

Superstitions

Sujeverje

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A superstition is a part of every man's reality. People have always believed that there is something supernatural which controls their lives. There are a lot of things and phenomena people couldn't and can't explain, so they have always been considered connected with good and evil spirits. Just think about families that have been destroyed, innocent women who were accused of witchcraft. There used to be fear in every house All over the world people wear different kinds of amulets in order to protect themselves.

The number of superstitions is enormous. Some of them have already been forgotten, but some of them still exist. What is more, there are also many new, modern superstitions these days. They occur in every part of our lives. Even in sport, or on our wedding day. Sportsmen are very superstitious. The most famous believes are: black cat, unlucky number 13 and unlucky day Friday, spilling salt, broken mirror, etc...

But where do they actually spring from?

KEY WORDS: superstition, belief, black cat, four-leaf clover, ladder, mirror, rabbit, unlucky number 13, knock on wood, horseshoe, chimney sweeper, wedding...

Sujeverje je deo realnosti svakog coveka. Ljudi su oduvek verovali da postoji nesto natprirodno sto kontrolise njihove zivote. Mnogo je stvari i pojava koje ljudi nisu mogli i ne mogu da objasne, pa su ih smatrali povezanim sa dobrim i zlim duhovima. Pomislite samo na porodice koje su bile unistene, nevine zene optuzene za vesticarenje. Bilo je straha u svakoj kuci. Sirom sveta ljudi nose razlicite amajlije da bi se zastitili.

Broj sujeverja je ogroman. Neka su vec zaboravljena ali neka jos uvek postoje. Sta vise, takodje je mnogo novih, modernih sujeverja ovih dana. Ona se javljaju u svakom delu nasih zivota. Cak i u sportu, ili na nasem vencanju. Sportisti su veoma sujeverni. Naj poznatija verovanja su: crna macka, nesrecni broj 13 i nesrecni dan petak, prosipanje soli, polomljeno ogledalo, itd...

Ali odakle u stvari poticu?

KLJUCNE RECI : sujeverje ; verovanje, crna macka, detelina sa cetiri lista, merdevine, ogledalo, zec, nesrecni broj 13, kucanje u drvo, potkovica, dimnicar, vencanje...

Superstitions

For as long as humans have been making sounds and instruments, magical methods have been created in the attempt to control the forces of nature and the life and death matters of daily existence. Good and evil befall us without rhyme or reason. We imagine spirits or intelligible forces causing our good and bad fortune. We invent ways to placate them or direct them. Many of the superstitions we developed seemed to work because we didn't know how to properly evaluate them.

Any belief that is inconsistent with the known laws of science or with what is considered true and rational is a superstition. A superstition is a belief that the world is governed by chance or caprice. A superstition is a false belief based on ignorance, fear of the unknown, trust in magic, trust in chance or some other false conception of causation. For example, if I carry a rabbit's foot I will have good luck or bad luck if a black cat crosses my path.

Fear of the supernatural and forces of nature or God resulted in the belief of superstitions. Renaissance Superstitions included those related to Witches Sneezing, Eclipse and the 7th son, of a seventh son, Peacock Feathers, Shoes, Spilling Salt and Pepper, Touching wood, Ladders and Black cats. During the Renaissance period people blamed unexplainable events as the work of witches. Women were those most often accused of being witches! The hysteria and paranoia regarding witches which was experienced in Europe did not fully extend to England during this turbulent period. The superstitions were also steeped in the belief in old magic and the mystical properties of animals and herbs. The origins of many superstitions are based on trust in magic or chance. For many centuries it was believed that eclipses of the sun and moon were prophetic of pestilence or famine, and that comets foretold the death of kings, or the destruction of nations, the coming of war or plague.

In some mysterious way the virtue in the bone, or rag, or piece of wood, crept or flowed from the box, took possession of the sick that had the necessary faith, and in the name of God drove out the devils that were the real disease. This belief in the efficacy of bones or rags and holy hair was born of another belief - the belief that all diseases were produced by evil spirits. The insane were supposed to be possessed by devils. Epilepsy and hysteria were produced by the imps of Satan. Briefly, every human affliction was the work of the malicious emissaries of the god of hell. This belief was almost universal, and even in our time the sacred bones are believed in by millions of people. Belief in amulets and charms, in ghosts and devils, is superstition, pure and simple. Belief in the Devil and evil spirits laid the foundation for another belief: witchcraft.

