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Amethyst.

- (9) אַמְתִּישְׁתִּי: R. V. and A. V. "amethyst"; Septuagint and Josephus, ἀμέθυστον; Targ. Onq., Yer. i., and Yer. ii. עֵין עֵינִיא; Ex. R. הַיְסוּסִין, which is a misreading for "amethyst," and not "the bloodstone" (see "Monatsschrift," 1882, p. 335; "R. E. J." xxix.87). For the meaning of the "calf's eye" of the Targumim see above. **The amethyst, which name is connected with the stone's supposed power to quench inordinate thirst for strong drink, is a variety of quartz, of a clear purple or bluish-violet color,** and was extensively known and used by the Egyptians; many specimens with engravings are among the finds from the coast of Syria. It has been suggested that the Hebrew name points to some folk-lore connection between the "aḥlamah" and dreams ("ḥalom"). The etymology seems to imply the idea of being strong (Halévy, in "Journal Asiatique," 7th series, x. 426), or it may be indicative of the place (Aḥlamu) where the stone was found (see Gesenius, "Thesaurus," s.v.). Targum Yer. ii. gives to "yahalom" (No. 6) the same rendering as it, together with the two other Aramaic paraphrases, gives to "aḥlamah," i.e., "the calf's eye," that is, "vaccinium" or hyacinth. But Onkelos' translation for the sixth stone (כְּבִרְיִים) must be "amethyst." Its first syllable certainly refers to "strong drinking" (from סָבַא, "to drink to excess," whatever the second be—perhaps חַיִּים = חַיִּים = "strong"), recalling thus the superstition implied also in the Greek term. **This was Gad's stone.**