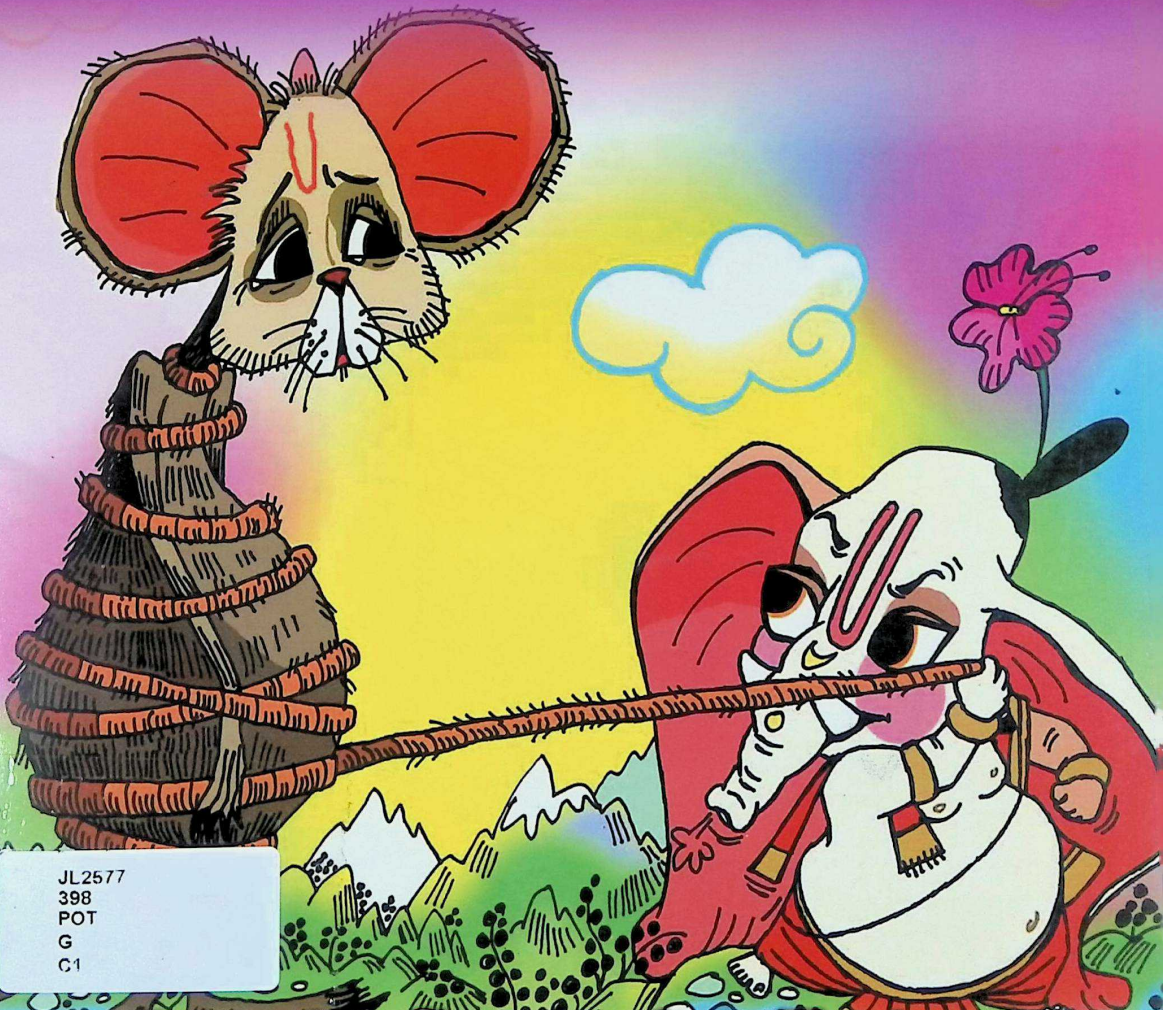


LARGE PRINT READERS

Ganesha and the Mouse

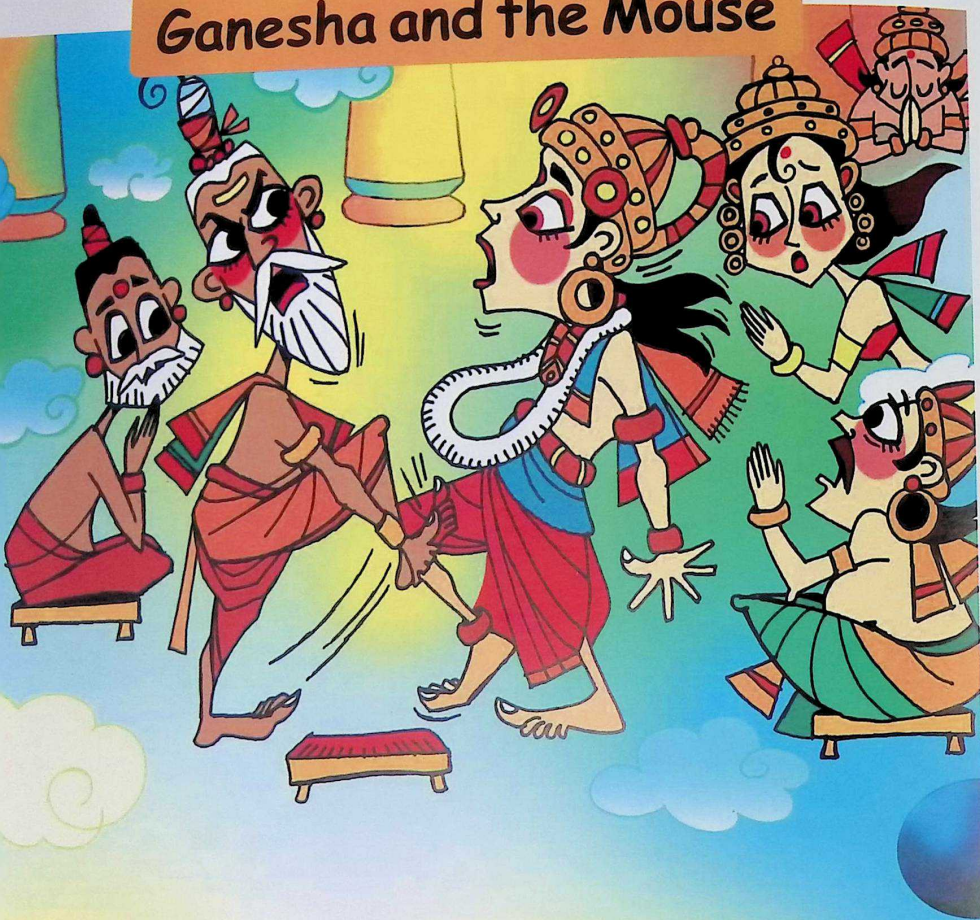
