



TEN THOUSAND  
VILLAGES



### About the Artisans

## Asha Handicrafts Association

Asha, which means “hope” in Sanskrit, was started by professionals responding to the abject poverty of artisans, the problem of exploitative middlemen, and the disappearance of many traditional crafts. Asha’s work has encouraged the growth of cottage industries, assisting once-impoorished individuals and families towards self-sufficiency. Today, Asha works with over 6,500 artisans in India. Benefits to artisans include marketing, design consultancy, product development, advances, interest-free loans, savings programs, medical care, and educational scholarships, uniforms, and books for children. Training is given at the local level on such issues as AIDS, family planning, addictions, domestic violence and gender discrimination, as well as seminars related to business management skills. Asha empowers women by promoting products made by women and women also hold positions of authority and responsibility within the organization.

## Marble Maze Game

Challenge and fun all in one! Test your aptitude by guiding three steel balls through this tricky wooden labyrinth and enjoy an ancient game of skill.

### Materials:

steel, shesham wood

### Product Care:

To care for shesham or rosewood, occasionally apply an oil-based furniture oil to preserve the natural lustre or to remove water stains. The wood has been seasoned or cured for a minimum of two months before being sawed into specified lumber sizes, but due to Canada’s drier climate, warping can sometimes occur.



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**Travel the world with each visit to Ten Thousand Villages.**

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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[www.tenthousandvillages.ca](http://www.tenthousandvillages.ca)

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