



Katar Knife/sword In Gold-damascened Steel (koftgari) - India - 18th Century



1 000 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Wrought iron

Length : 26 cm

Description

This remarkable Indian katar for a woman, an iconic hand dagger of the Indian subcontinent, dates from the 18th century and is a superb example of the art of weaponry under the Mughal Empire. The handle features the characteristic H-shape, allowing for seamless continuity between the forearm and the blade, thus providing exceptional penetrating power. The side rails and parts of the handle are richly decorated with koftgari, a traditional technique of inlaying gold wire into steel, here arranged in elegant floral and geometric patterns. The blade, wide at the base, tapers gradually to a sharp point. It is reinforced by a deep central rib, ensuring both rigidity and effective penetration. The metal surface displays a beautiful antique patina, attesting to its age and authenticity. Made entirely

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of steel, without added organic elements, this weapon illustrates the functional and prestigious nature of the katars intended for the military and aristocratic elite of 18th-century India.