



Answering Big Questions

Children ask wonderful, tricky questions. You do not need to have all the answers. What matters is that they feel their questions are welcome, just like Naren, the boy who grew up to be Swami Vivekananda, who asked his teacher, "Have you seen God?"

"Where is God?"

"God is everywhere: in the trees, the sky, in Grandma and in you too. Like the light of a diya fills a whole room, God fills everything." Then try lighting a candle together in a dark room and noticing how far the light reaches.

"Why does Durga Maa have so many arms?"

"The pictures in our stories show special powers. Many arms show that Durga Maa can help lots and lots of people all at the same time." Ask your child: "If you had ten arms, who would you help?"

"Why does Ganesha have an elephant's head?"

Tell the story simply, then add: "Elephants are wise and strong and never forget. Big ears for listening well, and a small mouth for talking less." Children love this idea.

"Are the stories true?"

"These are our sacred stories. People have told them to their children for thousands of years because they teach us how to be brave, kind and good. Grandma heard them, and now you are hearing them too."

"Why do we pray?"

"Praying is like talking to someone who loves us very much. We say thank you, we ask for help to be good, and sometimes we just sit quietly and listen."

"Can I meet Hanuman?"

"Hanuman lives in the hearts of people who love him. Every time you are brave and help someone, Hanuman is right there with you."

"Why do we light a diya?"

"Light chases away the dark. When we learn new things, it is like lighting a diya in our minds."

Helpful habits

- It is fine to say, **"What a good question. Let's find out together."**
- Turn the question back gently: "What do you think?" Children often have beautiful answers.
- Keep answers short. If they want more, they will ask again.



- Keep a question jar (see our *Story Play at Home* guide) for the questions that need a little more thinking.