



Introduction

Since times immemorial, Gemstones have not only been objects of fascination because of their varied hue and brilliance, but have also been accepted and propagated as conduits of energy because of their mystical and therapeutic healing ability. Symbolic of peace, prosperity and happiness, they are known to give direction to human destiny. Their structural vibrations strengthen planetary powers by enhancing the individual cosmic aura, inducing good energy in the associated area of life and activating the all pervasive divine influence present in each one of us. They are also known to alleviate human suffering and stimulate healing by expelling negative energies. They help us in our inner growth process and their subtle energy vibrations bring into our lives the energy of the planet related to the gem we are wearing. They are cosmic filters that disallow particular vibrations from causing harm. They reduce the bad effects of malefic planets and increase the good effects of benefic planets.

According to the ancient scripture *Tantra Sara*, the human body is an island of nine gems or *nav-ratnas* which correspond with the nine *dhatu*s which make up the human body. The *Garuda Purana* also mentions the relationship between gems and the nine astrological planets. The *Rig-Veda* advises the use of seven gems to capture the visible spectrum in the rays of the sun.

The Planetary Gemology World is divided into two opposing philosophies, *Anukul-vad* and *Pratikul-vad*. The former signifies that a gem will act like its planet. So gems should be chosen for *Anukul* (favorable) planets. The second theory states that a gem will act in opposition to its planet. So, gems should be chosen for *Pratikul* (unfavorable) planets. The prevailing practice is that for planets that are functional benefics but weak, gems are recommended to be worn to strengthen such planets and bring out more of their benefic influence. Planets that are afflicted and are functional malefics need not to be strengthened, as it would increase their malefic influence in the chart. Instead, donating the gems related to such planets would reduce the malefic influence on the basis of making a "sacrifice" to that planet. So the key is the differentiation of strength of planets (weak vs strong), auspiciousness (afflicted vs well placed), and their functional nature (malefic or benefic).

According to the classical famous astrological work *Jataka Parijata* the following gemstones are associated with each of the planets and prescribing gemstones is one of the most important aspects of remedies in Vedic Astrology. *Phaldeepika* has also subscribed to the above view.

Sun: Ruby
Moon: Pearl
Mars: Red Coral
Mercury: Emerald
Jupiter: Yellow Sapphire
Venus: Diamond
Saturn: Blue Sapphire
Rahu: Hessonite
Ketu: Cat's Eye

Gemstones, the wonderful creations of nature are found in many shapes and colors. They are of three types - natural, synthetic, and simulant.

Natural: Natural stones are made up of organic materials like amber, coral, fossil, ivory, mother of pearl and are used as faceting, lapidary, or carving rough, and specimen.



Synthetic : Synthetic gemstones are laboratory grown and have essentially the same appearance, optical, physical, and chemical properties as the natural material that they represent.

Simulant : These are also laboratory grown gem materials that have an appearance similar to that of a natural gem material but have different optical, physical, and chemical properties.

Based on their electro magnetic field and their influence, the *Nav Ratnas* or nine planetary gemstones have been segregated into two divisions.

Precious : Ruby, Diamond, Pearl, Blue-Sapphire and Emerald are precious gems.

Semi-precious : Coral, Cat's Eye, Hessonite and Yellow sapphire belong to the semi precious category.