and Other Stories



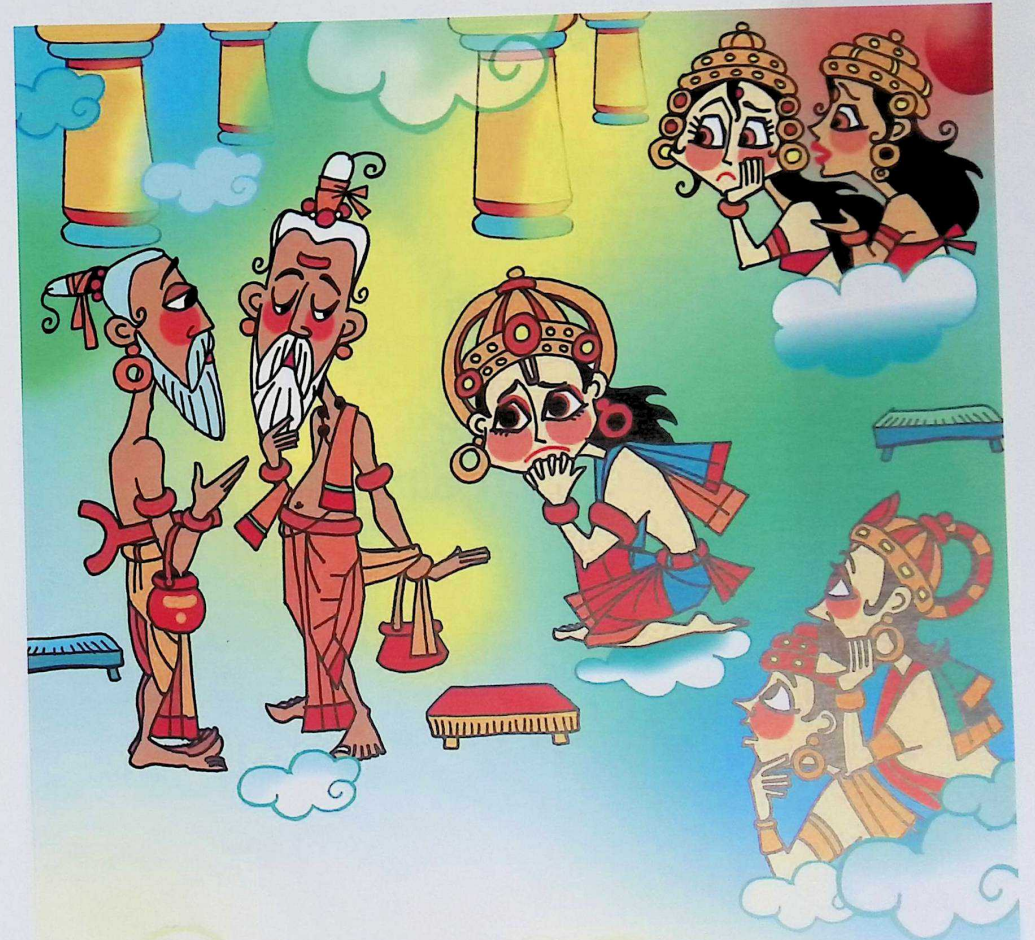
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Little Ganesha Tales

