beginning and end even devas could not find. Here was the worship of Shiva done by none other than the best among the men, Purushottam Sri Rama, before embarking on

his journey to Lanka. He had to set free the Dharini, Sita, the daughter of the earth from the clutches of Ravana, clutches of ego, pretense, self-indulgence, possessive materialism and greed.

Ganesha and Kartikeya joined hands and set forth to this great endeavour: Green Rameshwaram. They identified ten key areas for concentrated and holistic development. They thought the key areas should cover everything, i.e. the basic elements like Prithvi, Aap, Tej, Vayu, Akash, and Manas – (Land, Fire, Light, Wind, Sky, and Mind).

This involved the following pillars:

1. Conserving and popularizing Archeology and Culture



2. Conserving and creating awareness of Marine Biodiversity



3. Solid Waste Management



4. Renewable Energy



5. Rain Water Harvesting



6. Sewage Treatment



7. Creation of New Merchandise and Livelihood Opportunities



8. Green Transport



9. Landscaping and Beautification



10. Developing Social Capital



Let us all join Ganesha and Kartikeya in developing 'Smart Green Resilient Rameshwaram'.

