The importance of the aqeeq stone in Islamic thought

Allah (swt) has created the Earth and everything within it for the benefit of humankind. God does not create anything without a purpose; everything that exists, both within and outside of Earth is there to fulfil a mission. Many of these reasons are beyond our understanding, and, for others, we can look to Qur'an and hadith for clarity.

One category of His creation are things that emanate from underneath the soil, which is edible or non-edible in nature. The edible things are, of course, the crops and foods that we eat, and the non-edible are the different metals, minerals, and stones that are harnessed to use for clothing, jewellery, and other manufacturing.

God has touched on some of the benefits of different materials in the Holy Qur’an. For example, in Surah Hadid, Verse 25, it is said:

We also sent Iron (hadid), with its mighty strength and many uses for mankind, so that God could mark out those who would help Him and His messengers though they cannot see him

Other gems are also mentioned in the Qur’an, such as ruby and pearls in Surah Rahman.

One particular stone, the aqeeq, has significant importance in Islamic thought and is highly recommended to wear, for both men and women.

What is an aqeeq stone?

Aqeeq is an Arabic word that translates as quartz in English, and it refers to a gemstone that is made up of silicon and oxygen atoms.

How is an aqeeq stone worn?

An aqeeq gemstone is usually placed in a ring and worn by both Muslim males and females on one of the smaller fingers on the right hand. It can also be worn as a pendant or be made into a tasbih (rosary beads).
Is the aqeeq stone for Shia Muslims only?

The aqeeq in and of itself is a stone and can be worn by anyone. It is most commonly worn by people of the Shia sect of Islam, due to the importance placed on it by the Holy Prophet Muhammad and the infallible Imams (peace be upon them) and is also worn by non-Shia Muslims.

What are the merits of wearing the aqeeq stone?

Rings in general are of particular importance in Islam. It is reported by Imam Sadiq (as) that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) wore a silver ring that had ‘Mohamed is the messenger of God’ inscribed on it, while Imam Ali (as) had the words ‘The Kingdom belongs to God’ inscribed on his ring, and that Imam Baqir (as) also had a ring that had the words ‘Pride belongs to God’ inscribed on it.

Rings were a part of the sunnah of the Prophet and his holy household (peace be upon them), who emphasised the importance of wearing one.

Arguably, wearing a ring with the aqeeq stone has been stressed by the Ahlulbayt (as) the most out of any others, and there are many narrations that support this.

Imam Ali (as) used to wear four rings; one of these were the aqeeq which was worn for protection and security in battle. The Imam was instructed to wear this ring by the Prophet (saw), where he said:

_O Ali! Wear a ring on the right hand. (Ali asked): What stone? The Prophet replied: With a red aqeeq because it was the first mountain to testify to the Oneness of Allah, and to my Prophethood, and to you as my successor, and to your sons as Imams._

Imam Ali (as) therefore continued wearing the aqeeq on his right hand.

Imam Kadhim (as) says that the reason for wearing an aqeeq ring on the right hand is because “He is in front of the people of the people of the right after the Messenger
of Allah and Allah has praised the people of the right and condemned the people of the left." The Imam concluded by saying that this is “One of the signs of the Shias.”

There is also a similar narration by Imam Askari (as) who mentions the wearing of a ring (not just the aqeeq) on the right hand as being a sign of recognising a Shia.

Similarly, the Prophet advised Imam Hussain (as) to follow suit, stressing the blessedness of the gemstone, including its ability to brighten one's face.

The aqeeq is a beautiful stone, but its usage is not limited to just aesthetics or as a way of recognising someone. There are real spiritual benefits and rewards a believer can receive by wearing it.

Imam Ridha (as) has reported from the Prophet (saw) that the one who wears an aqeeq will never experience sadness or distress. Although we do not know the wisdom behind the relationship between an aqeeq and its impact on our mood and emotional state, there is clearly this hidden benefit that we can access.

The Prophet further encourages it to be worn on the right hand and says it will repel poverty. Once a man came to the Prophet complaining about being attacked by pirates. After listening to the man’s story, the Prophet advised him to wear an aqeeq as protection from every evil.

Your prayers and supplications carry more weight if they are recited whilst wearing an aqeeq. The Prophet has said that a two unit prayer offered while having an aqeeq on is equivalent to 1000 units without wearing it, and Allah (swt) will grant the supplicator his wishes. Furthermore, Imam Sadiq (as) has said:

No hand raised towards Allah (swt) is better than that with an aqeeq ring on its finger

Imam Sadiq (as) has also mentioned on another occasion that the aqeeq removes hypocrisy.

Where does the aqeeq originate from?

The aqeeq can be found in different parts of the world. For Muslims, the Yemeni aqeeq is perhaps the most popular, which originates from Yemen. It can also be found in India, Latin America, and even across Europe.
Are there different types of aqeeq stones?

The properties of the aqeeq stone remain the same, and its differences are only in its shape, size, colour and cut. These variables give a different look and feel to the gemstone, according to individual preferences and can also influence its price.

Aqeeq gemstones can also be personalised with various engravings such as verses from the Holy Qur’an, attributes of Allah (swt), or merits of the Prophet (saw) and his holy household (peace be upon them).

Which aqeeq stone is right for me?

As mentioned, regardless of which type of aqeeq you choose, you will inshaAllah benefit from it based on the sayings of the Prophet and the Ahlulbayt (peace be upon them). Let us take a look at the options that are available.

Aqeeq stones by type

One way to classify aqeeq stones is by the different types that exist.

