Thai Sacred Amulets and Thipanet Market in Chiang Mai

The world of Thai amulets is fascinating, but it can be confusing to those who are not well informed. Protection amulets in Thailand are widely traded, sold, treasured and worn by a wide cross section of society, mostly by Thai men.

In Thailand you'll find amulets worn around the neck, hidden from view in shirt pockets so they can be close to the heart, draped around car and taxi mirrors, and just about anywhere else you might want a little extra protection.

Amulets come in many shapes, sizes and formats, and they are used in different ways for



different purposes. Buddha images are common of course, but deities and elevated people are also memorialized in amulets. These include famous Thai monks; Indian and Chinese deities such as Hanuman, Ganesh and Quan Yin; and Jivaka, the ancestor spirit of Thai medicine.



Although the amulet markets in Bangkok are much larger, especially the main amulet market near Wat Pho, you will probably be one of only a few foreigners wandering around Chiang Mai's Thipanet Market. The vendors are friendly, many speak basic English, and they are always happy to show you their wares. The market is open from 9 am to 4 pm

As you explore the world of Thai protection amulets, you can be rewarded with an exciting cultural experience, and gain insight into elements of Thai spirituality such as animism, protection and magic that are harder to notice in everyday life. And while you are at the market, why not get yourself a protection amulet? You never know

when you might need it! For a more complete description of Thipanet market, see this article in the THAI online library: <u>view amulet article</u>

Written by Bob Haddad, for the THAI archives - share freely