

GEMS

BUYING GUIDE



Free
Book

1. What to buy ?
2. How to buy?
3. Precautions.
4. Online Shops

Gems, buying Guide

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alok Jagawat (born March 3, 1977 at Nimach, Madhya Pradesh) is an Indian astrologer(Jyotishi). He comes from a traditional Rajput family. His great grandfather was the Riyasatdar of Rajgarh. He was the chief of the land of Rajagarh. His grandfather served under the royal patronage of His Highness of Alwar Maharaja Jai Singh and Maharaja Tej Singh Prabhakar ji . His grandfather was a great Sanskrit scholar who has authored many books. His books are still in place in Pagla Baba ashram in Vrindavan.His palace was a Mecca for many saintly personalities. This included Karpatri Ji Maharaj, Pagla Baba and many faquires.

Pandit Alok Jagawat has been studying under his grandfather as well as under many prominent astrologers like Shri Shakti Mohan Singh who is a Jamini scholar and a retired Indian Administrative Service officer. Alok Jagawat is a graduate of computer engineering. He has also learnt computer graphics and worked as project manager in Pixel Multioons. His destiny had something else in store for him and he resigned from his post to devote his full time to Jyotsiha. He was also been blessed by a great saint who encouraged him to leave his profession and dedicate his life to the amazing science of Jyotisha.

He is a first class Jyotish Visharad from I.C.A.S and an ardent follower of Shri V.Ganpathi Sthapathi. He has completed Sthapatya Shastri course from Vastu International. He also passed P.G.A (Gemologist) exam from PGA international with maximum scores. His clear insights in Sthapatya are shared by many Jain munis.

Alok Jagawat uses Chandra Kala Nadi, Krishneeyam and Prasna Marg as the foundations of Jyotisa and uses various other Jyotisa scriptures and sacred literature such as the Saundarya Lahiri, Puranas and Upanishadas etc. He is an adept in the field of Sthapatya Veda and is working very hard to renew and rejuvenate this great science. His all-inclusive literature spans across various schools of thought. He is a strict follower of the teachings of the ancient seers and is also a keen promoter for research and further development of Jyotisha and Vastu. To promote the work, Alok Jagawat has formed an organization called Planetary Matrix. This organization believes that everyone can live in wholeness, utmost purity and highest consciousness.

PREDICTIONS:

1. He predicted the victory of George Bush in Dainik Bhaskar (A leading newspaper) three months before the elections. His predictions were against the opinion polls and other famous astrologers.
2. One of his most talked about prediction is related to a young man who just disappeared from his home. He predicted (without even asking for purpose of visit) that the native has come for an enquiry about a young man. He has ran away with a lady of different caste and that he will come back on 23rd of December 2012 exactly at 16:32 hours. He also predicted that the elopement will only last for two months. This was found to be true to the last words.
3. He predicted the release of Shri. Rajendra Rathore(former health minister of state) from Jail in the famous Dara encounter case. Interestingly, he just used a prasna chart and announced that the question pertains to a king who is in restriction of some kind. He also predicted that nobody will be able to held him for too long and that he will be released the very next day. (He was not aware who he was predicting for). This prediction came true the very next day.
4. His forecast related to steep rise in Gold prices in his 2009 jyotisha classes proved to be very correct. One of his students bought gold on his advice and earned a lot through the same.
5. He has many other feathers under his hat which includes price drop in dollar vs rupees, price hike in silver, disaster in Japan etc.

He is an adept in Nadi Jyotisha and Nadi Prasna.

PRESENT WORK

Presently, Alok Jagawat is the chief consultant different projects which are spread across the globe. He is also been invited by architecture related colleges and spiritual bodies for lectures. His design ideas are based on minimalistic style and they are a harmonious blend of modern as well as spiritual architecture. Alok Jagawat is presently working on translating the ancient Jyotish scriptures in light of his understanding of their meaning based on his Indian background. He is also researching in the field of Nadi astrology and Palmistry and is going to publish a book very soon.



People buy gemstones for all sorts of reasons. Most of them like it. Some people buy them for astrological purpose and some acquire them for gifting purpose. Whatever is the reason for buying a gemstone, one needs to be very careful with the purchase. With the advent of internet, gemstone selling has become a very big business. But this advancement has its own toll. Improper Monitor calibration, changes in color definitions, photo manipulation, and browser defines etc., can change a gemstone to an entirely different stone.

Some gemstones are very expensive and buying them without proper care will result into problems. The experience of the buyer also affects the genuine sellers in the market.

Please read the following pages to insure yourself from fraudulent activities while buying the gemstones online.

First question: Why do you want to buy a gemstone?

