Ganesha
The Benefactor
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This is the story of Lord Ganesha, who is known as the God of Knowledge and the remover of obstacles.
In ancient times, there was a powerful king called Abhijit. He had a beautiful queen named Sunavati.

The king and queen were blessed with a beautiful son.

A few days later, the royal couple thought to name their beloved son.

What shall we call our son, dear queen?

I think we should call him Gana.

My son, you will be the heir to my entire kingdom!

Of course, my lord.

Quite an admirable name!

Thus, little prince Gana became the center of their affection.
Days passed by and little Gana was growing up into a fine boy.

Gana, come here, my child!

As he grew older, he was trained in various fields of knowledge by gifted teachers.

He also received training in archery.

Now, you are skilled in art of archery.

From his childhood, Gana was an ardent worshipper of Lord Shiva.

Hail Lord Shiva!
Many years passed and Prince Gana grew into a fine young man, but his devotion towards Lord Shiva never decreased.

One day, pleased with his dedication, Lord Shiva appeared before Gana!

Child, I am very pleased with you. May you acquire abundant strength.

My adulations Lord! I am extremely grateful.

After a while... Do not leave me Lord!
With Lord Shiva’s blessings, Gana grew very strong.

One day, when Gana was in the forest, hunting, he came across the hermitage of Sage Kapila.

Let me enter the ashram and see to whom it belongs.

So, out of curiosity, Prince Gana went into the hermitage.

I am Prince Gana, son of King Abhijit and Queen Gunavati.

Welcome young man! Who are you?
Gana was welcomed into the hermitage of Sage Kapila.

After a brief conversation, suddenly Gana's eyes were caught by an object, which glittered in the sunlight.

Gana was even more curious and wished to have a closer look.

Sage Kapila, what is that glittering object?

That is the Chintamani gemstone.

The Chintamani gem was given to me by the King of gods, Devraj Indra.
Prince Gana was much enamored by the magical powers of the gem. The stone had captivated his mind so much, that he made a strange proposal to Sage Kapila...

This looks so fascinating.

O respected Sage Kapila! May I make a humble proposal?

Can I carry this mystical stone to my land?

Now, this proposal was not at all acceptable to Sage Kapila.

Impossible!
Prince, it is impossible to give what you have asked for.

But this refusal did not affect Prince Sana at all!

Hearing this, Sage Kapila was shocked.

O Sage, I have already made up my mind to acquire this magical gem by fair or foul means!

Prince, you should guard yourself from loathsome actions. Such actions only call for repentance.

But Prince Sana had already made up his mind.

If you do not give the gem to me, I shall have it by force!

Sage Kapila did not show any signs of fear at this warning. Instead...

Stop, you thief!
AND SO, PRINCE GANA ACQUIRED THE CHINTAMANI GEM BY SHEER FORCE.

THAT NIGHT, SAGE KAPILA INVOKED LORD GANESHA. HIS HEART WAS HEAVY WITH GRIEF.

AFTER SOMETIME...

SAGE KAPILA, I HAVE COME. WHY ARE YOU SO SORROWFUL?

O GANESHA, HELP ME AT THIS HOUR OF NEED.

LORD, I NEED YOUR HELP.

PRINCE GANA HAS TAKEN AWAY MY CHINTAMANI GEM, WHICH DEVRAJ INdra HAD GIFTED ME.
DO NOT WORRY SAGE, YOUR CHINTAMANI GEM WILL BE RESTORED TO YOU.

SAYING THIS, GANESHA DISAPPEARED.

NOW, I AM AT PEACE. LORD GANESHA WILL RETRIEVE MY GEM.

MEANWHILE, GANA WAS PEACEFULLY SLEEPING IN HIS PALACE. JUST THEN...

GANPAT, GIVE BACK THE CHINTAMANI GEM AT ONCE, OR PREPARE TO DIE!

THE NEXT MORNING...

I WILL FIGHT BACK. I WILL NOT GIVE BACK THE CHINTAMANI GEM.

SURPRISINGLY, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF REPENTANCE IN GANA. INSTEAD...

I AM CERTAIN THAT SAGE KAPILA HAS APPEALED TO LORD GANESHA.
As a result of his complaint, I had this frightful dream. I will not spare the sage.

The next morning, he prepared a huge army to attack the hermitage of sage Kapila.

