

The cattle and the human person

The zebucattle hold a unique position being the animal—within the complex Malagasy cultural and religious system—closest and essential to human social life. The cattle links the human with its ancestors and the spiritual world. The cattle signify life and vitality as well as wealth. Besides being “a bank account on four legs”, the cow is used as a draught-animal, it gives milk, meat, hides and horn.

The horn of the cattle represents its pride: the larger horns, the prouder cow. Traditionally, horn is used to make amulets for necklaces. Today, the horn is also made into bracelets, earrings and all types of tableware; salad servers, ladles for soup or sauce, spoons in different sizes, bowls.

Ministère de la Culture on Madagascar has controlled and approved the products before export.



Step 1) The horn cut off is cleaned in boiling water. Thereafter, the tip of the horn is cut off and the horn is also cut alongside.

Step 2) The horn is heated over a fire or coal. When being heated, the material becomes soft and hence possible to shape.

Step 3) Depending on the shape of the product to be made, the cow-horn is made flat or pressed into a rounded wooden mould, for example to form a ladle for soup.

Step 4) Finally, the product is scraped and polished until shining.

Result!



With the people, through the life

The zebucattle is of essential economic and social importance. Closeness assure goodness.

