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Common Superstions

All over the world people believe in superstitions: their causes and their effects. Sometimes they seem funny and laughable. Do you believe in them? If your answer is “yes”, you must read this article and be careful: «Don’t cut or wash your hair on Tuesday». This is one of the thousand superstitions of our “mad” world. Here are 14 superstitions, oh no! The number 4 and all iterations thereof (34, 24) are incredibly unlucky, as the Chinese pronunciation of the number is nearly identical to that of the Chinese pronunciation of the word “death”.

- Hi Bob!
- Hi Thea!
- How are you?
- Not very well. Do you know what day is it today?
- Uhm... no... I never use my calendar...
- It’s the 13th of December and it’s also Friday!
- Uhm... And so?
- I can’t imagine that you don’t believe in superstitions! Today I can’t do anything significant (like business meetings, socials, banquets, etc...) due to the belief that the day is cursed and it’s a source of ill fortune.
- You are a little bit crazy

People like Thea are obsessed from little things that could bring bad luck to them.

For example, the strangest superstition for us is “itchy palms”: if the right palm itches, you will lose money, while an itchy left palm means that money is coming your way. If both palms itch...you might need to go to a doctor for that.

- Last week I read an interesting book about supernatural creatures and superstition. Do you know that...
- What?!
- If you look into a mirror, it will steal your soul. This helps to explain why the evil queen uses a mirror to harm Snow White, why Narcissus was ensnared by his own reflection, and why soulless vampires have no reflection. Think twice before you look into the bathroom mirror... you have been warned.
- I know it! In my house, there aren’t any mirrors!

Superstitions don’t always announce bad luck, for example, there’s one related to stepping dog’s poop. If you step it, you will earn a lot of money, or also if you see a ladybird. While in Egyptian culture, the scissors under a pillow can cure a person of their nightmares.

- Really, Thea? Are you sure?
- Of course! Scissors are my favourite superstition object, I think...
- My favourite superstition object is the horseshoe because it always brings good luck!

Some people believe that horseshoe brings good luck and keeps nightmares away; you must hang a horseshoe in your bedroom. This belief stems from the fact that a horseshoe has seven holes, which is consider a lucky number. The horseshoe is made of iron, so it can supposedly ward off evil spirits.

- What’s your favourite stone?

- Amber.
 - Amber helps to pay attention and you need it! Every stone has a different meaning. For example, the opal brings bad luck to whoever wears it. This superstition stemmed from the bestselling novel *Anne of Geierstein* by Sir Walter Scott in 1829 where Lady Hermione was falsely accused of being a demon, as she dies shortly after a drop of holy water accidentally falls on her opal jewellery and changes its colour.
- Imagination is a reality of our world and superstitions are a part of it.

Francesca S., Leonardo M. 3B



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