

# Unbelievable Secrets - Naagmani

Anju Dhir

Pursuing PhD  
Lecturer (Microbiology)

**Keywords-** Naagmani, Ichhadhari Naag, Flower and water Tests

**“Precious and rare things are thought to be nonexistent”**

People have heard a lot about snakes and many beliefs and stories are associated with them. In fact for European countries India is a land of snake charmers where they play **Been** and the snake dances on its tune. In India this scene was seen almost in every nook and corner of the country but nowadays the number is reducing quite fast. Thanks to the industrialization which has created an environment where everyone is in rush! Nowadays even if a snake charmer tries to put a show nobody is interested in it. In these days the snake charmers are called only to catch a snake which might have entered a human dwelling accidentally or when someone comes across a snake bite victim the need is felt. People prefer to go to a snake catcher instead of going to a hospital in case of snake bite. This is because they are thought to possess Naagmani, Manka or some herbs which could cure a snake bite victim. They chant some Mantras and with the help of Mani treat the victim. A Naag mani is one of the most precious Naagratna in the world.

There are many precious jewels in the world and Naag Mani is one of them which is thought to be more expensive than the diamonds.



Figure 1. Naag Mani of the size of a rice grain

People keep on talking about Naag Mani. Even I have heard about it from childhood but never believed that such things are in existence in this world. A few days back the author happened to visit a place in district Punjab and met a man and his friend who wanted to share his experience about snakes and NAAG MANI. These people were very happy to meet a person like me (as the author is working on the snake's venom and doing PhD on this subject).

2. Although being a science student and a teacher, I could hardly believe what they were sharing about the NAAG MANI. In fact another person told that his 98 years old grandfather possesses a Naagmani (5) and **“A thing is possessed only if it exists”**. On one hand society puts a question mark on its existence and on the other hand we have so many sites on net which claims selling them with authenticity. But before starting my narrative I would like to share some facts about this rare Naag Ratna.

## Expensive

I have already heard about it in stories so now decided to find out some facts to know more about this expensive object. Many people sell Naagmani online as I myself searched the internet. It is very expensive and people sell it as high as 1000 crores INR. People on one hand consider it as a myth and on the other hand want to possess it at any cost. The reason may be a human being's tendency to have rarest of the rare. It is thought to bring good fortune and godliness and eventually a person becomes renowned leader of masses.

## What is a Naagmani

According to Alexz Zaxona, it is a rare and very expensive element/ compound found in the hood of Naagraj. A Naagraj is said to be the oldest snake which could have been living on this earth for nearly 150-400 years. (Although I don't believe it because snakes don't live that long life). Naagraj is like a python but short in length. The tail is blunt and the serpent can change its form to human beings. It has moustaches like humans. The creature is usually found in black and white color [1].

One Indian belief is that when a male goat drops frothing saliva on a stone it absorbs poison from the visiting snake and this turns into Naagmani. Another one is that it is formed like pearl is formed when a rain drop of Swati nakshtra falls in the oyster. The Naagmani is also formed when such drop falls in the mouth of serpent/king cobra.

It is said that the luster and size of Naagmani increases with the age of the snake. It is moon like pearl stone with blue/ pale green/ yellowish tint and it emits light in darkness. The rarest form is the pale green translucent light emitting Mani. Generally snakes and cobras that carry these Manis are found on the Asian belt near Sri Lanka and Burma. But most of them are found in the Indian Subcontinent only.

A Mani is of the size of a rice grain. It radiates light in complete darkness when observed in a pin drop silence. In our ancient scriptures like Sri Garuda Puran and Varahmihira, there is description of a pearl born in the hood of cobra or Naagraj and its shape is mentioned 'like a pearl'. It emits radiance and was worn by kings. It is said to be invaluable, destroys misfortune and enemies, enhance their reputation and bestow victory. Varahmihira told that the kings who had Naagmani were always victorious and the people living in his kingdom were very happy and prosperous.

In Brihatsamhita also Naagmani is being mentioned as rare and precious stone. As it is rare to found so people do not believe in its existence. Naagmani is also known as Nagarathnam and it is written that when cobra has lived for more than 300 years without exhausting its venom it converts into Naag Mani. This type of snake comes out only at night or on no moon day. It vomits its Mani on the earth. This may be because the snake is not able to capture its prey due to its age and the glowing radiation of the Mani attracts prey animals and serpent can have its food. Those who know about it put cow dung over it and when snake goes away, they collect it.

**The scientific point of view:** According to Dr. Mu. Dhanasekaran a herpetologist, there is no such thing called as Naagmani. He is working on snakes and many times he does necropsy on snakes and found only stones but no Naagmani as such. According to him Sialolithiasis -that is formation of stones in the salivary glands especially could be the cause of formation of Mani. When the secretions of any exocrine glands that communicate through a

3. Duct gets stagnated, due to any reason (obstruction/ blockage) it becomes pathological. The nodus of the stone is usually crystalline and if left alone it gets layered by the gland's inspissated secretion and inflammatory exudates including cellular debris. This may take the form of a Naagmani.

#### Tests to Find the Original Mani [2]

To know the originality one has to be very careful as so many fraudulent people are present who can fix some electronic remote control devices so as to show radiant Mani and one could be deceived. If one wants to buy it then certain tests are to be followed to check the authenticity of the Mani which are mentioned below:

**Flower Test:** If a Mani is real then the buds of Hibiscus plant bloom within 10-15 minutes when kept near it.



Figure 1. Naag Mani kept in between the Hibiscus buds

**Water test:** If Mani is put in water it comes on surface of water for some time to breathe and then again got submerged..... again comes up and ....again....and.....