Ganesha and the Mouse

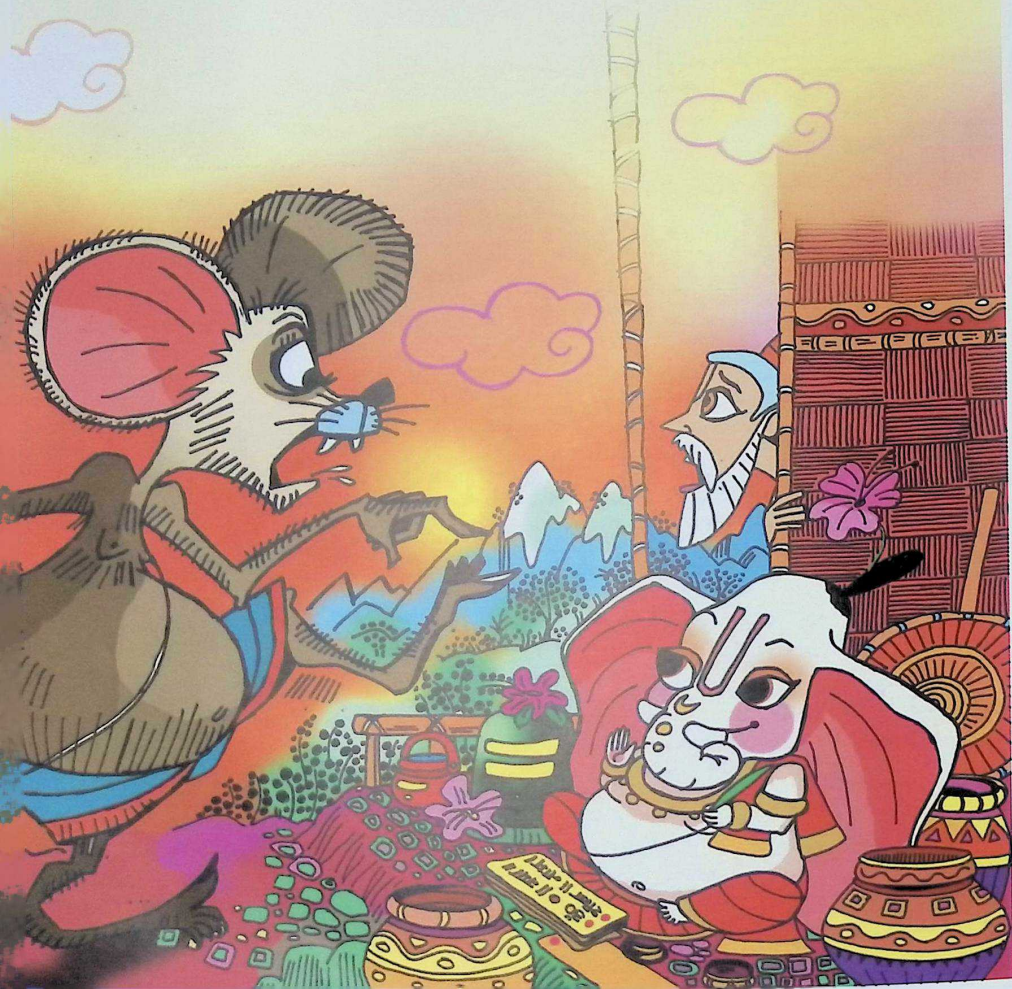


Once, there was a gathering of gods, sages and noble men at lord Indra's abode. In his eagerness to take his seat in the assembly, one of the gods trampled a sage's toe. Enraged, the sage cursed him. "You ignorant one, may you become a mouse!"



The god was terrified. He pleaded, "Oh learned one! It was an accident. I didn't do it intentionally." On hearing his pleas the sage calmed down a bit. "I can't reverse my curse. I can only reduce it. You will be the vehicle of Ganesha, the son of Shiva and Parvati."

As a result, this god turned into a mouse (a Big mouse) and fell into a hermitage. Unhappy with his new form, he created havoc there. He troubled the sages and messed up their granaries.



During that time little Ganesha was staying at the ashram. The rishis requested him to tame this big troublesome mouse. Ganesha took up the challenge willingly.



He flung the noose of his rope around the mouse's head. Soon Ganesha tamed him and started riding the mouse. Since then the mooshaka, or the mouse, has been Ganesha's vehicle.



The Broken Tusk

Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, between them, managed the universe. It was a rather taxing job. Apart from overseeing the earth, gods too had their squabbles that had to be sorted out. Tired, Shiva decided to take a nap.

