

Om Gan Ganapataye

Music: Nandu Honap (used with permission)

Words: traditional

Open or standard tuning

Movements: Shivadam Adam Burke

1 D 2
Om gan Gan-a - pa - ta - ye na - mo na - mah Sri Sid - dhi Vin - a - ya - ka

4 A 3
na - mo na - mah Ash - ta Vin - a - ya - ka na - mo na - mah

7 D4 A D1. D2.
Man - ga - la mur - ti mor - y - a! Om mor - y - a!

This is a partner dance. Ganesh - widely known as the "Remover of Obstacles" - is Lord of the "root chakra" *muladhara*; and a rotund Ganesh will dance with very solid steps! In similar form, we connect with each step in a "rooted" way to Mother Earth, while at the same time drawing up through us spiritual energy in joyful praise.

- 1) Begin facing center, fingertips or palms on the shoulders of those next to us. On "gan" of the first line, we take a lively and solid side-step to the right with R foot, closing with L on "...pataye"; another side-step to right on "namo," closing again on final "...ah."
- 2) Raise arms from the shoulders toward the sky, opening upward, celebrating the "obstacle-removing power" as we turn clockwise, culminating in *pranam* (palms together at heart) and a bow to the center.
- 3) From this position, hands continue downward to take the hands of those beside us, as we become a multi-fold embodiment of Ganesh in the circle; step identically as with the first line (beginning on "Ashta...").
- 4) Turn and face partner, taking both hands, gazing into the eyes of our companion "Ganesh." The partnership joyfully turns together during the final line, one-half turn clockwise, so as to progress in the circle. We are ready to begin again.

This verse combines Sanskrit and Marathi, the language of Maharashtra, India, where Lord Ganesh is most colorfully celebrated. The first line is a Ganesh maha-mantra from the *Ganapati Upanishad*. Following OM, the root sound "gam" (which becomes "gan" in context); then *Ganapataye*, or "to Ganapati"; and with *namo namah*, the full phrase literally means, "I salute again and again Lord Ganesh, Father to the masses!" The second line includes another of his many names, *Siddhi Vinayaka*: "Whose power bestows spiritual success." The third takes the name of a geographical distribution of 8 "self-arising" Ganesh murtis (idols) in Maharashtra. With the final line, we exult, "Hail to the One whose very form is auspicious!" *Morya* is a Marathi word for *jay* (as in "Sri Ram jay Ram...")



Originator-approved version, collected by PW-DUPNA, December 2009