



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.

## Elephant Family Puzzle

Spend precious time with the children or grandchildren in your life, and piece together this unforgettable and stunning shesham wood puzzle. A baby elephant nuzzles into its mother’s underside. Expertly made.

### Special Details:

Elephants have great significance both in ancient and modern-day folklore.

Faithful friend of the common working

man, and fearless ally in ancient battles, the elephant is both a valuable working asset in the rural countryside as well as a powerful symbol of victory and strength. A trunk-up elephant is ready to fight for victory. A trunk-down elephant is ready for service and obedience.

### Materials:

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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