If you are buying a gemstone for astrological purpose, then make it absolutely sure by referring to a certified professional astrologer. You believe it or not, but gemstones affect the persona. Some gemstone can create problems and buying and wearing them can adversely affect the wearer. Do not seek your aunties or brother's friend because they are learning astrology. Vedic astrology requires a lifetime for study and improper guidance can yield adverse effects.

ASTROLOGICAL VIEWPOINT FROM CLASSICS:

Astrology and gems are associated from times immemorial. Astrologers often recommend gems and associate them to planets. While the association is clear in so many classics, the wearing of gems for particular planet is not mentioned in classics.

Associations are clear in Phaldeepika and Jatakparijat:

*"Manikayam Tarne Sudharya mamalam Muktaphalam Sheetgo,
Maheyasya cha Vidrumam Markatam Saumyasya Garutmatsm,
Devedyasya cha Pushparagam Suramatyasya Vajram Shane,
Neerlam Nirmal Manyayochashya Gadite Gomedjh Vaiduryake"* (Grahbehdadhyay, Sloka 29, Phaldeepika)

Vrihadjataka, Vrhat Samhita, Yukti Kalpataru, Rajvallabha, Shushrut Samhita , Garud Purana refers to use of gems in certain conditions and they associate gems to powerful magical properties.

"Dharnat tachh papalaxmi Vinashnam" (Rajvallabha)
"Pavitra Dharnayach Paya Laxmimalapaha" (Shushrut Shanita)
"Te te Yathapurvamatiprashasta Saubhagyasampatividhandayaka" (Yukti Kalpataru)

Please note that 'Gems' refers to 'Ratna' and every stone is not gemstone. Classics define "Ratna" according to following basis:

1. Gems taken out or mined on inauspicious Muhurta have ill affects despite of being good in luster and appearance.

In "Ratnajati" chapter of Manimala, Sloka six reads

"Stones originating on inauspicious days and at unlucky moments are not only void of any beneficial quality but are positively harmful" (Ratnajati Adhyaya, Sloka 6, Manimala)

(Most of gems do not fulfill this criteria. This is because as a Gemologist and gem buyer, I have come across several gemstones and they are mined at commercial level and not on the basis of some auspicious Muhurta).

Same thing is mentioned in Chapter 68 of Garudpuranam. (Please forgive me I have a translated version of Garudpuranam and Sloka numbers are not mentioned)

2. *Gems should be free of inclusions, spots, internal cracks and should carry proper color. (90% of the gems sold by astrologers do not fit this description).* In "Ratnaparikshadhyay" of Vraht Shanita, it is clearly mentioned:

*"Ratnen Shubhen Shubham Bhavati Nripanaamanishthamshubhen,
Yasmadatah Parikshayam Devam Ratnashritam Tajagye"*

Good, clean and gems of top quality bring good luck to emperors and those which are of bad quality bring bad luck. Hence an astrologer should first check the gem for quality and only then he should provide it to others. Gems are carriers of fate.

3. Gems are worn after certain propitiation and rituals like removal of negative influences through proper mantras.

Point 3 is my own view. I believe that only 'Ratnas' defined in classics should carry "Swapranavastha" (Self invoked state)

and rest of the gemstones are just stones. To energize them one needs proper mantras to invoke their powers which are positioned in dormant condition. This is the same as Idols of Deities need to be "Pranpratishtith" before they are worshipped. But Shalagrams and Dakshinavarti Shankas have their own powers and they are never invoked through Mantras.

4. A gem which is powerful and fulfills above criteria gets devoid of its power when the inheritor is an impure person. Please refer to the epic related to Syamantak mani.

Prasena was the brother of Satrajita. Once Satrajita took up his abode in the seacoast for the purpose of spending his time in worshipping Sun. After he prayed long and intently, Surya dev appeared before him. On being accosted, the divine Sun took out the gem Syamantaka from his neck and laid it out. Sun gave this Priceless jewel to Satrajita. It is said that on wearing the gem he appeared resplendent like Sun and entered Dwarka. Satrajita later transferred it to his brother Prasena. When worn by a clean man Syamantaka produced gold, but to an unclean person it indubitably proved fatal. Prasena decked this gem and rode hunting into the forest. He killed innocent animals on account of which the gem altered his destiny. His impure heart bought his untimely fatal death when a lion slew both the horse and the horseman.

When we look at above criteria, it is very clear and evident that an average man, who is bound by restrictions of average income cannot possess above kind of "Ratnas". Gems will come to you if you own a powerful horoscope and trust me they will fit above definitions. Considering the authenticity of wearing gems, certain classics do not mention them as remedies. Rather, they are mentioned as powerful Talismans related to certain planets.

