



Antique Nepalese Shaman Drum Dhyangro Carved Ritual Phurba Handle Jhakris

1 450 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Other

Height : 68 cm

Description

Origin: Nepal, Himalayan Region
Period: Late 19th to early 20th century
Materials: Carved hardwood, natural hide, vegetal fiber cord, pebbles
Dimensions: Max 68 cm. Max diameter 37 cm
Condition: Age-consistent wear, structurally sound, authentic patina

Description
A rare and powerful example of a traditional Nepalese shamanic frame drum (dhyangro), historically used by Himalayan shamans (jhakris) during healing, exorcism, and spiritual ceremonies. This double-headed drum features aged animal hide stretched tightly over a round wooden frame and laced with natural cord in a traditional geometric pattern. Uniquely, inside the drum are several loose pebbles, intentionally placed to produce a rhythmic,

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rattling sound when shaken or rotated--enhancing its function in ritual and trance-inducing contexts. This dual role as both a percussive and rattling instrument is typical of high-level ritual drums. The highly ornate handle is a masterwork of carving: Three guardian or ancestral faces are carved in the round, symbolizing protective spirits and possibly echoing Vajrayana deity representations such as Vajrakilaya. The tapering shaft is adorned with serpentine (naga) and spiral motifs, referencing cosmic energy, protection, and transformation. The form of the handle is strongly influenced by the phurba ritual dagger, a spiritual tool used in Himalayan and Bonpo ceremonies to dispel obstacles and negative forces.

Provenance & Significance This drum likely originates from the Tamang or Magar ethnic groups of central Nepal. Such instruments were deeply personal, used by shamans to enter trance states, summon spirits, or offer protection to their communities. The presence of internal pebbles elevates this example, emphasizing its active ceremonial role. The carved imagery and construction reflect a fusion of Buddhist, Bon, and indigenous Himalayan symbolism.

Condition Report Authentic surface wear consistent with age and ceremonial use. Original hide heads and tight, complete lacing. Rich aged patina; no structural damage. Pebbles move freely inside drum body, producing clear rattle sound. No repairs or modern intervention. Suspension loop intact.

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