



## Shiva Lingam



This egg-shaped cryptocrystalline quartz is made up of a very dense combination of tiny crystals. The Quartz is interspersed with iron oxide deposits which is what makes it so heavy.

The Shiva stones are only found in the Narmada River high in the mountains of Onkar Mandhata in the central western part of India, one of the seven holy sites in India.

The stones are formed into their distinctive shape by the natural action of the river, but need final shaping and polishing by hand. It is of high significance in the Hindu culture because the markings symbolize the forehead of Lord Shiva.

Once a year, after the long dry season and just before the beginning of the monsoon season, when the river is at its lowest, the villagers, working with oxen and rope, go out into the riverbed and pull the stones from the water. The stones are then hand polished. About twenty to thirty very large pieces are taken from the river each year, these take several months to complete.



Take care when handling a Shiva Lingam. They are used to increase fertility...