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## Agate.

- (8) אגת: Septuagint and Josephus, ἀγάτης; Targ. Onk. אַגָּתָא; Yer. i. אַגָּתָא; Yer. ii. אַגָּתָא; Ex. R. אַגָּתָא; A. V. and R. V. "agate." Tradition confirms the modern identification with the **agate**, one of the cryptocrystalline varieties of quartz, according to Dana of one class, therefore, with **chalcedony**, carnelian, onyx, and jasper. It is found in many varieties, some banded, or in **clouds**, others with hues due to impurities. Its use is well attested for Egypt and Assyria, the Hebrew name even appearing to be borrowed from the latter, if it is not a place-name (ΨεΦω). Exodus Rabbah's reading is either a corruption or a variant of אַגָּתָא ("R. E. J." xxix. 87); the peculiar אַגָּתָא of Yer. ii. consists of a series of successive corruptions of אַגָּתָא = אַגָּתָא = אַגָּתָא, which is אַגָּתָא; and thus Yer. ii. agrees with the Peshitta of Ex. xxviii. 19, xxxix. 12, meaning under this name a variety of the agate. The אַגָּתָא of Yer. i. must be corrected into אַגָּתָא = אַגָּתָא of Onkelos. This is the Thracian stone, the "turkis" or turquoise (Gen. R. xii. 13; Maḥzor Vitry, "turkiza" [p. 163]; Yer. Ber. 2c. [according to Serillo]; not as Bacher [in "R. E. J." xxix. 87] has it, the "anthrakion" = "carbuncle" see Krauss, "Lehnwörter," pp. 278 et seq.). According to this rendering **a sky-blue stone** would be meant. **The agate—Naphtali's stone**—was regarded as potent in procuring divine aid (Schwab, "Vocabulaire de l'Angéologie," p. 53).