Go and prepare the army for an attack.

Yes, my Lord.

Gana paid no heed to the words of caution of his old parents too!

Son, don't you think your actions are unjust?

Not at all Father! With this gem, we can feed a thousand people a day!

So, the next day, Prince Gana went to the hermitage of sage Kapila along with a huge army.
ATTACK THE ASHRAM!

JUST THEN...

CONFIRMING HIS WORST FEARS, LORD GANESHA WAS ALREADY THERE WITH A HUGE ARMY TO PROTECT SAGE KAPILA.

WHO IS THAT? IS IT LORD GANESHA?

BUT...

DO YOU THINK THAT I AM AFRAID OF FIGHTING? I WILL NEVER GIVE BACK THE GEM.

GANA, RETURN THE CHINTAMANI GEM TO SAGE KAPILA. IT IS NEVER TOO LATE FOR A GOOD DEED.
THE VIOLENT BATTLE WENT ON FOR MANY DAYS. ONE NIGHT...

I THINK I SHOULD END THIS BATTLE TOMORROW.

THE NEXT MORNING...

GANA, YOUR END IS NEAR. PREPARE TO DIE.
Saying this, Ganesha shot the fatal arrow at Gana.

AAAAHHHHHHHHHH!

Thus, ended the life of Prince Gana.

Gana, I had cautioned you! But...

Soon, the soldiers of Ganesha began searching for the Chintamani gem.

After a while...

I hope the gem is in this bag!
ON OPENING THE BAG...

HERE IT IS!

IT WAS A PLEASANT SIGHT, WHEN GANESHA ARRIVED AT THE HERMITAGE OF SAGE KAPILA TO RETURN THE CHINTAMANI GEM.

O SAGE KAPILA, HERE IS YOUR PRECIOUS CHINTAMANI GEM.

I THANK YOU, LORD, FOR RECOVERING THE MAGICAL STONE.

IN ANCIENT TIMES, THE SOUTHERN PART OF INDIA WAS ARID AND WATER WAS ALWAYS SCARCE.

LORD BRAHMA, THE CREATOR AND LORD SHIVA THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT THIS PARCHED LAND.

LORD SHIVA, MEN LIVING IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THIS LAND ARE TORMENTED DUE TO THE SCARCITY OF WATER.

WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
I think we should bless the area with a river.

Yes, a good thought indeed!

But, there was an obstacle in this.

But how will we send the river to this dry land?

Let us take the help of sage Agastya.

So, sage Agastya was summoned.

Please accept my adulations Lord! What is your command for me?

But Lord, may I know the purpose?

We want you to go to the southern land with a bit of divine water in your holy vessel.
This is because the southern part is arid and we wish to bless it with a river!

Alright, lord. Bless my holy vessel, so that it fills with divine water.

And so, Agastya's holy vessel was blessed with divine water.

A few days later, sage Agastya began his journey towards the southern land with his holy vessel.

Sage Agastya traveled over mountains and through forests. One day, he reached the Coorg mountains in South India.

I wonder whether I have reached the desired place or not?

I wonder how long it will take to reach the south.
Suddenly, he saw a little boy passing by.

O Lord! I have to answer nature's call. But I cannot carry the holy vessel then. What should I do?

Child, can you come here once?

Yes, O respected sage.

The little boy was Lord Ganesha in disguise.

When the little boy came near...

Child, can you help me, for I am in a strange situation?

This holy vessel contains divine water. I have to carry this water down to the southern land.

O sage, how can I help you?
But, I am desperate to answer the call of nature.

Since, I cannot hold the holy vessel at that time, I need someone to hold it for me.

Sage Agastya did not realize that the little boy was Ganesha in disguise.

Alright, Sage Agastya, I will hold your holy vessel while you satisfy your needs.

So, little Ganesha waited patiently for Sage Agastya to return.
I think this place is suitable for the river to flow. Let me put down the holy vessel here.

After a while, Sage Agastya returned.

Just then, a crow came from nowhere and sat on the holy vessel...

Child, take care. The crow will spill the water in the improper place!

But before Ganesha could do anything, the crow did spill the water!

O dear! The water has spilled. What shall I do?

Do not worry, O sage. This is the most suitable place to make the river flow!
BUT...

TRUST ME.

