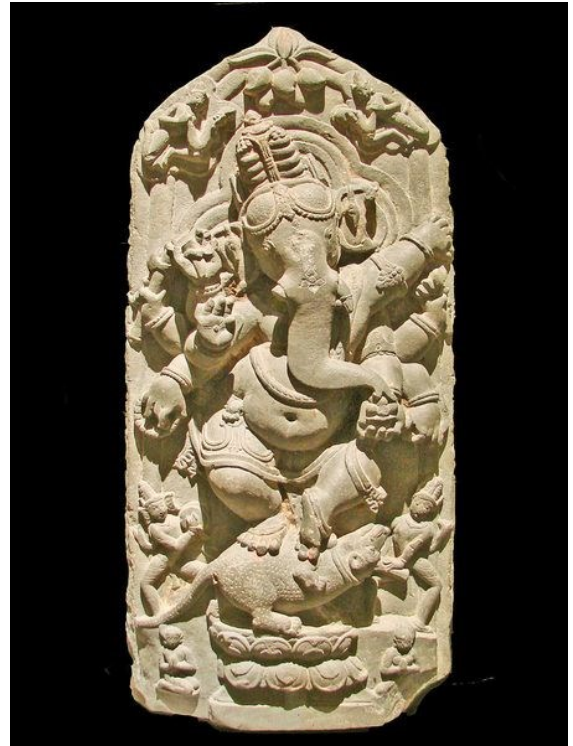


How Ganesh Broke His Tusk

Excerpted from <https://www.ancient.eu/Ganesha/>

One day, after eating a few too many *modakas* (sacrificial cakes), Ganesh decided to take a ride on his giant rat, Kroncha, to aid his digestion. However, the rat was surprised when he came across a large snake and, jumping back with fear, he threw off his rider. Ganesh landed on his full belly and it burst upon hitting the ground. The cakes from his stomach rolled left, right and center, but Ganesh, unbothered, carefully gathered them in, stuffed them all back into his belly and wound the snake around his midriff to keep it closed. Symbolic of Ganesh's ability to *overcome all obstacles*, the snake, the cause of the accident in the first place, therefore provided the remedy for the damage it had caused.



Continuing on his night ride, Ganesh suddenly heard a thunderous noise from the heavens. This was the laughing of the Moon and his wives, the 27 Constellations, unable to contain themselves on seeing Ganesh wrapped in a snake. Outraged, Ganesh broke off the end of one of his tusks and hurled it at the laughing Moon who, hit full in the face, was struck dark. Without the light of the moon, the dark nights became the haunt of thieves and villains until honest people had had enough and pleaded with the gods to restore the silver light. The gods asked Ganesh to forgive the Moon, but only a partial forgiveness was given. Now, the Moon shows his full light on one night a month and then, slowly, wastes away.