

Worship

..for developing an attitude of total surrender to God

Develop a personal relationship with the chosen Deity through worship as a precursor to seeing God in all forms in the universe

Murti is not an idol. It is not an independent source of power; a special ritual invokes the energy of the transcendent God-consciousness in the image, turning it into a murti fit for worship

Worshipping a murti helps focus the mind

Worship ceremony is called *puja*; it engages all senses

Ganesha Murti symbolism

Big head: Think big

Small eyes: Concentrate

Axe: Cut all bonds of materialistic attachments

Trunk pointed inwards:
Look inside, efficient and adaptable

Large stomach: Digest all good and bad in life



Large ears: Listen more

Small mouth: Talk less

One tusk: Sacrifice

Sweets: Reward of hard work or spiritual practices

Mouse: Desire should be controlled; ability to reach even the smallest of places



Many names and forms; one Source .. pluriform monotheistic ..

Rest you mind in God “by any means whatsoever”

- Choose a form whose qualities appeal to you or worship more than one
- Forms can be male, female, animals, plants, natural resources, symbols, etc.
- Many stories for each manifestation that inspire greater love for God

Divinity in all different forms creates reverence for the Creator