Batu aqeeq

Batu aqeeq (also known as batu gambar) is the name given to any type of aqeeq gemstone that has an image inscribed on the surface of the stone. An example of this is the Shardaf Shams aqeeq. Sharaf Shams roughly translates to the ‘nobility of the sun’. The unique feature of the Sharaf Shams is that it can only be inscribed on at one specific day of the year, between a specified time period. In the common Gregorian calendar, this would be any time between 11am and 11pm on 8 April. It is said at this date and time, the sun, moon, and the earth are aligned most favourably. The Sharaf Shams is represented by different symbols and is considered to contain the five greatest names of Allah (swt).

This gemstone is one of the more premium aqeeq’s owing to the limited capacity to create one, isolated to just one day per year. The Sharaf Shams is only one type of Batu aqeeq range, and you can get other Batu aqeeqs with different inscriptions.

Abyssinian aqeeq

Hadith literature indicates the Prophet wore an Abyssinian aqeeq:
It was narrated from Anas ibn Maalik (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) wore a ring of silver on his right hand, in which there was an Abyssinian stone, and he used to put the stone facing towards his palm.

Although the type of Abyssinian ring worn by the Prophet cannot be 100 percent verified, one opinion is that it would have been a Carnelian aqeeq. Carnelian is a type of mineral that possesses a brown or red-like colour. Many Shia Muslims will be seen with this type of aqeeq and arguably it’s the most commonly worn aqeeq.

Suleimani aqeeq

The distinct characteristic of a Suleimani gemstone is its variation in colour, which brings about a ‘cloudy’ look. The variations in colour are entirely natural and make for a very attractive looking ring.

Aqeeq stones by colour

Unless you are a collector and aqeeq stone enthusiasts, you won’t generally be versed in the technical names for the different types of gemstones. One factor that will have a major influence on your decision to purchase an aqeeq is its colour. We have already touched on some of the colour variations in aqeeq gemstones, but there are so many more to choose from.

Black aqeeq

A vast majority of the black aqeeq rings are made from a mineral called onyx, which has characterised by its solid black colour. Black aqeeq stones usually contain a white or gold engraving or inscription, such as verses from the Holy Qur’an.

Red aqeeq

The most conventional aqeeq is the red aqeeq or a similar colour such as orange and brown. This is the most popular type of aqeeq as it is reported the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) wore an aqeeq in a colour resembling these.

Green aqeeq
Along with red aqeeq stones and those in the Sulemeini category, green is considered one of the most popular colours.

You can purchase aqeeq gemstones in many colour variations including:

- White
- Pink
- Purple
- Smokey
- Honey
- Orange
- Blue

**Aqeeq for men and women**

The aqeeq stone in and of itself is not solely for men and women, nor has it historically been that way. The religion of Islam does not discriminate between men and women in denying one gender the spiritual benefits of wearing an aqeeq. However, in order to adjust to the taste of men and women and to comply with contemporary standards, the way the gemstone is cut, the design, or the size may be harnessed to make certain types appealing to men and women respectively. In reality any aqeeq can be worn by either gender.

**The price of an aqeeq**

The price of an aqeeq can start from as low as $40 and may go up to $400. The value of an aqeeq can depend on a variety of factors.

The first is the difficulty in sourcing the gemstone. Some stones, such as those found in Yemen can particularly be difficult to extract and transport to vendors and bring them to people, especially due to the current political climate in the country.

The complexity of the stone can also influence the price. For example, some stones either have inscriptions on them or on the ring. Take a look at this [stone with the shrine of Imam Hussain (as)](https://example.com) engraved on it to get an idea of the skill and craft required to create some rings. Such eloquent designs deserve to earn a higher value.

The size of the gemstone can also determine its value.

Overall, there is an aqeeq available for any and every budget.

**Beware of fake aqeeq stones**
Unfortunately, like with most other products, fakes and pirated copies of the aqeeq are being sold in the markets and online.

The building block of an aqeeq stone is a material known as chalcedony. Some types of chalcedony include agate, carnelian and onyx. There are many ways to test a fake aqeeq, and, if you have prior knowledge in the properties of these elements (as an expert seller would), you can easily decipher if a stone is authentic or not.

If you search online, you will see many articles about self-testing aqeeq stones, either with heat or magnets. However, it is recommended that you speak to an expert or purchase one from a seller that is known to sell authentic stones.

Where can I buy an aqeeq?

If you have ever been on ziyarat (visitation) of the shrines of the household of the Prophet (peace be upon them), you will see many sellers of aqeeq and other gemstones. The stones at these marketplaces can often be highly sought after because one would naturally think that these stones in particular have been extracted from the soil of these holy lands, which gives them a greater significance. Whilst there is definitely some weight to this, you may often pay a much higher value than you should. Finding and harnessing aqeeq stones that can be worn as rings or a pendant is also a difficult and labour-intensive process. It is worth noting that not all vendors have the means for this, so there is a chance of purchasing a fake. This adds to already existing language barriers for non-native speakers in these lands.

An option that may be more viable for most people is to buy online. We would recommend buying from a specific aqeeq merchant, rather than via organisations like Etsy and eBay, where it is either difficult or not possible to verify the authenticity of the stones.

Should I buy an aqeeq?

An aqeeq will hold significant value for a Muslim of any denomination and is much more than just a fashion accessory.

If you are a Muslim, we would highly recommend purchasing an aqeeq stone. At Al Ali Gems, we have aqeeq stones for any budget. Our stones are 100 percent authentic, sourced from the mountains in Yemen, held in real sterling silver. The favourable reviews our customers have left us, are a testament to the quality of our rings.

An aqeeq is a worthwhile investment, a trade of your worldly wealth in return for numerous spiritual benefits, and a fulfilment of a prophetic Sunnah. We pray that inshaAllah you reap the numerous benefits of these highly recommended gemstones that will last in this lifetime and the next.