

19th century Tibetan butter tea ewer

£245



REF: 6784

Height: 44 cm (17.3")

Width: 39 cm (15.4")

Depth: 20 cm (7.9")

Description

A 19th century Tibetan Buddhist copper ceremonial butter tea ewer with an ornate goddess serpent handle and ornate casting.

Tibetan ceremonial butter tea ewers are ornate vessels used in traditional rituals to serve *po cha*, or butter tea-a staple in Tibetan culture. These ewers are often crafted from metals like copper, silver, or brass, and adorned with intricate carvings, auspicious symbols, and sometimes gemstones.

During ceremonies, especially in monasteries, the ewers are used by monks to pour tea into cups as an offering or for communal sharing. Their elaborate design reflects the spiritual significance of hospitality and generosity in Tibetan Buddhism. Beyond functionality, these ewers symbolise reverence, continuity of tradition, and the rich artistic heritage of the Tibetan plateau.