

如意 Ruyi

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Ruyi is a curved decorative object that is a ceremonial scepter in Chinese Buddhism or a talisman symbolizing power and good fortune in Chinese folklore. A traditional *ruyi* has a long S-shaped handle and a head fashioned like a fist, cloud, or lingzhi mushroom. *Ruyi* are constructed from diverse materials,

generally valuable materials like gold, silver, iron, bamboo, wood, ivory, coral, rhinoceros horn, lacquer, crystal, jade, and precious gems. The "ruyi" image frequently appears as a motif in Asian art.



History of the development of the Chinese Ruyi

Ruyi was also widely used during the Wei, Jin and Southern and Northern Dynasties period in China as a playing object in the hands of emperors and officials. The material which it was made of explained the powerful status of the person. Later on during the Ming and Qing Dynasties, Ruyi gradually shifted to becoming an art piece that people used for display. Famous poets and writers often used Ruyi as the object of compliments in their work. The shape of Ruyi with bending heads was basically unchanged, while the lucidum-shaped clouds form a variety of designs on both sides of the curved handle.

Ruyi now stands for the ultimate of aesthetics in Chinese art pieces.