



THE MAGIC OF STONES

By:
Shabrazad Amondeh

Gemstones have fascinated mankind for thousands of years. In ancient times, they were used as amulets in order to offer protection against ghosts, repulsing evil and preserving health as well as safety.

The stones were used in three different ways to achieve this. The mere presence of the stone was sufficient to effect a cure, the gem was placed on the afflicted part of the body; or the stone was powdered and eaten.

The first stones known to have been used for making jewellery include Amethyst, Rock crystal, Amber, Jade, Agate, Coral, Lapis Lazuli, Pearl and Turquoise. These stones were reserved for the wealthy, and served as a status symbol.

Today, however, almost everybody can afford beautiful stones for jewellery and adornment since they are not much worn to demonstrate wealth, but actually bought increasingly for pleasure, in appreciation of its beauty.

Each and every precious stone has its own magical powers and mystical effects on individuals, depending on their zodiac/star sign for instance.

The Cancer (22 June - 24 July) sign's lucky precious stone is Ruby, for example. However, a stone which brings absolute negativity to this sign is Onyx. So Cancerians try to avoid contact with Onyx (black stone) with their skin as much as possible!

The following are names and descriptions of some of the most prominent semi-precious stones:-

Turquoise

For years, Turquoise has been known for protecting one against evil spirit and envy. It is thought to give positive vibrations to the body and gives one a lot of courage.

The best qualities of this magnificent "sky-blue" stone are found in Northeast Iran near Nishapur. Further deposits are found in Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Mexico and the U.S.

Stone of which Zodiac? Pisces

Amethyst

Amethyst is the most highly valued stone in the quartz group. The name means "not drunken" in Greek as it was, and still is, worn against drunkenness. In other words, it is said to help keep one sober at all times by gradually reducing one's presumed need for alcohol.

Amethyst is a stone of "spirituality and contentment". It is also believed to be an ideal all-round healing stone which calms the mind and is reputed to be good for meditation.

Amethyst is believed to open and activate the power points in the head as well as being used to treat hearing disorders and strengthening the skeletal system. It is thought to be useful in the treatment of the nervous and digestive systems, the heart, stomach, skin and teeth.

In addition, it has been used as an elixir for the treatment of arthritis and is said to have yielded excellent results.

Deposits of this purple stone are found in Brazil, India, Russia, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Canada.

Stone of which Zodiac? Aquarius

**Perfection requires
focus and diligence;
Shahrazad at work**





A misbah

Amber

Amber is the fossilised, hardened resin of the Pine tree, formed about fifty million years ago. The use of Amber can be described as a therapeutic resin that balances thyroid levels in human glands. Therefore, usually individuals who suffer from thyroid problems are often advised to have a piece of Amber in contact with their skin.

Amber is found mostly in the Baltic, although younger Ambers are known from the Dominican Republic.

Jade

Jade was discovered seven thousand years ago. It was used as protection against and a cure for kidney diseases. It also, supposedly, stimulates practicality and wisdom as well as strengthening the heart and immune system. Jade is also believed to purify the blood and increase fertility.

Important jade deposits are found in upper Burma. Others are in China, Japan, Mexico and Russia.

Agate

There are numerous types of agate that are very popular in the market.

Carnelian, for example, is one which is in great demand. Others include the Yemeni agate, Moss agate and the dark blue and green agate.

The reason why this stone is used/worn is because it is thought to absorb negative energy and vibrations and convert them into positive ones.

Agate is an immensely useful stone for healing and carnelian, in particular, and many recommend it for infertility and impotency. This kind of agate is also used by many for purification of the blood. Furthermore, it has been suggested that carnelian stops nose bleeding.

The Agate's deposits are found in Yemen, Iran, Mexico and Brazil.

Garnet

The garnet assortment is a group of differently coloured minerals.

They are mostly used for balancing hormones, and are reputed to be good for mental depression, enhancing self - esteem, diminishing bad dreams and encouraging prosperity and success in business.

The Garnet's reported healing powers include fertility and easing arthritis pain. Garnets are

popular gifts as a symbol of happiness and loyalty.

Its deposits are found in India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Malachite

Malachite derives its name from the Greek word - Malakos: soft, since it is not a very hard and resistant stone.

Malachite is used/worn by some people to stimulate clear vision and insight, represent hope and inner peace, and is also believed to protect from danger. Moreover, it used to be used, and still is today, as a talisman to induce peaceful sleep and protect one from bad dreams.

Malachite's deposits are found mainly in Zambia and Russia.

Coral

Coral is of organic origin but has the quality and character of a stone. Coral exists in several colours ranging from tomato red to pale pink/peach.

For thousands of years, Coral has built reefs with its branching trunks (plenty of which exist along the coastline of Oman).

It is worn or used for courage and is thought to help combat all sorts of blood-related and heart diseases. This gem is also believed to strengthen the memory, calm emotions and decrease anger while increasing peace of mind. Coral is said to calm a person's tensions and provide vitality and wisdom.

Deposits are found along the coasts of the Western Mediterranean countries, the Red Sea and the Canary Islands.

For centuries, gemstones have fascinated mankind. Their many uses have made them a companion that supposedly protects from evil spirit and a talisman that is thought to protect its wearer from

ailments. Today, they still assume near mythic importance.

Fact-File:

Shahrazad Amoudeh is the daughter of Persian jewellery designer, Soheyla Amoudeh, who operates a jewellery shop in in Muscat and Dubai.

After completing one year of work experience in her mother's shop, Shahrazad is now studying jewellery design in London. She aspires to become a successful jewellery designer/jeweller in the Middle East.

A veil of gemstones