It was believed that the devil had certain things to give in exchange for a soul. The old man, bowed and broken, could get back his youth - the rounded form, the brown hair, the leaping heart of life's morning - if he would sign and sell his soul. So, it was thought that the malicious could by charm and spell obtain revenge, that the poor could be enriched, and that the ambitious could rise to place and power. All the good things of this life were at the disposal of the Devil. For those who resisted the temptations of the Evil One, rewards were waiting in another world, but the Devil rewarded here in this life.

Even nowadays superstitions still exist. In nearly every brain is found some cloud of superstition. A woman drops a sponge with which she is washing dishes, and she exclaims: "That means company." Most people will admit that there is no possible connection between dropping the cloth and the coming of visitors. The falling cloth could not have put the visit desire in the minds of people not present, and how could the cloth produce the desire to visit the particular person who dropped it? There is no possible connection between the dropping of the cloth and the effects. Still, thousands of people believe in lucky and unlucky days, numbers, signs and jewels.

Many people regard Friday as an unlucky day - as a bad day to commence a journey, to marry, to make any investment. The only reason given is that Friday is an unlucky day. Starting across the sea on Friday could have no possible effect upon the winds, or waves, or tides, any more than starting on any other day, and the only possible reason for thinking Friday unlucky is the assertion that it is so.

So it is thought by many that it is dangerous for thirteen people to dine together. Now, if thirteen is a dangerous number, twenty-six ought to be twice as dangerous, and fifty-two four times as terrible. It is said that one of the thirteen will die in a year. Now, there is no possible relation between the number and the digestion of each, between the number and the individual diseases.

An ancient myth our ancestors believed was that the image in a mirror is our soul. A broken mirror represented the soul being astray from our body. To break the spell of misfortune, you must wait seven hours, one for each year of bad luck, before picking up the broken pieces, and bury them outside in the moonlight.



At one time, criminals were hung from the top rung of a ladder and their spirits were believed to linger underneath. It is bad luck to walk beneath an open ladder and pass the triangle of evil ghosts and spirits.

Sparrows are thought to carry the souls of the dead and it is believed to bring bad luck if you kill one.

Even though the bad fallacies far outweigh the good, number of good luck superstitions is big. For instance: To bring good luck, the horseshoe must be lost by a horse and be found by you, with the open end facing your way. You must hang it over the door with the open end up, so the good fortune doesn't spill out.



Cats

Perhaps no animal has inspired as much superstition as the cat. Throughout history, cats have been respected as gods by certain cultures and abhorred as demons by others. The black cat is the traditional companion of witches. Because of this old belief, the black cat has become an omen of misfortune and bad luck, and a popular notion is that unhappiness will follow quickly in the wake of the black cat that crosses one's path. Because the old Egyptians had a great fear of the dark, they observed with awe that the cat, a creature of the night, walked the shadowed streets with confidence. Because cats roam at night, they were believed to be supernatural servants of witches, or even witches themselves. Partly because of the cat's sleek movements and eyes that 'glow' at night, they became the embodiment of darkness, mystery, and evil, possessing frightening powers. If a black cat walked into the room of an ill person, and the person later died, it was blamed on the cat's supernatural powers. If a black cat crossed a person's path without harming them, this indicated that the person was then protected by the devil. Often times, a cat would find shelter with older women who were living in solitude. The cat became a source of comfort and companionship, and the old woman would curse anyone who mistreated it. If one of these tormentors became ill, the witch was blamed.



Carefully considering the import of the cat's midnight vigils, the Egyptian decided that the cat was responsible for preventing the world from falling into eternal darkness. At the same time, the cat's nocturnal excursions made it a symbol of sexuality and fertility. It seems quite likely that long before, Cleopatra worked her magic on Caesar and Anthony, the sirens of the Nile used makeup that mimicked the hypnotic eyes and facial markings of the cat. A cat on top of a tombstone meant certainly that the soul of the departed buried was possessed by the devil. Two cats seen fighting near a dying person, or on the grave shortly after a funeral, are really the Devil and an Angel fighting for possession of the soul.- old English superstitions.

Today the cat is not feared as it was in earlier times. However, many superstitious people still regard a cat as an unlucky omen and believe that not only the black cat, but all cats, have nine lives.

Four-leaf clover

The superstition that the finding of a four-leaf clover can bring good luck is so old that its origin is lost in antiquity. One of the oldest legends has it that Eve, upon being ejected from the Garden of Eden, took a four-leaf clover with her. Because the clover was a bit of green from paradise, its presence in one's own garden came to be looked upon as an omen of good luck. According to the legend, each leaflet represents something: the first is for hope, the second is for faith, the third is for love, and the fourth is for luck.



