



SOUTH EAST INDIAN BRONZE OF THE DIVINE FLUTING KRISHNA VENUGOPALA

A SMALL SOUTH EAST INDIAN BRONZE OF THE DIVINE FLUTING KRISHNA VENUGOPALA

15TH - 16TH CENTURY

SIZE: 11CM HIGH, 13.5CM HIGH (INCLUDING STAND) – 4¼ INS HIGH, 5¼ INS HIGH (INCLUDING STAND)

LITERATURE

THE FLUTE PLAYING COWHERD FROM VRINDAVAN IS THE MOST POPULAR REPRESENTATION OF KRISHNA. THE POSITION OF HIS HANDS SYMBOLISES THAT HE ONCE HELD A FLUTE. HE STANDS IN HIS CHARACTERISTIC POSE WITH LEGS CROSSED AT THE ANKLES AND HIS LEFT HIP THRUST OUT, HIS RIGHT LEG BENT ACROSS THE ERECT LEFT LEG, AND THIS POSTURE IS KNOWN AS 'TRIBBANGA' THE 'THRICE BENT' OR S-SHAPED STANCE THAT IS GENERALLY RESERVED FOR FEMALE FIGURES. KRISHNA SPENT HIS EARLY LIFE IN THE BUCOLIC GROVES OF BRINDAVAN AND THIS IS THE POSE HE ASSUME WHEN HE IS ENCHANTING THE COWHERDS AND THEIR CONSORTS OF HIS PASTORAL PARADISE. THE KRISHNA DEVOTIONAL CULT HAS BEEN ENORMOUSLY POPULAR IN INDIA AND SINCE THE 20TH CENTURY IT HAS IN THE WEST AS WELL. THE EFFACED CONDITION SUGGESTS THAT THIS FIGURE WAS WORSHIPPED FOR A LONG TIME PROBABLY IN A DOMESTIC SHRINE.