The Mani is obtained from the serpent either by killing it or after the death of the creature. Ofcourse it should be obtained after the death of the snake. To take anyone's possession forcibly is not a good thing as in the case of taking away tusks from elephants.

#### Rules to Keep a Mani [3]

After possessing it there are certain precautions which are said to be observed like:

- After getting it from serpent, it has to be washed in milk.
- Women should not handle it.
- Not to be carried in leather bags.
- Should be offered Tulsi incense and fragrant flowers daily.
- Lotus oil/ other fragrant non corrosive oils could be used to dress it.
- It should not be kept in hard or rough cloth.
- While travelling it has to be carried in right pocket.

Now I will come to my part of the story as was told by the young man, Rajiv:

4. Rajiv (changed name to conceal his identity) was a native of a village in Punjab and living a peaceful life. Since his childhood he was scared of snakes. By profession he was a transporter. His parents found a suitable match and married him. He was later blessed with a daughter. He was doing a business and earning his livelihood. Everything was just perfect in his life. Then one day while he was away from his home he got the news of his mother's sickness and was summoned back to home. His mother, who was very sick called him to her bedside and told him that he was not her son. Rajiv was shocked to hear it.

She further told him that he was son of a Icchadhari Naag and was given to her to raise and protect. [Icchadhari naag And Nagins rare said to exist. People even go as far as to say that they are present on this earth from time immemorial and may be time has not come for them to come in front of the society. They are mythical shape shifting creatures in the Indian folk lore. It was originally a venomous snake and after living on this earth for many hundreds of years gets power to change its shape and now could become a human being. It possesses Naagmani which is more valuable than diamonds (3)].

The man was tongue tied. He could not believe it. His mother further told him that she used to go to a temple devoted to snakes and from there she got the child. She further told him that now he must go to the place which she was telling about. Now Rajiv decided to go to the place he was told which was a few kilometers away from his home was. When he went to the place he was told by the villagers that a huge snake was crossing the road and its tail was hurt badly as a truck pressed it and now it has gone to some hiding place. He listened carefully and went again in search of the Icchadhari Naag.

When he went to the place her mother has told about, he found a big, stout snake -a king cobra lying on the floor and a woman was sitting beside the serpent. His tail was wrapped by bandages. Then the lady sitting on the side spoke and said that the Naagraj was waiting for him as he was his son and because he was going to die, wanted to meet him. Rajiv was totally surprised and could not speak for the moment. Then she gave him some thing and told him to keep it with him, although at that time he did not know that it was a Naagmani. She told him that if you can not sustain it then give it away in snake temple in Rajasthan. Meanwhile Rajiv nursed Naagraj for a few days but the Naagraj could not be saved and died. The woman then cremated the Naagraj with the help of Rajiv and then she also eloped. Rajiv came back to his village with the Mani.

When he came back from that day onwards snakes started visiting his house every day. They could be seen on bed, in rooms, in kitchen, in fact everywhere in and around the house. Wherever Rajiv went the snakes followed him. His parents were scared of all these things. His father told him to give it away, but Rajiv did not agree. After nearly ten days his mother too died as she was already sick. His father thought that this was due to the object obtained by him from the Naagraj. His father was very angry and told him to give this object away.

Reluctantly he went to Rajasthan and offered it in a temple there which is devoted to the snakes. As soon as he gave it and returned back to his home sudden unfortunate things happened. His flourishing business of transportation suddenly collapsed and he found himself in financial crisis. His family considered him responsible for these ill incidences and told him to leave their house. Rajiv left his house and sent his wife with his daughter out of the country to her parental house. His relatives left him. Now Rajiv was so depressed that he decided to never go back to his house and went to another village in search of livelihood.

Nowadays he is living in a village in Punjab and desperately wants to get back his Mani from the temple, so that his misfortune could end. The snakes even now come around him, but he is no longer scared of them. In fact he makes them pets. He is called upon by nearby people when accidentally a serpent enters a house. He even treats the people in case of snake bite with the help of Manka and Jadi along with some herbs. The Manka attaches on the site of snake bite and sucks the poison.

5.



Figure 3. Jadi (Herb)



Figure 4. Manka

I would like to share one such incidence that has been mentioned by Rajneesh Sharma in “India Forum” on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 about his uncle from Himachal Pradesh. Here too the snake bite victim was taken to a Tantric having Naagmani. Rajneesh never believed in the power of Naagmani but he was surprised to see that the Naagmani automatically moved and stuck like a magnet at the site of bite. After sucking poison it detached itself after 5-10 minutes. The victim’s life was saved. The Manka also have similar effect. It is obtained from the hood of serpent after it dies and it is dark blue in colour.

One does not want to believe in these stories about Mani. A person with scientific mind even goes as far as to say that it is just a myth. Ranjit is not a myth and his friend too certified the incidence told by him. At one time he turned into a saint and grew long hair, but now he is earning. Every month one pair of snakes visit him. His routine is now to chant some Mantras daily and feed the snakes, even making them pet is his passion. But I experienced the truth myself for the first time. Now it is up to you whether you want to trust or not. Human wants to have “Rarest of the rare” things. As Mani is rare to find people do not believe in its existence although want to possess it at any cost.