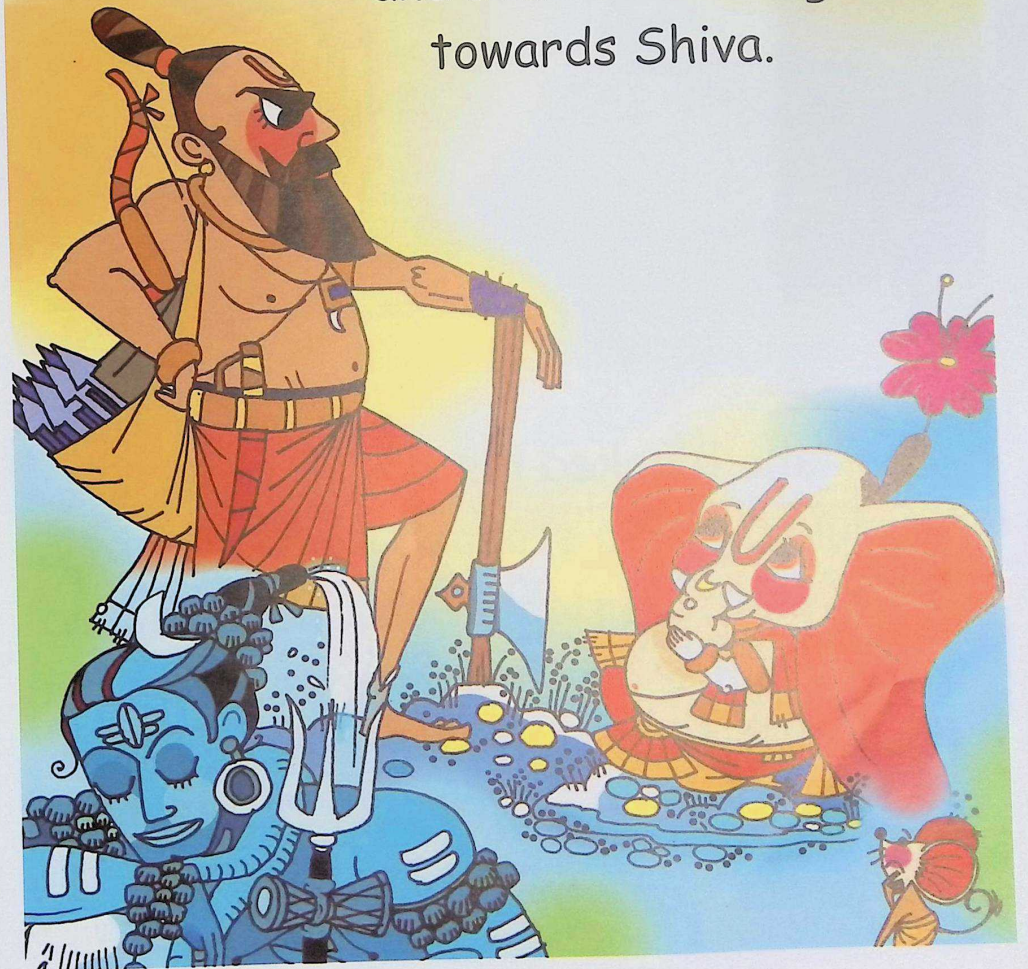


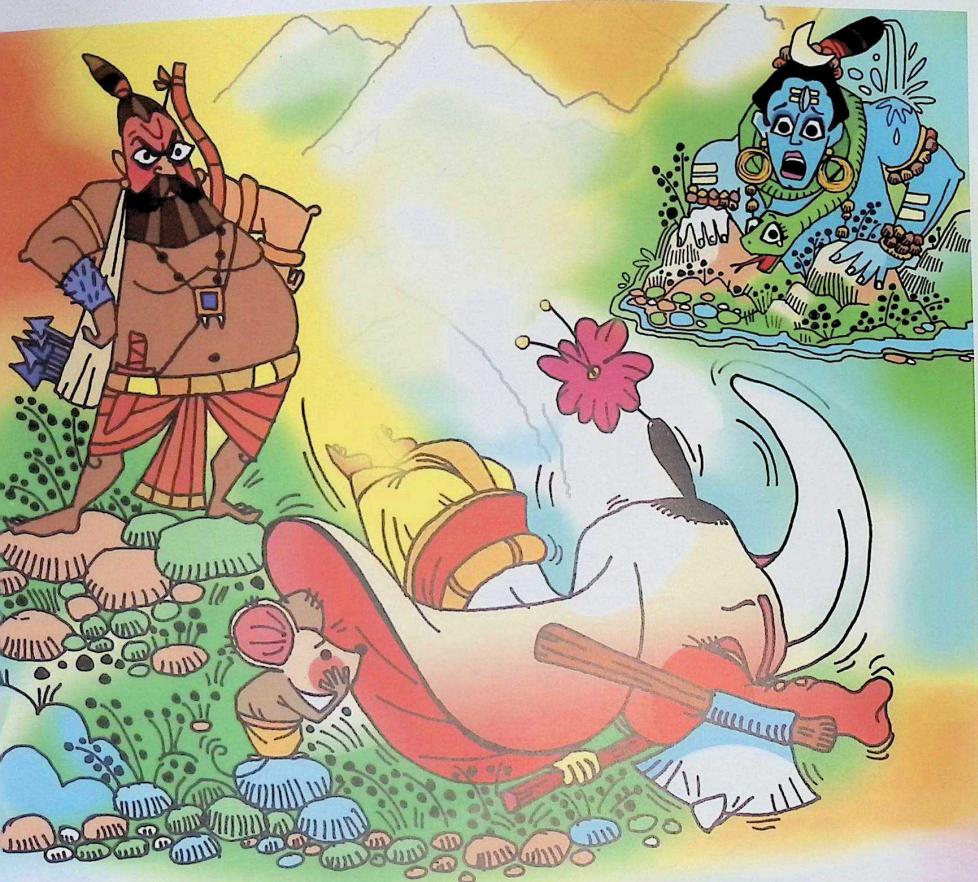


Lord Shiva had barely closed his eyes when Ganesha, who was sitting nearby, noticed some gods coming towards Mount Kailash. Aware that they would disturb Shiva, Ganesha decided to stand guard. Whoever came to seek an audience with Shiva was politely turned away.