WHO ARE YOU LITTLE BOY? WHY DO I FEEL THAT YOU ARE NOT WHAT YOU APPEAR TO BE!

I AM GANESHA. I HAVE COME TO ASSIST YOU IN YOUR ENDEAVOR.

LORD, PARDON ME FOR I COULD NOT RECOGNIZE YOU. I AM OBLIGED TO YOU FOR GUIDING ME.
SO, THE WATER THAT HAD POURÉD OUT OF AGASTYA’S HOLY VESSEL, TURNED INTO A HUGE RIVER!

THIS HOLY WATER, WHICH HAS POURÉD OUT OF YOUR KAMANDAL WILL MAKE A MIGHTY RIVER. IT WILL BE KNOWN AS CAUVERY.

THE MIGHTY RIVER FLOWED THROUGH THE BARREN LAND, TAKING AWAY ALL THE DRYNESS.

THUS, THE SOUTHERN PART OF INDIA BECAME FERTILE FOREVER.
LONG AGO, UP IN THE HIMALAYAS, THERE ONCE SAT A DEMON PERFORMING SEVERE PENANCE.

HAIL LORD SHIVA!

HE WAS A DEVOTEE OF LORD SHIVA. HIS NAME WAS BHASMASURA.

SHIVA-SHIVA, SHIVA-SHIVA, SHIVA-SHIVA.

HE SPENT HUNDREDS OF YEARS, WITH NO THOUGHTS OF FOOD OR CLOTHES, HEAT OR COLD, SUN OR SNOW. HIS MIND WAS DEVOTED ONLY TO LORD SHIVA.

AGES PASSED AND SHIVA DECIDED TO BLESS HIM AT LAST. SO, ONE DAY, AS BHASMASURA WAS MEDITATING...

IT WAS INDEED AMAZING THAT EVEN AFTER SUCH SEVERE PENANCE, BHASMASURA HAD AN EVIL MIND.

LORD, GRANT ME THAT WHATEVER OBJECT I TOUCH WITH MY RIGHT HAND, WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REDUCED TO ASHES.

I AM PLEASED WITH THE SEVERE PENANCE YOU HAVE PERFORMED, SON, YOU MAY ASK FOR A WISH.
Lord Shiva granted him the boon without hesitation.

But Bhasmasura was extremely shrewd.

Lord, how will I know if the boon which you have granted is genuine or not? I would like to test it.

So be it!

Let me touch your head and see if what you say is true or not.

The wicked demon thought that once Lord Shiva would be burnt, he would be the sole authority.

At this, Lord Shiva was fear stricken.

I have bestowed a boon on a fiend. This demon wants to destroy the one who blessed him.

But I cannot take the boon back.
AFTER THINKING FOR A WHILE...

IT IS BETTER I RUN AWAY AND SAVE MYSELF.

AND SO...

IT WAS A STRANGE SIGHT THAT THE LORD OF THE UNIVERSE WAS RUNNING AWAY WITH A DEMON AT HIS HEELS!

LORD, PLEASE STOP!

AMUSED, LORD VISHNU WATCHED THIS UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE WITH INTEREST.

I THINK LORD SHIVA HAS BEEN SUFFICIENTLY PUNISHED FOR GRANTING A RUINOUS BOON. IT'S TIME I SHOULD GO TO HIS AID!
So, Lord Vishnu transformed himself into a beautiful woman named Mohini, and stood in the way of Bhasmasura.

Lord! You look very tired. Come to my father's hermitage and rest there a bit.

O let me go! That wretched Shiva will get away.

Suddenly, Bhasmasura noticed the exquisite beauty of Mohini.

You are very beautiful, Mohini. Will you marry me?
At this, Mohini gave a ripple of laughter.

Lord, how can I trust you? The man I marry must never have another wife. But you demons have so many!

Bhasmasura was crazy with the desire to marry Mohini.

Men, my lord, are not trustworthy. So, you have to swear by keeping your right hand on your head!

Mohini, I promise that I shall never marry again.

Lost in the thoughts of love, Bhasmasura was approaching his end. He was completely under Mohini's spell.

Alright, I shall do as you say. Mohini, I swear...

But, Bhasmasura never lived to complete the sentence. At that very instant, he turned into ashes by the boon of Lord Shiva.

