



Vietnam - Champa - Linga Fire Column - Sandstone - 10th Century.



5 000 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Stone

Length : 13,5 cm

Width : 13,5 cm

Height : 44 cm

Description

Cosmic axis, pillar of the universe, the linga is also the phallus of Siva symbol of vital and creative power. Very early on, the linga sculpted by man (manusa-linga) distinct and less venerable however than those which emerge naturally on the surface of the earth, will be governed by many prescriptions determining their aspect, their proportions and the rites of installation and consecration concerning them. The Siva Purana, the linga Purana specify that the linga contains within itself the three divinities: -Brahma the creator occupies the lower part of square section (called Brahmabhaga), which is hidden underground. This part symbolizes the neutral principle. -Visnu the preserver occupies the central part hidden by the pedestal. It is of octagonal section (called Visnubhaga). This part

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symbolizes the feminine principle. - Rudra the destroyer appears at the top (Rhudabhaga) and symbolizes the masculine principle. Circular in section, it is the only visible part of the linga when it is inserted into the pedestal. It is this part that receives worship. (cfr the golden age of classical India the Gupta empire p 264). This lingam is entirely in line with Indian principles and the three equal parts also refer to a type of linga attested in Indian literature under the name of Sarva Sama, of which only very few examples are known in India itself. (Art treasures of Vietnam the sculpture of Champa p270). The presence at the top of the net of a small fleuron described during the sale as leaves is either a representation of fertility, or more probably a flamboyant fleuron referring to the pillar of fire of the legend (Indian art by Edith Parlier-Renault p122). A similar piece, although larger, was found in Tra Kieu and is kept at the Da Nang museum. This piece is described in two books: -Art treasures of Vietnam: the sculpture of Champa by -Vibracy in stone: Masterpieces of the Da nang museum of Cham sculpture. Origin: Vietnam. Dimensions: Height: 44 cm; Length: 13.5 cm; Width: 13.5 cm. Dating: Champa - 10th to 14th century - 10th century. Provenance: Private collection - French Art Market - Dr. VDW Collection.