Remedies include Mantra, tantra and Yantra for propitiation of planets. It is a fact that your deeds can never be altered. Nothing can entirely mitigate your deeds. But you can lower the intensity of mishaps in your life if you can read what planets signify. A wise astrologer can tell you about some prayer, a stone or a 'yantra' that will help you bear the fruits of your deeds. Your soul may never escape the clutches of your 'karmas' but with remedies or Parihar you will get strengthened enough to bear that.

While remedies are meant for removal of harmful effects of planets, talismans are entirely different things. They are meant for either providing one with special supernormal powers or for some definitive purpose. For instance gems can be recommended as remedies to a person when a particular planet is weak but benefic. Through a gem one can increase the intensity of its beneficence. But when a Mukta like the "Shankhamukta" is worn, it will give you all round power, devoid of its relation with any planet. This is because "Shankhamukta" is a Devmani which carries special powers and charm.

In those times gems were not available easily. One cannot acquire them because of the low grade methods of mining. Now with the advance facilities of mining and lapidary, gems are within the reach of certain class of people. Still they may or may not fulfill particular criteria and may not affect people as been mentioned in classics.

*For example in the "Ratnaparikshadyaya" sloka 14, Varahmihira defines the qualities of a blessed diamond:
"SarvadhravyaBhedya laghvambhasi tarati rashmivat Snighdham,
Tadidanlashaktrachapopamam cha Vajram Hitayoktam"*

A diamond which cannot be cut through any device (This means that a diamond should be hard), which appears heavier while held in hand, appears light when seen.

"Tarati Rashmivat" means which appears as if it is not touching the bottom when kept in water and then it should radiate light, and should shine with sparks and appears like fire and rainbow colors, then it is considered the best of all. Now match this criterion with presently available diamonds in stores, you will hardly find any diamond which will match this description. The effects defined in classics may stand true but gemstones should match their definitions for the same.

I have stressed this idea in many of my write ups, that it is not so easy to change your destiny. Gems can off course change your destiny, but again that can only take place after supernormal intervention.

SECOND QUESTION: WHAT TO BUY?

Investing in gemstones is a very good idea, but it is very important to understand the market, before pursuing this idea. The prices of some gemstones are not worth it. Some may be overpriced and some may become very precious suddenly. For example, diamonds are abundant and some of the mining companies own a huge load of the same in their hidden castles. The availability of diamond is much more than a blue sapphire and yet you will find that diamonds are far more costly than blue sapphires. The reason rests in the quantity allotted to the market in general. The second reasons is technical. There can be 415 different shades in blue sapphire, so one needs to see the sapphire in real to purchase the same. In the case of diamond, there is a language used for purchasing and selling. The technical terms used for diamonds does not need a picture for support. Wholesalers and retailers sell and purchase using the same language. Colours, size, clarity etc. everything carries a code. Speak the code, and the other person will know what is been referred to.

In case of other gemstones, colours, size and clarity cannot be defined in technical terms. So they need to be assisted

with either a full photo or they need to be seen in person. Some gemstone like chrome Tourmaline and Rubellite have seen a tremendous price hike in past few years. The reason for such things cannot be ascertained beforehand. However, there are certain things which can be always kept in mind.

1. Gemstones are graded based on their color, cut and clarity. Make sure you check these three factors for every purchase.
2. Never buy a gemstone which is flawed or carry blemishes. Even if it is a precious stone, it will not yield any benefits in future. The reverse is always true in this case. For example, I bought a packet of chrome coloured VVS quality tourmalines around six years back. I paid a good amount for the same. Now the same tourmalines have become very expensive. If I have bought some flawed pieces (because they were dirt cheap), then the result would have been different. So always keep in mind that no matter what, a gemstone should be appealing and should be towards the cleaner side.



A BEAUTIFULL GREEN TOURMALINE

3. Check the gemstone availability guides on several websites. Read newspapers and you will be sure which gemstones will become rare and need investments. Please note that all gemstone of same family are different chemically. Much to your surprise, every mine can produce a different variant of the same gemstone. For example pure beryl is also found in Mogok, Africa, Pakistan, Srilanka and Goshen in Massachusetts. The one from Goshen is called Goshenite, which is colourless and carries a lesser sparkle. If you see the same variant from Africa or Srilanka, than the same stone will carry different variations in composition. These smaller variations can produce fire or make a stone very dull. You will be surprised that beryl was also mined in Orissa and the quality of that beryl is superb in comparison to other mines.