Ha! Ha!
Meanwhile, Shiva was still running for his dear life.

I hope Bhagmasura will stop following me.

I wish I knew that my own blessing would go against me.

Seeing that Bhagmasura was not approaching, Shiva thought of resting for a while.

A long time passed, but Bhagmasura did not return. So...

I wonder why Bhagmasura has not returned. Let me go back and see.

So, he retraced his steps and reached that very place where he had last seen Bhagmasura.

But, on reaching the bend of the mountainous path...

Huh! What is this?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT BECAME OF THE EVIL DEMON, BHASMASURA, PRETTY LADY?

YES, MY LORD. HE HAS TURNED INTO ASHES.

IN A HUMBLE TONE, MOHINI NARRATED THE ENTIRE INCIDENT.

I DID ALL THIS FOR YOU.

MY EARNEST THANKS TO YOU.

AND THUS, MY LORD, I TRICKED BHASMASURA INTO KILLING HIMSELF.

JUST THEN...

ACCEPT MY ADULATION, LORD.
I should have realized, Lord Vishnu, that only be you!

I had to become Mohini to kill Bhasmasura. I could not allow evil to take over good.

And thus, the Earth was liberated from Bhasmasura.

Now, Bhasmasura had a son called Duraasadan.

He was greatly grieved by the death of his father, Bhasmasura.

I shall avenge the death of my father with the help of Lord Shiva’s boon.

After a long period of meditation, finally, one day...

Determined to receive a boon from Lord Shiva, Duraasadan began his journey to the Himalayas.

Duraasadan, you may ask for a boon. I am very pleased with you.
LORD, I WISH THAT I SHOULD NEVER DIE AND THAT ALL THE GODS SHOULD BE UNDER MY CONTROL.

SO BE IT!

SAYING THIS, LORD SHIVA DISAPPEARED.

MEANWHILE, IN HEAVEN, THE GODS CAME TO KNOW ABOUT THE BOON OF LORD SHIVA.

EHH?

LORD SHIVA HAS GRANTED A PERILOUS BOON TO THE CRUEL DEMON, DURAASADAN.

WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW?

MEANWHILE, DURAASADAN, DELIGHTED WITH THE BOON HE HAD RECEIVED, RETURNED TO HIS KINGDOM.

LET US ESCAPE TO THE HOLY CITY OF KASI. DURAASADAN WILL NEVER FIND US THERE.
NOW, I CAN TAKE REVENGE ON THE GODS FOR THE DEATH OF MY FATHER, BHASMASURA.

WITH THOUGHTS OF REVENGE, HE WENT TO INDRAPRASHTHA, THE HOME OF INORA, THE KING OF GODS.

INORA, WHERE ARE YOU? COME OUT OF YOUR HIDING PLACE!

JUST THEN...

LORD, INORA AND THE OTHER GODS HAVE ESCAPED TO THE HOLY CITY OF KASHI.

THEN, WE MUST ALL PROCEED TO KASHI AT ONCE.

SO, DURASAADAN WENT TO THE HOLY CITY OF KASHI, SITUATED ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER GANGES.
But the gods, with their divine vision had already foreseen the arrival of Duraasadan.

Let us go to Kedar, in the Himalayas and pray to Goddess Parvati.

Since the boon made Duraasadan invincible, the gods had to escape for their lives.

On reaching Kedar...

Goddess Uma, relieve us from this trouble!

Meanwhile in Kailash, the abode of Goddess Uma...

The gods are again in difficulty. I must do something for them.

After a little reflection...

Let me send Vakradhundar Ganesha, who will deliver them from this difficult situation.

So...
Gradually the fire began to take a form. Come alive Vakradhunohar Vinayaka!

My regards mother! What is your command?

Son, you have to put an end to the life of an evil demon called Ourasadan.

As you say, mother. Take my lion as your companion!

And so, Vakradhunohar proceeded to the palace of Ourasadan.

From the fire appeared Ganesha in a strange form! He was named Vakradhunohar Vinayaka by Goddess Uma.

Strangely, Ourasadan had already sensed trouble.

Why do I feel that something will go wrong?
JUST THEN...

WHO IS THAT? IS IT A GOD?

DURAASADAN, YOUR ENEMY IS NEAR!

WHO ARE YOU?

