**Determination**

**Although at least half the original weight disappears in the process, cutting more than doubles the price of a diamond, for the labor involved is costly and arduous. The large rough gems have to be studied for days, or occasionally weeks, to determine how their grain runs. A decision is then made whether to saw against the grain or to cleave with it. If the decision is to saw, an entire day may be required for the whirling blade to slice through a single carat. If the decision is to cleave, the expert scratches a nick on the surface with a diamond chip (only diamonds are hard enough to cut diamonds), inserts a steel chisel in the groove, utters a silent prayer, and taps down sharply with a wooden or metal rod. If his calculations have been correct, the crystal will split neatly. If there is an invisible knot or fissure, the stone may shatter--reducing a $10,000 investment to dust. (Ronald Schiller, in Reader's Digest)**

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**Today, September 15th, 2025, is**

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY**

**For quotes, stories, funnies, anecdotes, illustrations, trivia, and statistics on this topic, I invite you to scroll down the homepage of the website to the Democracy** [**document**](http://www.mondaymunchees.com/) **located in the D-section of documents!**

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**Each excerpt in the** Friendship [document](http://www.mondaymunchees.com/)

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