

Khadullu, also known as Hanging Panas, is one of the most iconic and culturally significant traditional crafts in Nepal. These beautifully designed oil lamps are crafted from brass or bronze and are commonly adorned with intricate carvings of religious symbols, deities, floral motifs, and other artistic patterns that reflect Nepal's rich cultural heritage. Traditionally, Khadullu lamps are suspended from the ceilings of temples, monasteries, and household altars during religious rituals, festivals, and ceremonies, illuminating sacred spaces with a warm, flickering glow. The practice of using Khadullu dates back centuries, and it holds a special place in both Hindu and Buddhist practices in Nepal. These lamps are typically lit with a cotton wick soaked in oil, most often mustard oil, symbolizing the dispelling of darkness and ignorance, while the light itself is seen as a representation of purity, knowledge, and spiritual enlightenment. Artisans who create Khadullu use specialized metalworking skills passed down through generations, making each lamp a unique piece of craftsmanship. Khadullu is especially important during major festivals like Dashain and Tihar, where the lighting of these lamps signifies devotion, prosperity, and the offering of light to the gods. Beyond its functional role, Khadullu has evolved into a symbol of Nepali identity and pride, showcasing the nation's commitment to preserving its cultural traditions and artisanal craftsmanship. In modern times, Khadullu lamps are also used as decorative items in homes and public spaces, with some artisans even adapting the traditional design for electric versions. Despite the changes in technology and modern living, the Khadullu remains a cherished part of Nepal's spiritual and cultural landscape, symbolizing a deep connection between the earthly and the divine.

Khadullu, also known as Hanging Panas, is a vital emblem of Nepal's rich cultural tapestry, embodying the intersection of artistry and spirituality in traditional practices. These exquisite oil lamps are typically crafted from brass or bronze, showcasing intricate designs that feature religious motifs, deities, and floral patterns. The craftsmanship of Khadullu reflects a deep-seated tradition that has been preserved for centuries, with artisans honing their skills through family lineages, ensuring that the knowledge of metalworking and engraving continues to thrive. These lamps are commonly found suspended from temple ceilings, monasteries, and household altars, where they serve a crucial function during rituals, ceremonies, and festivals, casting a warm, flickering light that creates a sacred atmosphere. Traditionally lit with a cotton wick soaked in mustard oil, the flames of Khadullu not only illuminate but also symbolize the dispelling of darkness and ignorance. The light produced by these lamps is viewed as a representation of purity and knowledge, embodying the spiritual enlightenment that followers seek in their practices. Khadullu plays an essential role in both Hindu and Buddhist traditions in Nepal, particularly during significant festivals such as Dashain and Tihar.

During these celebrations, the act of lighting Khadullu symbolizes devotion and reverence, as families and communities come together to offer light to the deities, inviting blessings and prosperity into their lives. The intricate designs and craftsmanship of each lamp also reflect the cultural values of Nepal, where community and spirituality are intricately woven into the fabric of everyday life. In these vibrant festivals, Khadullu lamps are hung prominently, enhancing the spiritual ambiance of temples and homes alike, and reinforcing the importance of these traditions in maintaining a connection to the divine. Furthermore, Khadullu is more than just a functional object; it is a cherished symbol of Nepali identity and pride, representing the country's commitment to preserving its artistic heritage while promoting cultural continuity. In contemporary times, the significance of Khadullu has evolved, with modern adaptations that incorporate electric lighting while retaining the traditional aesthetic. This adaptability showcases the enduring legacy of Khadullu in Nepali culture, as it continues to be a fixture in both sacred and secular spaces. Artisans now produce Khadullu lamps for modern homes, ensuring that their beauty and symbolism can be appreciated by a wider audience. Despite the modernization of lifestyles, the essence of Khadullu remains intact, serving as a bridge between past and present, and between the earthly and the divine. The environmental impact of using Khadullu is also noteworthy, as these lamps utilize natural materials like oil and cotton wicks, aligning with contemporary values of sustainability. Overall, Khadullu encapsulates the heart of Nepali culture, embodying traditions that foster community, spirituality, and artistic expression while remaining a cherished aspect of the nation's identity in an ever-changing world.