Shortly, a Brahmin warrior demanded to meet Shiva. "Could you please come later as the Lord is resting?" Ganesha requested. "I want to meet him now", said Parshuram, the Brahmin and started walking towards Shiva.





Ganesha blocked his way. Parshuram, furious at being stopped by a small boy, dared him to a fight. Ganesha accepted the challenge. Parshuram attacked with his axe. Ganesha stopped the axe with one of his teeth. The power of Parshuram's axe broke Ganesha's tooth.



The commotion awoke Shiva. He urged both Ganesha and Parshuram to stop the fight. Reluctantly, both of them agreed. As a result, Ganesha, from then on, was also known as "Ek Danta" or the "One Toothed" god.

Kuber Learns a Lesson

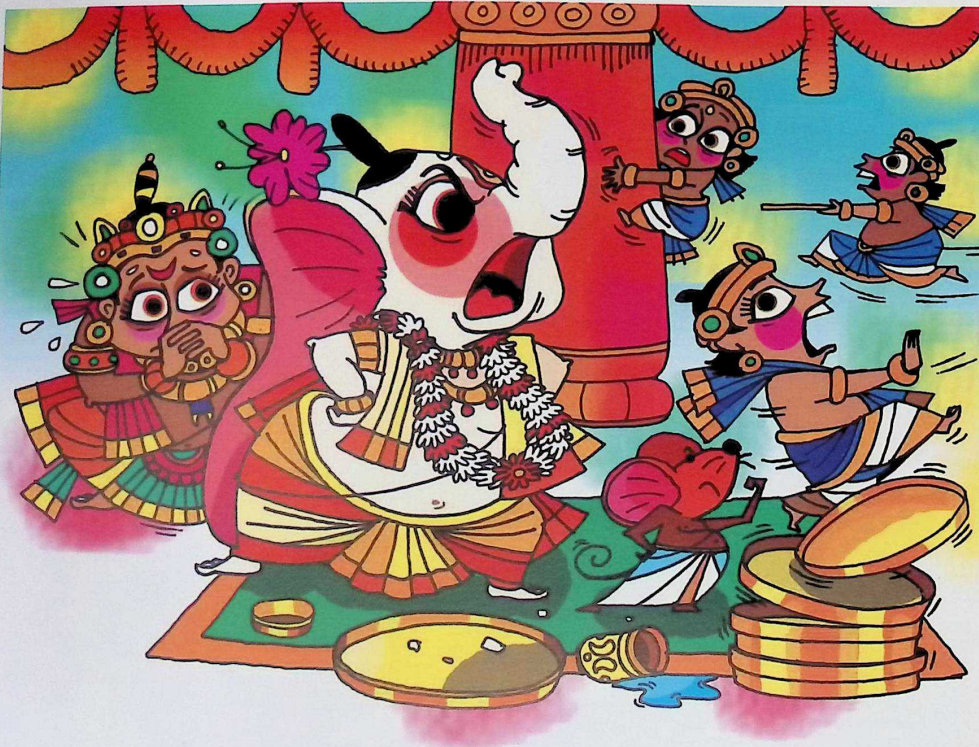


Kuber, the lord of wealth, was very arrogant. Once, he invited lord Shiva for a feast to show off his possessions.