According to some traditions, a young woman seeking a husband should go in search of a four-leaf clover. If she is fortunate enough to find one, she has to eat it. The first unmarried man she encounters after eating the clover will be the one she will wed. Another tradition of gaining a husband or wife is to find a four-leaf clover and place it in one's shoe first thing in the morning. The first unmarried member of the opposite sex encountered that day will be one's future spouse. The superstition for the 5-leaf clover is extra good luck and attracting money.

Days of the week

The belief in lucky and unlucky days is very old. The natives of Madagascar have believed in lucky and unlucky days of birth, and in previous times if a child was born on what they considered the unlucky day, it would be killed.

The Romans marked their lucky days with a piece of chalk, their unlucky days with charcoal. From this custom of marking unlucky days with charcoal started the phrase "black-letter day." Today, "black-letter days" are generally ones remembered with regret because of some unfortunate occurrence connected with them.

"Blue Monday" is an old phrase still in general usage. In early days those whose business circumstances forced them to work on Sunday, the official day of rest, were considered entitled to a holiday on Monday. On Monday, therefore, while others were back at work, the people who worked on Sunday had a day of rest. Because the churches throughout Europe were decorated with blue on the first Monday before Lent—which was a holiday or "lazy day" for everyone—the day of rest throughout the rest of the year for the Sunday workers came to be known as "Blue Monday." Although the term is still used, now when people speak of a "Blue Monday," they most often wish to convey that they feel lazy, tired, or would rather be on holiday than at work.

The origin of the superstition concerning Friday is traced by most authorities to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on that day. But some writers advance the theory that Friday is regarded as an unlucky day because, according to ancient tradition, it was on Friday that Adam and Eve of the forbidden fruit and were cast out of paradise.

Knocking on wood

The old superstition of knocking on or touching wood to ensure continued good health or fortune remains common today. One often hears the expression used after someone has stated something like, "I've never had a toothache," then quickly adds, "knock on wood." Many authorities on folklore and traditions believe that the custom may have originated in the practice of touching wood upon every occasion of happiness or good fortune in gratitude and veneration to Christ who died upon a wooden cross.

Others state that their research indicates that the ancient Druids of Great Britain and Northern Europe began the practice with their belief that the trees housed deities. Touching the trees in a respectful manner encouraged the gods and goddesses within to grant one's physical selves health and prosperity and one's spirit eternal life. Through the process of cultural evolution within the mass consciousness, the custom of touching or knocking on wood came to be looked upon as a means of warding off ill luck.

Numbers

One of the most widespread of superstitious beliefs is that the number 13 is unlucky. So pervasive is this notion that many hotels and office buildings in Europe and the do not have a room number 13.



In Scandinavian mythology there were 12 Aesir or gods living in relative harmony until the god Loki came among them, making the 13th.

Loki was cruel and evil, and according to the myths, he took special delight in causing human misfortunes. Because he was evil, and because he was the 13th member of the hierarchy of the gods, the number 13 came to be looked upon as an omen of ill luck. Another explanation for the origin of this superstition also comes from Scandinavian mythology, which states the winged Valkyries, who waited to escort the heroes fallen in battle to Valhalla, were 13 in number.

The most popular explanation for the superstition surrounding the number 13 is that there were 12 apostles and their master Jesus who partook of the Last Supper. Judas Iscariot was represented as the 13th guest. According to Christian tradition, Judas betrayed his master after they had observed the Passover meal. Judas later hanged himself because of his guilt, and he was said to be damned for all time as his punishment.



The number seven has been regarded with superstitious awe for centuries—some consider seven to be lucky; others, unlucky. Rather than being viewed as bringing good fortune or misfortune, the number seven has long been considered a digit of great power. For example, there are seven ecstasies of Zoroaster, the seventh day that celebrates the Sabbath, the seven days of the week, the seven golden candlesticks of Solomon's temple. Among various early peoples, the seventh son of a seventh son was believed to be born with supernatural powers, a boy who would become a wizard when he grew to manhood. Likewise, the seventh daughter of a seventh daughter was believed to be born with gifts of prophecy and healing.

Chinese and Japanese people have a superstitious fear of the number four, because the word for death, shi, sounds just like the word for four. Even in the contemporary United States, cardiac deaths for Chinese and Japanese Americans spike 7 percent higher on the fourth of each month. The number four is considered so unlucky in China and Japan that many buildings don't list a fourth floor, the Chinese air force will not assign the number to any of its aircraft, and even cartoon characters that have only four fingers are deemed bad luck.

