

Finch & C^o



A NAGA, HILL PEOPLES OF ASSAM, NORTHEAST INDIA, MAN'S PENDANT NECKLACE

A NAGA, HILL PEOPLES OF ASSAM, NORTHEAST INDIA, MAN'S PENDANT NECKLACE . COWRIE SHELL , GLASS BEADS ,
HUMAN INCISOR TEETH , LEATHER AND HEMP TWINE

EARLY 20 TH CENTURY

SIZE : 24 CM HIGH , 21 CM WIDE – 9½ INS HIGH , 8¼ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

FOR THE NAGA'S , ORNAMENTS HELP TO MAKE STATEMENTS ABOUT AND DEFINE INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS .
ORNAMENTS ARE PART OF THEIR DEFINITION OF BEING TRULY HUMAN AND MOST NAGA ORNAMENTS HAVE A PARTICULAR
MEANING AND POWER , MUCH LIKE THE FIJIAN CONCEPT OF 'MANA'. THE RIGHT TO WEAR THEM IS THEREFORE STRICTLY
CONTROLLED .

RITUAL BELIEF AND PRACTICES PERMEATE ALL NAGA SOCIAL ACTIVITY , THEIR SPIRITS AND GODS HAVING A PARTICULAR
RELATIONSHIP TO THEIR CONCEPT OF 'FERTILITY'. THUS WHEN THEY OFFER A SACRIFICE TO A GOD IT IS USUALLY TO ASK
THAT HE INTERVENE BENEFICIALLY IN THE MATTER OF MAXIMIZING FERTILITY ; GOOD CROPS , HEALTHY CHILDREN , THE
HEADS OF TIGERS AND ENEMY WARRIORS . UNTIL 1950 HEAD TAKING AND WARFARE WERE CENTRAL TO THE NAGA'S
COMPLEX BELIEF IN FERTILITY .