I AM VAKRADHUNDAR VINAYAKA.

A FIERCE BATTLE Ensued BETWEEN THEM.

THE BATTLE WAS WITNESSED BY THE GODS, WHO HAD TAKEN REFUGE IN THE HIMALAYAS.

AT LAST, THE SINFUL DURAASADAN WILL BE ELIMINATED.
THE MIGHTY BATTLE WENT ON FOR MANY DAYS, BUT DURAASADAN COULD NOT BE SUBDUED.

VAKRADHUNDAR, YOU CAN NEVER DEFEAT ME!

HENCE, VAKRADHUNDAR VINAYAKA TOOK AN ENORMOUS FORM.

DURAASADAN, I WILL END YOUR SINFUL THOUGHTS.

AND THEN...
YOU AND YOUR PRIDE WILL BE SUBOVED IN A SHORT WHILE.

PARDON ME, LORD!
Thus, Durasaadhan was blessed by Vakradhundar and sent to the holy city of Kashi to remove all his sins.

Once, Lord Ganesh wished to test the dedication of his devotees. So, he went to a village.

You shall be liberated from all your sins!

He carried with him a spoon full of rice and a bit of sweetened milk. Lord Ganesh wanted somebody to make some kheer (sweet) for him. So...

Who will make some kheer for me with this little rice and milk?

But seeing so little rice and such a little amount of milk, the ladies retreated.

And so, Lord Ganesh searched for someone else, who would comply with his wishes.

It is futile to make kheer with so little milk and rice.

Will I ever find somebody who will make kheer for me?

Sometimes passed, but Lord Ganesh did not find anybody who would make kheer for him. Finally...
MOTHER, WILL YOU MAKE SOME KHEER FOR ME WITH THIS MILK AND RICE?

YES LORD, I WILL.

BUT REMEMBER, MAKE THE KHEER IN A BIG UTENSIL.

WHY SO, LORD?

THAT YOU WILL KNOW WHEN YOU COOK! MEANWHILE, LET ME GO AND TAKE A BATH, AFTER WHICH I WILL HAVE THE KHEER.

VERY WELL, LORD.

NOW, THIS OLD WOMAN WAS A GREAT DEVOTE OF LORD GANESHA. SHE WAS VERY POOR AND LIVED WITH HER DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

ON ARRIVING HOME, SHE SAT DOWN TO COOK THE KHEER. BUT TO HER AMAZEMENT...

LORD GANESHA SAVE ME. THIS SWEET IS INCREASING BY ITSELF EVERY MINUTE!
AFTER SOMETIME, SHE HAD COOKED THE KHEER.

NOW, LET ME WAIT OUTSIDE FOR LORD GANESHA TO RETURN.

NOW, THE OLD WOMAN'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW WAS WEARY OF WAITING FOR LORD GANESHA. SHE FELT HUNGRY.

WHEN HER HUNGER BECAME UNBEARABLE...

MY HUNGER IS UNBEARABLE. LET ME OFFER LORD GANESHA FIRST AND THEN HAVE THE DELICIOUS KHEER.

AND SO...

LORD GANESHA, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS OFFERING.

AFTER OFFERING LORD GANESHA, SHE VENTURED TO TASTE THE KHEER.

THIS IS SO DELICIOUS!
TIME PASSED AND IT WAS EVENING, BUT LORD GANESHA DID NOT RETURN.

I WONDER, WHY LORD GANESHA HAS NOT RETURNED. IT IS SO LATE!

AT LAST, LORD GANESHA RETURNED.

LORD, YOU TOOK SO LONG IN TAKING A BATH! I HAVE BEEN WAITING TO OFFER THE KHEER TO YOU.

MOTHER, I HAVE HAD THE KHEER ALREADY. YOUR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW HAD OFFERED ME.

AND SO, LORD GANESHA BLESSED THE OLD WOMAN WITH INFINITE HAPPINESS AND FORTUNE. ONCE AGAIN IT WAS PROVED, THAT LORD GANESHA KEPT A KEEN EYE ON ALL HIS DEVOTEES.
This series of graphic novels narrates stories from the life of Lord Ganesha, the elephant-headed God of Indian mythology. These stories are delivered wonderfully in a lucid language. Reading these graphic novels will certainly help young readers to enhance their knowledge, and also provide them immense pleasure.