Ganesh's race against the world

There were once two brothers called Ganesh and Kartikeya.

They lived on Mount Kailash with their father, Lord Shiva, and their mother, the Goddess

One day, a wise man called Narada Muni visited the mountain. He gave Shiva and Parvati a golden mango. It looked juicy and delicious.

This was a very special mango. It could not be shared, and whoever ate would have the gift of knowledge and wisdom.

Shiva and Parvati couldn't decide who should have the mango.

"Boys, here is your challenge," said Lord Shiva. "The first person to go around the world three times will win this mango."

To help in their travels, Ganesh had a mouse and Kartikeya had a large peacock, which was strong and fast. Kartikeya, who was athletic, jumped on the peacock's back and they flew high into the sky.

Ganesh, calmly sitting on his mouse, didn't move at all. "Just let me think for a moment," Ganesh said to his parents.

As Ganesh thought, Kartikeya zoomed past in a blur of feathers.

"I've been around the world once already, Ganesh! Better get moving," Kartikeya laughed.

Ganesh had another idea.

He stood up and walked in a circle around his parents three times. They didn't understand what he was doing.

Ganesh looked at their puzzled faces and said, "You are my parents. You are my whole world! Walking around you three times is the same as going around the world."

"How clever!" they said, and they gave him the prize of the golden mango.

Shiva and Parvati were amazed by Ganesh's idea. They thought he deserved the prize of the golden mango and the power of knowledge and wisdom.

When Kartikeya saw the mango in Ganesh's hands, he was upset. But, when he heard how Ganesh won, he knew that although Ganesh might move slower, he was much quicker at thinking.

By thinking before acting, Ganesh's kind and smart actions helped him be successful.