

The Cartier Diamond

Several years ago, there was a sight to behold in Cartier's Fifth Avenue store in New York. It was the flawless 69.42-carat diamond, originally bought by Cartier for a record \$1,050,000 at an auction.

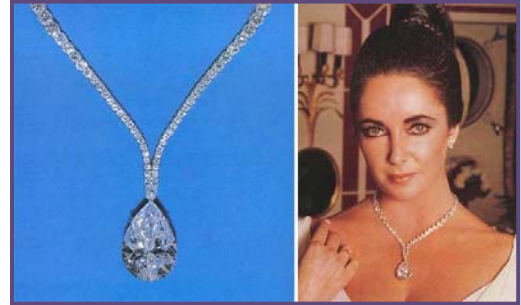
People were filing through the jewelry salon to get a glimpse of the precious stone.

A short, bald man peered condescendingly at the big diamond in the small glass case, and told his wife: "I see a flaw there, but I wouldn't want to say anything."

A well-dressed lady commented, "It isn't really that beautiful, but I wouldn't mind having it."

Said a woman in rhinestone-studded glasses: "It's too large!"

Another woman offered this opinion: "I think it's vulgar, but I just had to see it."



The 69.42-carat "Taylor-Burton" diamond



Joe Whitehead, a guard at the store, watched and listened as the people passed by. "I've heard more sour grapes in the last two days than any in my whole life," he declared.

The incidents say something about human nature. We are too often prone to criticize or identify the defects in material goods we can't afford or, for whatever reason, we are not able to obtain for ourselves.

Sadly, that propensity doesn't stop with "stuff." It easily manifests itself in assessments of people.

God says that life is precious, and individuals are created in His image. That means they have significance; they are valuable in His sight. Instead of looking for the faults in others, then, it behooves us to see their worth.

– Beecher Hunter