



Ganesha, A.D. 14th Century, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas Art Association Purchase

Ganesha, the elephant-headed son of gods Parvati and Shiva, loves sweets! Ganesha especially loves modakas, which are sweet dumplings filled with a yummy fruit center. Once he started eating them, he would eat and eat and eat and not stop until they were all gone!

One day, Ganesha smelled the enchanting smells of fresh modakas. Following his trunk, he soon found several plates piled full of modakas and began helping himself to the sweets. After finishing all of the treats, Ganesha's stomach was SO full that it burst open, sending modakas flying everywhere. "Oh no!" Ganesha cried. Then, he heard a loud chuckle. The round moon was laughing at Ganesha and said, "You call yourself a mighty god? You're not mighty, you're greedy!"

Ganesha was so mad and embarrassed that he took one of his tusks and threw it at the moon. "Go away!" he cried and kicked the moon out of the sky."

Suddenly, it grew very dark and rain began to pour down. "What have I done?" said Ganesha. "I've destroyed the rhythm of day and night. I have to fix it."

"Listen, Moon, I will let you come back, but you will grow smaller for twenty five days until you look just like the broken tusk I threw at you. That way you will always be reminded not to make fun of others. Then you will grow larger for fifteen days until you are whole again."

Ganesha also learned a lesson that day and he was never quite so greedy again.