Among many Jews, even numbers are considered unlucky, even dangerous. While there are no official Christian teachings regarding any numbers being lucky or unlucky, many people believe that the number 12 has significance because of the 12 apostles. And then there is the unholy number 666, which many Christians attribute to Satan or the Antichrist.

Peacock Feathers

The peacock is considered to be a bird of protection. It brings harmony and joy to our mind. This bird is majestic, proud with much expression and as the male bird walks and dances to the female in courting. This reminds us of the celebration in life.

Myth has the peacock representing fidelity, as it dies of grief, or remains single, if it loses its mate. A legend says it hates gold and will not go near it. Peacock also is said to be able to foretell rain, and dances when rain is coming. ... and if a peacock cries more than usual, it is said to foretell the death of someone in the family to which it belongs. Good luck, harmony, serenity, peace of mind, relaxation and protection are all associated with the magnificent peacock.

Ladybugs

The bright scarlet ladybird is a luck-bringer, probably because it is traditionally associated by its colour with fire. It is a sign of good fortune if one lands on a person's hand or dress. It must, however, be allowed to fly away of its own accord, and must not be brushed off. It is permissible to speed it onwards by a gentle puff, and by the recitation of the rhyme which runs,
Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home.

Your house is on fire and your children are gone.

The deeper the ladybird's color, the better luck it brings. The number of spots on its back is also important. The more spots...the better the luck! If a young girl catches a ladybird and then releases it, the direction in which it flies away will be the direction from which her future husband will come.

Rabbits

Since rabbits and hares are born with eyes open, which is an erroneous notion, they supposedly had special powers over the evil eye. It is believed to be unlucky to meet either a hare or a rabbit. The rabbit which crosses one's path in front is a good omen and one which crosses behind is a bad one. In some English countries it is considered unwise to shoot a black rabbit, as it may be an ancestral spirit returning in rabbit-form; in Suffolk it was believed that white rabbits were witches, which is was also unlucky to shoot. Rabbits and hares were never mentioned at sea, as they were considered ill-omened words, and to meet one on the way to sea was a very bad omen.

An old custom is to say 'Rabbits' or 'White Rabbits' either once or three times on the first day of the month, as a good luck charm; it must be the first word said that morning, otherwise the charm is not potent.



"Well I've got four rabbit's feet,
and look where it got me."

RABBIT'S FOOT: Because of the rabbit's ability to reproduce, the rabbit's foot also became a symbol of fertility. Rabbit's feet are also symbols of new life because of their prolificacy; they also were linked with darkness, witches and the devil because they live underground. By owning a rabbit's foot as a talisman, you would have vital connections with many powerful forces. A left rabbit hind foot, carried in the left pocket after having been removed from a rabbit that was killed during a full moon by a cross-eyed person is

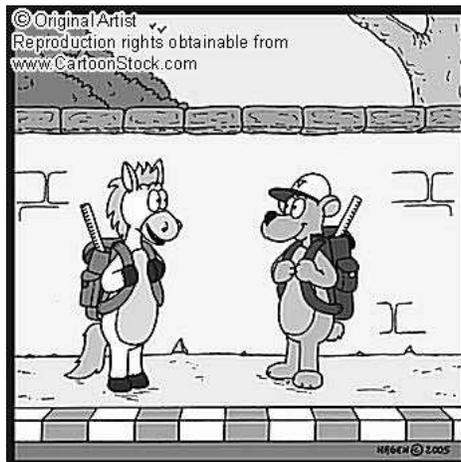
truly lucky. The foot is considered a powerful charm against evil because the rabbit's strong hind legs touch the ground before its front legs. Ancient people thought this so remarkable that they ascribed magical powers to it. A rabbit's foot is a well-known lucky charm in most English-speaking countries, said to ensure success in many fields. Actors may keep a rabbit's foot in their make-up cases for good luck, and will meet with misfortune if the foot is lost. In Wales an old belief is that a new-born child rubbed all over with a rabbit's foot will be lucky for life.

God Bless You

When the great plague swept Europe, sufferers began sneezing violently which was a sign of death. At the same time, it was expected that anybody sneezing would cover their mouth with a cloth or their hand. This was obviously to stop the spreading of the disease, but many believed that it was to keep the soul intact. Up until this time, the opposite was true. Those who sneezed were congratulated, as it was believed that a violent sneeze would expel evil from their bodies. If sneezing is first thing you do in the morning, you will have good luck whole day. Sneezing to the right is also a sign of good luck.

