

3. SACRED GANGES

The **Padma Purana** mentions that Ganesha was born from the fragrant paste removed from Goddess Parvati body and the figure so formed was immersed into the River Ganga. The figure gained life after it came in contact with the sacred water of river Ganga. According to **Brahma Purana** Lord Ganesha releases Ganga from the matted hair of Shiva with the help of Gautama Maharshi. Brahma suggested that Gautama Maharishi should bathe in the Ganga river which will wash away his sins and purify the sage. The sage followed the instructions of Lord Brahma and released Goddess Ganga from the locks of Lord Shiva.

"The divine Ganga, daughter of Himavan, beautiful and sinless, carrying a large volume of water ascended the heavens". ||1.35.24|| Valmiki Ramayana

"As per instructions of Rama, Guha gets a boat ready. On reaching the middle of the stream, Sita offers prayers to Mother Ganga (the deity presiding over the stream) and after crossing the river, all the three halt for the night at the foot of a tree.": **Ayodhya Kanda Sarga 52 of Valmiki Ramayana.**



Lord Ganesha



Address portion of the letter (stamps not cancelled)

Ganga, in one incarnation, was wife of **Shanthana maharaj** and mother of warrior Bhishma. Goddess Ganga resides on the head of Lord Shiva. She leaves Shanthana maharaj as he breaks promise.