LEMON YELLOW BERYL FROM ORISSA

4. Some gemstones become rare because of their country of origin. Mines in certain countries get closed down for political reasons or natural calamities. The gemstone from these mines definitely become very rare and expensive. For example, Blue sapphire mined from Kashmir in India is known for its richness in color, but they are precious because they cannot be mined in larger numbers. They are precious because of the extreme temperature variations near mines and difficulty in mining them. Similarly a Flawless Mogok ruby can be more expensive than other rubies from other mines. So is the case with Terror prone mining areas in certain countries. Please do not buy gemstones from terrorism dominated countries as this is not a very human approach. These stones are called conflict stones, because people get killed in procuring them. At the lower end, many people lose their life just to adorn a necklace or a ring used by some rich person. I know some people do not understand this part, but I believe that humanity has a say in everything. If this world is not a chaos, and some predefined matrix controls the same, then the whole human thing has a weight.

5. Check for the mining area in the gemstone report. This will give you an idea of the richness of stone. Refer to same stones mined from different areas and check which mine will be better. For example, Pansher valley in Afghanistan and Colombian mines produced the finest of emeralds in the world. They are still expensive and are collector grade pieces. The richness and colour of the gemstones from these mines is a class apart from others.

6. Religion and folklore can also result in increased prices of some gemstones. For example "Conch pearl" is referred as "Shankh Mukta" in oriental literature. This pearl is very powerful according to the ancient texts. Some people might like to buy such gemstones because of their beliefs and ideas.

7. Check different markets before you procure a gemstone. Markets in Thailand, Srilanka and India are cheaper than markets in Europe and America. You can always check the prices online by going to different websites. Some sellers will sell the same stone on a bargain price, considering the fact that they are not aware of the international prices.

PRECAUTIONS:

1. Look at the gemstones below. They appear good, but do you know that both the photographs actually belong to same stone, due courtesies to photo editing softwares. The softwares are so advanced that anybody with a simple know-how about computers can edit any photograph to any level.



2. Sellers often enhance their photographs using different softwares which produces different results. You can also remove blemishes and do any number of things with photographs of gems. This process is totally wrong but believe me people do it on regular basis.



ENHANCED PHOTO



REAL PHOTO

3. Do not buy a gemstone if a seller does not produce a good photograph. Tell him/her to supply you better and larger pics of photographs. Photography of gemstones required high end cameras and proper colour corrections. It also needs white boxes and complete knowledge of several technical details about cameras, lights and setup. A simple mistake in lighting can produce an entirely different photograph of the gemstone. Talk to the seller before buying. Ask him questions about actual colours and clarity of gemstone.

4. Look at the two photographs above. The first represents the real gemstone. The second one carries an enhanced picture of the same. It is very difficult to imitate what an eye can see. Even the most sophisticated equipment cannot replicate the colour information of an eye. A seller should provide the same picture as the true colour of the gemstone. The buyer may feel cheated after receiving the stone as it may carry a different tone and colour altogether. So make sure to read the description. Check every photograph in detail. If there are no proper photos then ask the seller to provide one.

5. Never believe certification of gemstones. Certificates should be presented from government authorized labs or GIA or such labs. You will be surprised that you can easily buy any certificate from private labs and they charge you simple amount to issue the fake certificate. So always ask for real certificates. Do check for mines in seller's description or in certificate, so to make sure that they came from same mine. Pay extra for certificate, because they can really give you better details.

6. Do not get confused about gemstones. For example two look alike gemstones are often misused by sellers. Citrine is often called topaz by so many people but both these stones are entirely different in their chemical properties and prices. Citrine is often sold as Topaz by many people. So is the case with crystal quartz. Clean crystals of bigger sizes are not available in market. The fake ones are molten glass with fake certificates. There is a vast difference in prices as well. Molten glass comes cheap but is sold as crystal. The prices of these pieces are dirt cheap in comparison to real quartz, but the real information is not disclosed.



YELLOW TOPAZ



CITRINE

7. Do not fall into the trap of stories or self-proclaimed astrologers calling gemstones as birthstones. The fact is that ancient texts do not even mention certain gemstones for astrological use. I have seen astrologers selling opal for Venus. The reality is that opal has nothing to do with Venus. In fact Opal has nothing to do with any planet. So is the case with many gemstones.

8. Always buy from reputed and reliable sources. Check how many products they have sold so far and how much ratings they carry. Look for returns policy and inspection time.

9. Please do not rely on photographs until and unless you are sure that photos are of the same gemstone being sold to you. Also the description should match the photograph completely. Read the sizes mentioned in description and match them to photos. Colors can be deceiving so ask the seller to describe the actual color of gemstone.

ONLINE SHOPS:

There are many Online shops that sells gemstones. Some are maintained by gemologists and some are maintained by mining companies. Some like ebay are just market places for other sellers.

Please look for prices on every shop and then compare the prices from other websites as well. This will give you an idea of real prices. Check your local sellers to verify the same. Sometimes prices in local market are cheaper than Online stores.