Unlucky

Sneeze on Monday, sneeze for danger.
Sneeze on Tuesday, kiss a stranger.
Sneeze on Wednesday, get a letter.
Sneeze on Thursday, something better.
Sneeze on Friday, sneeze for woe.
Sneeze on Saturday, a journey to go.
Sneeze on Sunday, your safety seek,
Satan will have you for the rest of the week.
Sneezing on New Year's Eve.
Sneezing to the left.
Sneezing before going to bed.



Me, I'm making my pocket money by
selling my dad's old shoes as lucky charms...



Spilling Salt Can Cause Misfortune

This belief used to be important for economic reasons. Salt used to be a highly sought-after and precious commodity and was often used for its valuable medicinal benefits. Hence wasting any amount of salt was frowned upon. The word “salary” comes from the Latin word “salarium”, which meant that people in those times were paid in salt for their work.

Protection from the Evil Eye

This belief is common among various different religious and cultural traditions. It means that others may be, consciously or unconsciously, envious of your success and with their "looks" send evil spirits that may bring you misery and misfortune. The underlying belief is that looking at a person for a considerable amount of time may cause the person to "lose water" or life-giving liquid and to “dry up” and even die. As a protection, the ancient Egyptians believed that using make-up prevents evil spirits from entering through one’s eyes. In Zoroastrian traditions, the seeds of a plant called *Aspand* are burnt and the smoke is directed towards the affected people, while reciting an ancient magical spell for protection against the evil eye. Nowadays, brides wear a veil which also started as a means to protect them from the evil eye.

Chimney Sweeper

Actually it’s not touching the chimney sweep that brings luck - you have to shake his hand. Anybody can do this - most don’t mind, and they automatically do it when they come to your house. Everybody has a chimney sweep, it’s law in Germany. They are considered lucky, because their job, cleaning the chimney prevents the house from burning down. If enough soot gets in a chimney, it could catch fire, just like lumps of coal, and burn the house down, which is why community laws demand that ever house that has to have a chimney sweep. In parts of Great Britain it is considered lucky for a bride to see a chimney sweep on her wedding day. Many modern British sweeps hire themselves out to attend weddings in pursuance of this tradition.

Wedding superstitions

Today chimney sweeps are very rare, so it would be extremely lucky to come across one, although there are companies who offer a lucky chimney sweep for your wedding day. Related to this... Whether you are a superstitious person or not wedding tradition is shrouded in superstition. During the Middle Ages it was believed evil spirits lived among us. It was thought people were particularly susceptible to the misfortune of evil spirits during rites of passage and in order to prevent bad luck people would carry good luck charms or partake in rituals. Some of them are still practiced today. When it comes to Weddings, everyone's superstitious. There are so many superstitions and traditions associated with Weddings that it's impossible to follow them all. Many have changed over time, while others, thankfully, are very watered-down versions of old customs.

The tradition of tying old shoes to the back of the Couple's car, for example, stems from Tudor times when guests would throw shoes at the Bride & Groom, with great luck being bestowed on them if they or their carriage were hit!

Sunday used to be the most popular wedding day, as it was the one day most people were free from work. Today, Saturdays are the busiest, despite the rhyme:

*Monday for health, Tuesday for wealth, Wednesday best of all,
Thursday for losses, Friday for crosses, Saturday for no luck at all
Married when the year is new, he'll be loving, kind & true,
When February birds do mate, You wed nor dread your fate.
If you wed when March winds blow, joy and sorrow both you'll know.
Marry in April when you can, Joy for Maiden & for Man.
Marry in the month of May, and you'll surely rue the day.
Marry when June roses grow, over land and sea you'll go.
Those who in July do wed, must labour for their daily bread.
Whoever wed in August be, many a change is sure to see
Marry in September's shrine, your living will be rich and fine.
If in October you do marry, love will come but riches tarry.
If you wed in bleak November, only joys will come, remember.
When December snows fall fast, marry and true love will last*

Walking is thought to be the best way of getting to Church, as there's more chance of spotting lucky omens. Seeing a rainbow, having the sun shine on the Bride and meeting a black cat or a chimney sweep are all lucky. Bad omens include seeing a pig, hare or lizard running across the road, or spotting an open grave. Make sure the road is clear on Monks or Nuns too, they foretell a life dependant on charity. The color of the dress is very important. White, silver, blue, pink and gold are now considered the luckiest shades. Green was always avoided, as it was thought to be unlucky. White Dresses were made popular by Queen Victoria, who broke the tradition of royals marrying in Silver. Symbolising purity and virginity, white was also thought to ward off evil spirits. The tradition of Bridesmaids is evolved from the custom of surrounding the Bride with other richly dressed women, in order to confuse evil spirits.

