Finch & Co



INDIAN CEREMONIAL SIKH KHANJARLI

AN INTERESTING INDIAN CEREMONIAL SIKH KHANJARLI, A DAGGER WITH A DOUBLE CURVED BLADE CARVED ENTIRELY FROM THE HORN OF A SACRED BULLOCK. INSCRIBED 'INDIAN KYJAR. BT OF FENTON. AP.22.91. P719'
19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 37.5CM LONG – 14¾ INS LONG

LITERATURE

THIS UNUSUAL CARVED HORN DAGGER IS RITUALLY USED TO MIX AND CHURN WATER IN A STEEL BOWL WHILST SUGAR CRYSTALS ARE DROPPED INTO THE VESSEL TO MAKE 'AMRIT'. THIS DRINK IS SIPPED FROM THE SAME BOWL BY ALL INITIATES INTO THE KHALSA OR SIKH 'ORDER OF THE PURE', AS A PLEDGE OF EQUALITY AND FAITHFULNESS. THE KHALSA WAS BEGUN IN 1699 BY GURU GOBIND SINGH AND WAS FORMED AS A CASTELESS AND SELF-ABNEGATING BODY OF SIKHS READY TO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST INJUSTICE AND TYRANNY. THE KHALSA EMBODIES THE IDEAL OF A FREE AND EGALITARIAN SOCIETY AND THE AMRIT INITIATION CEREMONY IS OPEN TO BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.