DL 234 [Kurumba Antelope]

ORIGINAL NAME: Adoné (Kurumba Mask)

CULTURE: Aribinda, Toulfe, Djibo regions of the Kurumba People

ORIGIN: Kurumba, Burkina Faso, West Africa

**FEATURES/DESCRIPTION:**

* Slender and long neck, horn and snout
* Surface adorned with red beads
* Long sharp ears
* Brownish-red or kaolin pigments used on surface

**OVERVIEW**

The Kurumba Mask, rightly known as Adoné, by the Kurumba people of Burkina Faso is a physical embodiment of an ancestral spirit (deceased kin). Ancestors represent a very important focus in African cosmological system. There is a consensual belief in the eternal existence of souls of people who have rightly attained the status of an ancestor upon death. Some of the requirement for the attainment of ancestorship includes; Old age, a noble and upright life, progenies etc.

One who reaches this feat, naturally joins the realm of the ancestral spirits upon death and are afterward treated with great reverence. They act as intermediaries between the living and the divinities. Families remember these spirits by periodic veneration and thanksgiving. They do this in order to keep them alive in the spiritual realm, while also intentionally engaging them to influence their earthly activities for good.

For the people of Kurumba, the Adoné mask, which is a natural antelope headdress; worn over the head by masqueraders, represents the spirit of a deceased elder. It acts as a totem and/or point of contact for the remembrance and veneration of the dead. Libations, sacrifices and prayers are offered to the Adoné, by family members to preserve good relationship with the departed kin.