*Married in White, you have chosen right
Married in Grey, you will go far away,
Married in Black, you will wish yourself back,*

*Married in Red, you will wish yourself dead,
Married in Green, ashamed to be seen,
Married in Blue, you will always be true,
Married in Pearl, you will live in a whirl,
Married in Yellow, ashamed of your fellow,
Married in Brown, you will live in the town,
Married in Pink, you spirit will sink.*

The wedding cake is a very ancient feature of the marriage feast, symbolizing fertility and good fortune. The first slice must always be cut by the bride; otherwise the marriage will be childless. Normally, the husband helps by laying his hand over hers while she is cutting, and sometimes by lending his own knife or his sword if he is a soldier. When the rest of the cake has been cut up, all present must eat a little. To refuse is very unlucky, both for the bridal pair and for the person concerned. If a young girl keeps part of her share and sleeps with it under her pillow that night, she will dream of her future husband. The bride also should keep a portion, though for a different reason. If she does so, her husband will be faithful to her. A plate of cake was flung over the new wife's head as she returned from the church, and omens were read from the way the plate broke. The more pieces there were, the happier would the marriage be. In some places, the number of broken bits indicated the number of children. If the plate remained intact, it was a bad sign.

The choice and making of the wedding dress is surrounded by traditional beliefs and strict rules, many of which are still very much alive today. Because she is entering a new state of life, every item of the bride's clothing should be entirely new. The only exception to this rule is the customary inclusion of 'something borrowed' and 'something old'. It is generally considered unlucky for the bride to make her own dress, and even professional dressmakers rarely do so. It is still more unlucky for her to put on her full bridal array too soon, and particularly if she sees herself in the mirror when thus prematurely clad. When the dress is being fitted, it should be put on in sections, never all at once, and if possible, it should not be completely finished before the actual day.

An old bridal veil is often thought luckier than a new one, particularly if it is borrowed from a woman who is known to be happily married, or if it is an heirloom in the bride's family. The good fortune and fertility of the earlier marriage passes with the veil to its new wearer. The belief that it is unlucky to wear, or see oneself in, bridal clothes too soon applies with double force to the veil. This should never be put on before the wedding morning except during necessary looks at herself during fittings, and then it must be tried on separately, not with the dress. If a girl looks at herself in the mirror while wearing it on any other occasion, the marriage will be unhappy, or the young man may desert her or die before the wedding day. When she is dressing for the ceremony, the veil should not be donned until she is otherwise completely ready, nor should she see herself in it until she takes her last look in the mirror just before starting for the church. To avoid the bad luck the bride was supposed to save the moment she looks at herself in the mirror until the last moment, just before she left the house on the wedding day itself.

*Something Old,
Something New,
Something Borrowed,
Something Blue,
and a Silver Sixpence in Her Shoe*

A garter was often given to the bride by a married woman to represent Something Old. A wedding dress was often purchased as a symbol of Something New. A valued item borrowed from your family or close friend would represent Something Borrowed. One would have to return the item to ensure good luck. In a custom thought to date back as far as Ancient Israel the bride would wear a blue ribbon in her hair to symbolise her fidelity. Today, brides will often wear a garter which is either blue, or has a small blue ribbon.

Sport superstitions

Some of modern superstitions are also connected with sport. Some basketball players think that if you make your last shot during warm-ups you will do well throughout the game. Others say that if you make your last shot during warm-ups, you will do badly during the game. If you spit in your hands before you pick up a baseball bat, you will hit well. If you change bats after making two strikes, you will strike out. If a baseball player puts a piece of chewing gum on the top of his hat, it will bring good luck to the player and the whole team. If two bats are crossed out in the field, the batter up will have bad luck. Golfers only tee the ball when the ball is marked with a trade number or a number up. Do not say "Good luck" to a horseback rider because it will bring bad luck. Instead, say, "I hope you break a leg." People say that this brings good luck. If you play tennis, do not hold 3 balls in your hands while on the court. Do not say "cat" on the court either.



This is nothing but just one small part of the huge list of superstitions. Through the centuries people have made up so many similar things that nobody can actually know all of them. The foundation of superstition is ignorance. Superstition is the child of ignorance and the mother of misery.