

# Cradling the Worlds of Russian Jewellers and Hindu Deities

Gem cutter Victor Tuzlukov and photographer Dmitry Stolyarevich discuss their work on and with the 'Hour of Brahma', an egg-shaped cubic zirconia cut in honour of Carl Fabergé, which is now the world's most faceted gemstone.

This year, 2021, is the 175th anniversary of the birth of Peter Carl Fabergé (1846-1920) a jeweller who is famous for his many masterpieces, including the Imperial Easter eggs he made for Emperor Nicholas II and the Romanov family. I chose to spend the year cutting an egg of my own. While I was motivated by this anniversary, I was also inspired by Indian mythology when I cut this cubic zirconia. According to Hinduism, Brahma (The Creator) originates from the golden egg that is the source of the universe; this is known as *Hiranya Garbha*. Brahma creates our world from himself after about two billion years of activity; this period is known as the 'Day of Brahma'. I named my completed work 'Hour of Brahma', because his gemstone contains 3,600 facets, just as an hour contains 3,600 seconds. Now this cubic zirconia is the most faceted gemstone in the world. Its egg shape reminds me of *Hiranya Garbha* – that golden cradle of the worlds. 'Hour of Brahma' was suspended in a cradle where worlds crossed. In the cutting of this egg, a modern Russian cutter draws upon ancient Indian gods while working in the traditions of a famous Russian jeweller more than 100 years after his passing.

**Victor Tuzlukov**  
Moscow, Russia



I have worked with Victor for a long time; every gemstone cut by him has always been a challenge for me to photograph. I am a gemmologist as well as a photographer, and I know that each stone is a separate world from any other; it is an art object all of itself, full of special meaning. But this particular photo, of the 'Hour of Brahma' egg, was a real test for my photography skills. This gemstone twinkles from the inside, with a soft violet light of its own. Not only did I have to accurately depict the shape and color of this cubic zirconia and show all its 3,600 facets, but I also wanted to be sure I expressed my own emotions about what I was seeing. The gem seems to come alive as it is photographed, drawing amazing patterns on the surrounding walls with its bright flashes. A slight shift in the camera's position and the entire picture – the egg and the designs it spins around itself – changes. This was one of the scenes we captured of all the gem's wonders. I hope that my time spent capturing the 'Hour of Brahma' is considered well spent.

**Dmitry Stolyarevich**  
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