Made in Japan.

From ancient days, the popular Daruma has symbolized the attainment of achieving goals, no matter what the size. The symbolism of the Daruma, also known as Dharma doll, is to never, ever give up on your dreams! The Daruma is well known as a symbol of perseverance, opportunity in abundance and good luck that makes it a popular gift of encouragement.

Daruma are traditionally red to represent Good Luck and Fortune, the meaning of the kanji on the bottom portion of the doll. the idea is to first decide on a specific goal to achieve. Once the goal is determined, one blank eye is painted black to signify the person's commitment to achieving their goal. Meanwhile, the Daruma can be placed anywhere visible as a constant reminder of the specific goal to be achieved. Once achieved, the other eye is painted. As an option, some people write the goal attained on the back of the Daruma. Then it is up to the person to get another Daruma to set a different goal.

The origin of the Daruma dates back more than 1,500 years ago, when a Buddhist monk named Bodhidharma sat in deep meditation, sitting in the customary zazen position. According to popular legend, he sat in front of a wall motionless for 9 years. It is believed his atrophy caused his legs to fall off. With its round "roly poly" shape, the Daruma is associated with the famous proverb, "Nana korobi yaoki," which means "Fall down 7 times, Get up 8".

Sources:http://www.welovedaruma.com/en/about_daruma.html, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daruma_doll.





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