



Fig. 41

Fig. 42 Torch Stand (*sārāta'ō*). Probably from Zhönchigal, Waigal Valley. Iron; h. 83 cm., dia. of top ring 36 cm., l. of accompanying stemmed vessel 12.5 cm., l. of stem with chain and pin 50 cm. Purchased in Kabul on December 29, 1973; later identified as the stand formerly owned by Sa'id Karim (Dameddari) in Nisheigrom, Waigal Valley.

Reportedly used five generations ago for ritual fire ceremonies during the rite of passage of the big-man Zanzal when entering into the highest feastgiver/priest rank of *moū*; on a big stone (e.g. a hand millstone), placed on the stand, a sacrificial fire was maintained, blown up from time to time by pouring clarified butter on it from small iron vessels of the kind attached to the stand. Lately used as a torch stand.

Four-legged stand with round open top, made of iron bars forged together at the ends; V-shaped legs formed by pairs of undulating twisting bars, joining to support the ring on top which is attached with rivets; additional pairs of straight wrought bars project from feet to form an interior four-sided pyramidal structure with projecting shaft; two serpentine bands of wire surround the top part and the joining of the legs, the upper one is suspended with wire through holes in the ring, the lower one attached to the legs with the help of hooks ending in loops; flat blade-like pendants hang from both these bands; in addition, a small stemmed iron vessel shaped like a topless oil lamp was found suspended by a chain from an attached pin put into one of the holes of the top ring.