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## Know Your Gemstone

With all the glitz and glamour in the world of jewelry, there's a particular piece that grabs my attention whether I'm online or I walk in a jewelry store - gemstones. It feels like every piece of the jewelry tells a story, and the gems embellished to some of them are no exception. They look sophisticated. Gems are more than precious.



In a manner of defining it, a gemstone is the name given to a piece of mineral (or other rock or organic material) that after it has been cut and polished has been made into a piece of jewelry or another accessory. As the old Chinese proverb goes,

*"A gem is not polished without rubbing, nor a man perfected without trials."*

Gemstones are rare, cherished and durable. They have been treasured since before history began. They are tiny nuggets of delight that have enthralled the senses of men and women alike, having had mysterious histories and legends trailing them. Some tell a story or are believed to have special powers, but all of them

share a common beauty. They are believed to ward off evils and shield us from negative energies being the powerful stones as they are. Gemstones have healing and medicinal influences. They are known to boost the spiritual power of our body, keeping us happy and healthy. Gemstones, which stimulate positive and powerful radiation in our body, are mostly made from minerals.

### *How are gemstones formed?*



Even though the vast majority of gemstones are created below the surface of the earth, there are a number of different ways that the individual stones can be created. A great number of these precious stones are created when the minerals react with water that is found just below the surface of the earth and the minerals then dissolve. This process allows the minerals to form with gemstones like opals, agates and amethysts forming when the solution cools or evaporates. Conventionally, gemstones have been examined and evaluated by eye. When examining a gemstone, the four most

important factors can be summed up in the four C's, which are; color, clarity, cut, and carat.

For any gemstones, color is the determining factor if it is of the best quality which includes the hue position, intensity or the richness of color, and tone. Clarity comes in second which is judged by the visibility of inclusions and the impact on durability. Displaying the gem's inherent beauty to the greatest extent possible or the Cut is the third factor to look upon when buying a gemstone.

*"If the gem is beautifully cut, things such as depth percentage or length-to-width ratio matter not one bit. What works, works. The eye, the mind, and the heart are the final arbitrators, not numbers."*

The last but not the least is the carat or the weight. The size of a gemstone is measured, not by its dimensions, but by weight. Two gemstones of the same size can vary in weight owing to different proportions. N



Indeed, Nature has gifted us with many different types of gemstones, each with its own unique features. If it is a matter of selecting a gemstone, or any kinds of jewelry in this manner, one should go with the stone that speaks out to him or her. When buying gemstones, like any other major purchase, it pays to do your research in advance and look around at various shops or outlets before making a purchase, which I normally do more often. After all, we deserve a gemstone that is worthy and valuable. Treat yourself with a gemstone that gives joy and lifetime happiness. Loving yourself is the most beautiful thing you can do, for yourself, and the Universe.