

Judging Others

Cast:

Parents

Son, Sunil

TV Host

Lord Ganesha

Friends

Music playing softly as parents enter the stage and prepare for dinner. Son enters smiling....

Sunil : hey mum and dad, what's up?

Mum: We were talking about you, son. Tomorrow's your first day at High School, bow to Lord Ganesha and ask for His blessings before you leave. He will remove all your obstacles and everything will go smoothly.

Sunil: Come on mum, times have changed and we should too. I'm no longer a kid to keep doing things you ask of me. For years you made me worship Ganesha and I've heard you talk of Him removing obstacles for others, but, mum, have you ever had a closer look at Ganesha and the obstacles that He faces? He hasn't been able to remove them till today. Look at His body; it's so fat. Hey, we are now fighting obesity in America. His head is not even human. And just imagine having 4 hands!! Instead of a Porsche, imagine someone who moves around on an insignificant rat! How can I worship this alien from who knows which planet?

Dad: Son, you've always listened to us. Please do what your mother tells you. It's for your own good.

Sunil: Come on dad. We have moved to the 21st century. You and mum are history. You've got to move with the times. I don't want others to ridicule us. Why don't you give up your Ganesha and find the latest American idol to worship instead. That's the in thing, right now. I've got a long day ahead tomorrow, so good-night.

Parents: Goodnight son. May lord Ganesha bless you.

-----MUSIC CHANGES-----DREAM SEQUENCE (Light effects)

Sunil is a participant in a TV show

TV host: Hi folks, I'm your host and welcome to the Discoverer Contest. All that we ask of you is to bring just one dry leaf which is of no use to anyone. The one to complete this task first will have the title of the Discoverer of the Year.

Sunil: ha ha ha ha... the whole world is going crazy. Imagine such a silly contest. I'm going to win it without any effort. I'll be the Discoverer of the Year.

(slide show of woods with lots of fallen leaves...Sees a falling leaf...But a flying dove takes it. Sunil interacts with the slide and acts as if he is running to pick up one leaf)

Sunil: Oh no, the bird has a use for this one. Let me try another, surely dry leaves are useless.

(slide show of women collecting other dried leaves and making dinner plates...Sunil goes towards other dried leaves and interacts with the pictures on the slide)

Sunil: Just imagine people are actually using them as dinner plates!

(slide of a floating leaf in water) Sunil sees another leaf floating in the river, Sunil runs to catch this leaf, but...

Sunil: Hey that's my winning leaf...what's this?

(slide show of ants on a floating leaf)But he sees ants on a leaf

Sunil: It has saved the ants from drowning. It's their life boat. Why, why, why, do these things happen to me? I thought I was a sure winner. O Lord, I am useless. I can't even find a useless dry leaf.

Ganesha smiling: NOTHING IS USELESS

Morning in the living room

Sunil: bye mum and dad I'm off to High School.

Parents: May Lord Ganesha be with you.

At school.....

Sees friends talking in a group together. Sunil joins them.

Sunil: Hey guys. Good to be see you again.

Friend 1: I thought I'd miss the bus this morning, as I had to offer my prayers to lord Ganesha. After all it is a new school year.

Friend 2: Hey, I was there too, I saw you rushing in when I was just leaving the temple.

Friend 3: I bowed to the Lord at home.

Sunil: Hold on, hold on, guys. What's up? Do you actually worship Lord Ganesha before starting anything new?

Friend 1: Of course. Haven't you seen Ganesha has a huge stomach? It symbolizes Him absorbing and removing all obstacles from our path.

Sunil: Cool, I never ever gave it a thought. I was thinking He suffered from obesity. How limited was my

Friend 2: My parents always tell me that Lord Ganesha has big ears to teach us to Listen more, a small mouth which asks us to talk less and small eyes, which show us how to concentrate.

Sunil: Sounds good. But how about going round on a rat, when He could have picked one of the fast and fancy cars?

Friend 3: Have you heard that the rat is always greedy and nibbling on things? He signifies all the cravings and desires in man. Lord Ganesha helps by riding on these desires and keeping them in check for us.

Sunil: You guys know so much about the Lord. I thought I was too grown-up and felt it was primitive to believe in God, especially one that didn't look totally human. I was mistaken.

Later at home

Sunil: O lord Ganesha, I know it was you last night in my dream. You've taught me a very important lesson. I now know that nothing is useless and I should never judge anyone by their exterior looks but look for beauty deep within everyone.

-----Jai Sai Ram! -----