



## Natural Core Carved With Immortals, Dragon And Tiger



880 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Parfait état

### Description

China, Hediao tradition, 19th century. A small, finely carved, openwork natural kernel in the round, belonging to the Chinese Hediao (??) tradition of working fruit kernels into micro-sculpture. The piece presents a dense and lively rotating composition, depicting numerous Taoist figures, probably sages or immortals, moving within a stylized mountain landscape. The figures, with expressive faces and finely incised beards, adopt varied poses, giving the object remarkable dynamism despite its small scale. The scene is enriched by the presence of two symbolic animals: a serpentine dragon, identifiable by its sinuous, scaly body, and a stylized feline, probably a tiger. The association of these two creatures constitutes a fundamental theme in Taoist thought, evoking the balance of

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opposing forces--celestial and terrestrial, yang and yin. The sculptor masterfully exploits the original morphology of the core, alternating solid reliefs, deep hollows, and openwork passages, creating an enveloping composition that is legible across the entire volume. A beautiful, even, warm brown patina, with natural wear on the reliefs, testifies to an object that was handled in the past. Chinese work from the late 19th or early 20th century. Dimensions: Height: 4 cm Width: 3 cm