



## PERSIAN *TABAR-E DOSAR*

تیردوسر (DOUBLE-HEADED AXE)

This is typical ceremonial, double-headed axe from Persia (Iran) that was used by a *naqqāli* (recital of the *Shāhnāme*) or during Moharram ceremonies on top of the standards. The axehead is made of plain steel (high carbon steel) and beautifully etched with four different scenes. One of the scenes shows a hunter carrying a deer over his shoulders and going up the stairs of a house. He is turning his head back looking at a mounted king with his crown who is approaching him with his horse. A hunting dog is running next to the horse of the king. Behind the king, a page is walking and resting a stick over his shoulder. On the other side of the horse, a man is sitting and watching the whole scene. The whole scenery is set in a floral and vegetal background. On the other axehead of the same side, a soldier who is wearing a helmet is talking to a woman who is offering him a bowl of a beverage/drink. Both are standing and facing each other. Between them a bearded man is sitting and facing the woman and begging her for something. Behind the soldier/knight a page is sitting and pointing out at something. Behind the page, there is a pitcher. Behind the woman, a man is standing and watching the whole scene. Behind him there is a dog sitting. The whole scene is set in a floral and vegetal background. On the other side of the axehead, a man is depicted offering a goat to a woman who is standing next to him. In front of the woman, there is a dog sitting and behind her, there is an old woman sitting. In front of the man, there is a tortoise. To the left side of the man, there is a big dog that is watching the scene behind a tree. On top of the tree, there is a bird sitting. The whole scenery is set in a floral and vegetal background. On the other side of the axehead of the same side, a standing woman is watching a man cutting a flower who is sitting in front of her. The man is wearing a hat and has a mustache. There are two flower baskets in front of her feet lying on the floor. A bird is depicted above the head of the man. Next to the woman, a rabbit is depicted on the floor. An old man is standing and watching the woman on the other side. Behind him a page is sitting and watching the whole scene. The whole scenery is set in a floral and vegetal background. The corners of the axehead are etched with talismanic inscriptions. A steel socket with heavy plates hold two axeheads by means of rivets. The plates and the socket are also etched in vegetal design. The top of the socket is in shape of a two-pronged standard with nine holes. The metal shaft ends in a conical end. For similar Persian double-headed axes see Lebedynsky (1992:115), Moshtagh Khorasani, 2006:666-667; figure 356) and Tirri, 2003:222, figure 160c).



TYPE PERSIAN *TABAR-E DOSAR* تیردوسر (DOUBLE-HEADED AXE)

ORIGIN PERSIA (IRAN)

PERIOD 19th CENTURY



TOTAL LENGTH 105,3 cm

WIDTH AT THE WIDEST AREA (HORIZONTAL MEASURE) 51,4 cm

WIDTH OF THE BLADE (VERTICAL MEASURE FROM ONE TIP TO THE OTHER) 49 cm

LENGTH OF THE HANDLE 69,8 cm

WEIGHT 3391 grams

