Superstitions in My Country

In the Middle East, especially Syria where I come from, people believe in some superstitions. Some of these superstitions are so strong that they are almost customs. These superstitions are about protecting against evil and bringing good luck. Two of the omst popular superstitons are concerned with the evil eye and throwing water.

People believe that they must protect themselves from the evil eye of another person by putting turquoise beads in various places. A blue bead is pinned on newly born babies because babies are more vulnerable to an evil spirit and must be protected. Since houses must be protected, too, a blue bead, usually with a horseshoe, is placed near the doorway for protection against somone with an evil eye. Also, if people have an item of special value like a car or sewing machine, they must protect it with a blue bead.

Another popular superstition is throwing water, which is done at various times. When someone leaves on a trip, people throw water out of the window to wish the traveler a good trip. This is so the person will go and come back like water. Water is also thrown out when a funeral procession goes by the street, so that death will not come into their homes. The Armenians, who are Christians Who live in Syria, throw water on each other on a special Saint’s Day in mid-July for fertility and prosperity.

In conclusion, certain superstitions have become rituals with the purpose of protecting and bringing good luck. Because people always want to be protected and have good luck, these age-old superstitions are as strong today as they were ages ago and probably will continue in the future.

And the Lucky number Is....

Do you believe that seven is a lucky number or that things happen in sets of three? If so, your idea are as old as Pythagoras, a Greek philosopher who lived 2,600 years ago. Pythagoras believed that certain numbers and their multiples had mystical power. For centuries, people have given importance to numbers and developed superstitions about them. Many of these superstitions have been passed on through the generations and still exist today.

Many of the superstitions surrounding numbers have a basis in science and nature. For example, early astrologers believed that seven planets governed the universe and therefore the lives of human beings. A seventh child was thought to have special gifts. Human life was divided into seven ages. Every seventh year was believed to bring great change. If a person’s date of birth could ve divided by seven, that person’s life would be lucky. For the ancient Babylonians, three was a lucky number because it symbolized birth, life, and death. Some people still believe that a dream repeated three times comes true.

Numbers don’t have same meaning in all cultures. Five is considered a most holy and lucky number in Egypt. But in Ghana, the Ashanti people consider five to be an unlucky number. To give someone five of anything is to wish the person evil. The ancient Greeks and Egyptians thought the number four was a perfect number symbolizing unity, endurance, and balance. However, the Chinese consider the number four to be unlucky because it sounds like the word for death.

The number that seems to be almost universally considered unlucky is 13. No other number has had such a bad reputation for so long. The ancient Romans regarded it as a symbol of death, destruction, and misfortune. One of the earliest written stories about the number 13 appears in Norwegian mythology. This story tells about a feast at Valhalla to which 12 gods were invited. Loki, the god of devil, came uninvited, raising the number to 13. In the struggle to throw out Loki, Balder, the favorite of the gods, was killed.

There are many superstitions regarding the number 13. For example, in Britain it’s considered a bad omen for 13 people to sit at a table. Some say that the person who rises first will meet with misfortune, even death, within a year. Others say it’s the last person to rise. Some British people think it’s unlucky to have 13 people in a room, especially for the person closest to the door. The thirteenth day of the month isn’t considered a good day on which to begin any new enterprise, including marriage, or to set out on a journey. Many people believe that Friday the thirteenth is the unlukiest day in the year. This belief is so widespread that there are horror movies called Friday the Thirteenth.

Some people will go to great lengths to avoid tne number 13. Hotel owners do not usually assign the number 13 to a room, preferring to label it 12A or 14instead. The French never issue the house address13, while in Italy the number 13 is omitted from the national lottery. Airlines have no thirteenth row on their planes, and office and apartment buildings rarely have a thirteenth floor.

From ancient civilizations to modern societies, the belief in the magic of numbers has persisted in spite of the advances in science and technology. There is mothing quite as stubborn as superstition. Even today in the twenty-first century, people still believe in bad luck and omens. In the future, people may work in space stations or travel the universe in starships, but there probably won’t be a “starbase 13” or a rocket loftoff on Friday the thirteenth. A seventh voyage will be a good one, and the third time around will still be lucky.