

Bad Luck Symbols

第37回 English Extravaganza(Rebecca 先生放送原稿) Fri. October 13, 2017
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Hello, everyone! Today is Friday the 13th. In the U.S. and other parts of the world, this date is considered bad luck. So, let's jinx it and talk about some other superstitions(迷信).

Let's start with Friday the 13th. Since October is the month of Halloween, a scary holiday, this Friday the 13th is particularly scary! In fact, 17 million people in the United States are afraid of Friday the 13th. In 1980, there was a famous horror movie called "Friday the 13th," making the superstition even more popular. Horror movies like "Friday the 13th" are often played on TV in October to celebrate Halloween.

A symbol of Halloween is a black cat. If a black cat walks in front of you, you will have bad luck. This is because black cats usually accompany(同行する) a witch(魔女). Since cats stay close to their witch, people tried to avoid black cats, too.

Another superstition is breaking a mirror. It is said that if you break a mirror, you will get seven years of bad luck. The superstition seems to arise from the belief(考え) that mirrors don't just reflect your image; they hold bits of your soul. That belief led people in the old days of the southern U.S. to cover mirrors in a house when someone died, or their soul would be trapped inside. If you break a mirror, you should touch a piece of the broken mirror to a tombstone(墓石).

If you spill(こぼす) salt, you have to toss some over your left shoulder. This comes from Christianity. Judas, a famous traitor(裏切り者) in Christianity, spilled salt during a dinner so spilling salt is a reminder of evil. If you throw a pinch of salt over your left shoulder, you will blind(目を見えなくする) the devil that appears there.

You will also get bad luck if you open an umbrella indoors. I'm not sure where this superstition came from since there are different stories about it. One story is that a woman opened an umbrella inside and then her house collapsed(つぶれる). Another story is that a British prince died within months of opening an umbrella indoors. It seems these deaths were inevitable(避けられない), but people blame the umbrellas.

Well, that's all for this time. Be careful of black cats, mirrors, and umbrellas, and I'll see you next time!