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Star Of Wonder Ornament

The North Star guides worshipers on their trek to the Holy Family. Admired for its distinct grain patterns, olive wood is commonly used in the production of kitchenware, household figurines, and even jewelry. This ornament reflects both the fine craftsmanship of Palestinian artisans and the artistry of nature. Carvers do not cut down trees for their craft, but rather use pruned branches removed to enhance the health of the trees. This item is not a toy.



About the Artisans

GE Workshop (al-Atrash) - West Bank

"Working with olive wood is part of my culture, my heritage," says George al-Atrash, who founded his family workshop in 1967. He lives near Jerusalem, where he used to sell items to tourist shops. But that is now impossible as he cannot obtain the Israeli-granted pass that would enable him to travel through the checkpoints. George has carved olive wood his whole life, using skills passed on from previous generations. Today, the GE Workshop employs seven artisans who carve olive wood biblical figures, nativities and other items. Like many other olive wood carvers, George is a member of the Greek Orthodox Church. For him, carving the Holy Family isn't about making tourist souvenirs or Christmas ornaments, but is an embodiment of his faith. "We're always happy when people appreciate the love and care that we put into our pieces," he says.

Materials:

olive wood

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Learn how Fair Trade really makes a difference. Our goal is to provide vital, fair income to artisans by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages sells product from more than 30 countries, providing work for nearly 60,000 people around the world.

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