

The Significance of Sapphire

Sapphire, the holy and sacred gem that holds a significance both historically, and religiously. Represented in a beautiful and elegant coloured stone, Sapphire has held a noble ranking in the rich, and royal. Stemming from Christianity, and lore, Sapphire was used as a token for prevention from negative aspects in a human's life. Working as a healing stone to protect the wearer from betrayal, ill-wishing, and to promote power and insight. While sapphire metaphorically represents a pure and wise token, the true beauty of the stone shines through physically and regaly.

Diamonds are a beautiful, and popular statement stone, but there seems to be something about Sapphire that turns a piece of jewelry into a character of its own, that Diamonds are sometimes unable to do. The bold



Queen Elizabeth II, shot by David Bailey in 2014, sheds new light on the power of Sapphire.

colouring of the Sapphire blue, amongst an arrangement of crystal clear diamonds has notoriously been present in jewelry history, paying close attention to the British Monarchy. Rulers around the world find sapphires a true treasure, considering their powers, and significance, but specifically looking into the royal family of the United Kingdom, Sapphires have remained a recurring statement piece.

In recent news, Queen Elizabeth II has become the first British Monarch to mark their 65th year of Reign. The 65th year in power, known as the "Sapphire Jubilee" has been achieved by other Monarchs throughout history, starting with King Louis XIV of France marking his 65th year of Reign over France in 1708, and recently ending with Queen Elizabeth II. When King Louis XIV of France passed his 65th year, he obtained a large Sapphire stone, that was to be used in the French Crown Jewels. While the long reigning king



The Grand Sapphire of Louis XIV can be seen in the MNHN in Paris

of France was the first noted ruler to mark their 65th year in power, there have been few other monarchs, popes, and emperors to reach their significant sapphire Jubilee. While sapphires is as a largely desired stone for Crown Jewels, and Regal Wear, it also acts as a power alone, bringing authority and rule to those who wear it.

This past week, the Queens 65th year of Reign over the United Kingdom, and the Commonwealth has put Sapphires under the limelight. For this Jubilee, the Queen graced herself in the exact diamond and sapphire necklace, and earring set given to her as a wedding gift in 1947 from her father, the late King of England. But amongst the beautifully composed photo of the Queen, shot by David Bailey in 2014, there is an undertone of power and sophistication present while graced in her blue and white jewels. A striking and elegant photo, depicts the almighty Queen dressed in her finest stones. Clarity and strength are prominent throughout this portrait, quite possibly due to the colour palette and focus and attention on the jewelry. While

the Queen of England herself is such a notable figure, there is only so much more power you could bring to a character like that. A photo of the Queen on any day holds a high position of power but a portrait of her wearing her prized sapphire set, shot by a iconic British photographer, depicts the regality and grace that shines through the important blue stones.

While sapphires are known for their depiction of royalty, and romance, the simple strength these gems hold can turn a photo of the queen, into one of the most powerful and memorable photos that will historically represent her, on her Sapphire Jubilee. 65 years later, and armed with her collar of sapphire, the Queen holds the power to protect and heal, due to the sacred characteristics of this gem.