

# QUALITIES OF GEMSTONE



# INTRODUCTION

*A Gemstone is any mineral that is composed of crystallised matter and the atoms which are regularly arranged throughout the structure. The quality of gemstone that make is desirable for use of jewellery depends on brilliance, hardness, colour dispersion and refraction.*



# THE THREE CARDINAL VIRTUES OF A GEM

- ❖ *Beauty*
- ❖ *Durability*
- ❖ *Rarity*



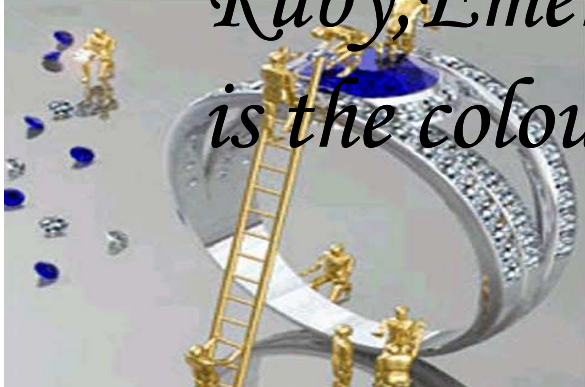
# BEAUTY

*Beauty of a gem stone is generally defined by the five C's which are,*

- ❖ *Colour*
- ❖ *Cut*
- ❖ *Clarity*
- ❖ *Carat*
- ❖ *Certification*



*1) Colour :- Most natural gemstones have colour due to the natural presence of finely dispersed particles of minerals or impurities. In colours such as diamonds & crystals, lesser the colour better the quality. On other hand for colour stones such as Ruby, Emerald, more dark & pure is the colour better is its quality.*



2) *Cut*: - It is the final form in which a rough gemstone is shaped. A stone is being cut & polished keeping in mind the accurate angle & proportions of cutting brings out the full life, fire and brilliance of gemstone. Beauty of a particular a particular cut can be observed by examining the type of cut, symmetry and polish on the crown, pavilion and girdle portion of stone. A stone can be cut in different forms such as brilliant cut in faceted stones etc.



*3) Clarity:- This is defined by the presence of inclusions within a stone, which indicates the stone's transparency. An inclusions is a foreign materials. lesser are the number of inclusions, better is the clarity of a stone. In a stone, clarity is generally judged by the number of inclusions and the claolour of inclusions.*



4)Carat:-It is the unit weight diamonds,gemstones and also pearls.large is the size with good colour and clarity,higher is the stone value.





*5) Certification:- Presently a lot of jewellery is made with certified gemstones in it. These gemstones are certified by authorised gem testing laboratories.*



# DURABILITY



*A gemstone should be durable enough to resist daily wear & tear. Durability of a stone depends upon its hardness, cleavage, brittleness, toughness and resistance to heat, pressure and chemicals. Generally all gem minerals are hard minerals. Some of the points to be considered here include ;*

- ❖ *Soft stones get scratched easily.*
- ❖ *Stones with a number of internal cracks are less durable .*
- ❖ *Less resistant gems such as pearls, gets damaged by perfumes etc.*



# RARITY

*The law of demand & supply, often influenced by fashion, governs to a great extent the rarity of gemstones. Political & economic conditions of a country can also control the supply to demand ratio rough & cut stone.*

*Some of the points to be considered here include:-*

- ❖ *Gemstone available in large quantities not be much in demand.*
- ❖ *If gemstone possesses all the four C's and has a phenomena attached with it, is considered to be rare.*
- ❖ *If stones has limited geological occurrence, it is considered to be rare.*





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