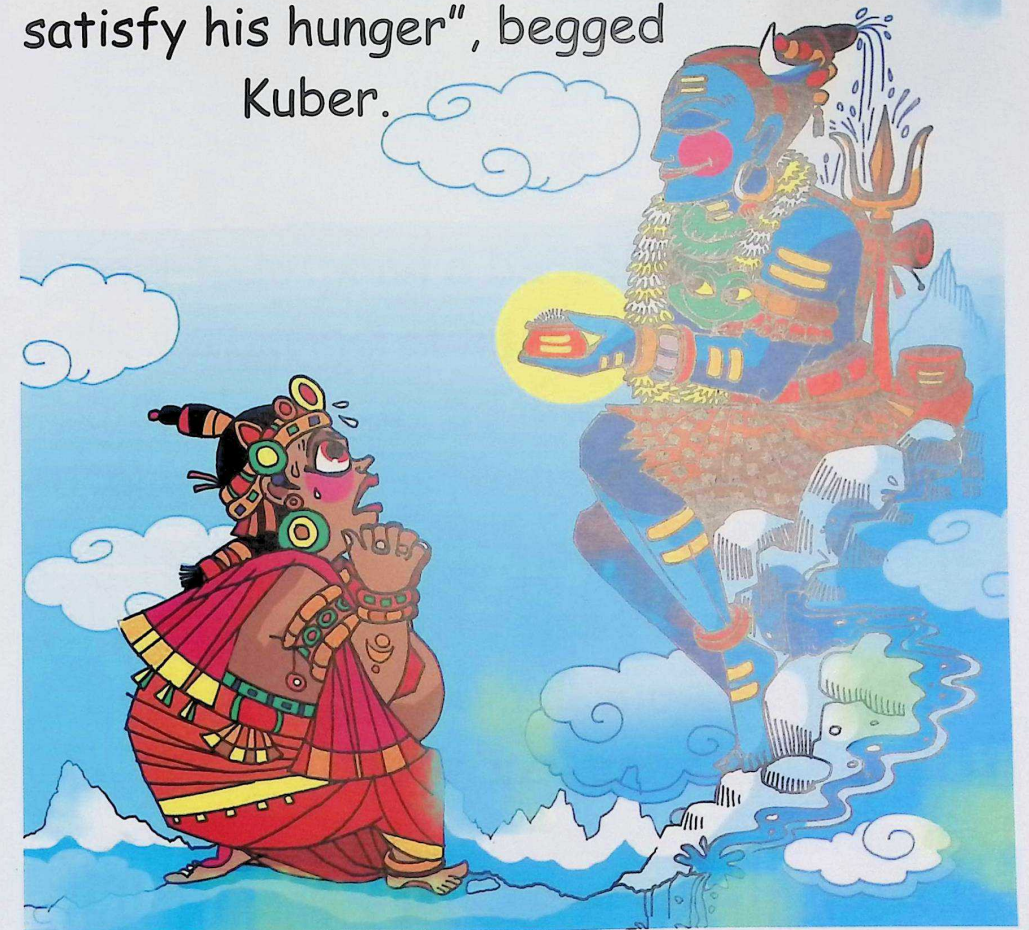
Shiva, aware of Kuber's intention, declined the invitation. He, however, agreed to send little Ganesha to teach Kuber a lesson. He warned Kuber that Ganesha was a voracious eater.



Kuber took little Ganesha around his grand palace. Finally, they sat for the feast. An assortment of mouth-watering food was served. Ganesha devoured the delicious cuisine and kept asking for more. "Have as much as you wish little Ganesha, vessels never go empty in my kitchen", bragged Kuber. Ganesha continued eating. Soon the service slowed down.



"I am still very hungry. Can someone give me food?", he screamed and started bawling. Kuber panicked. There was not a morsel of food left and Ganesha was threatening to eat the plates. Kuber fell at Lord Shiva's feet. "Help me Lord. I've offered Ganesha every single morsel of food I had, but could not satisfy his hunger", begged Kuber.



Nervous helpers were murmuring something into Kuber's ears. "Can I have some more sweets?", Ganesha asked innocently. "The vessels here are empty", he complained. "Sure", mumbled Kuber. He looked a little uneasy and was hoping Ganesha would stop. Sensing that the dishes were no longer being refilled, Ganesha got angry.



Lord Shiva offered a handful of rice and said, "Offer this to Ganesha with humility and he will be satisfied". Back in his palace, Kuber offered the handful of rice to little Ganesha. "Please accept this humble offering from me", he said bowing to Ganesha. Ganesha realised that Kuber had learnt his lesson. He accepted his offering, thanked him and returned to Mount Kailash.