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The Intrepid Interviewer Series



By WILL PENWRIGHT
Staff Reporter

Today's Interview Topic: Superstitions

A superstition can be defined as a nonrational belief in the effects of a specific action or ritual or object used to evade bad luck or to encourage good luck. Sports enthusiasts in particular seem to have their special superstitions but they are not alone by any means. There are superstitions about almost everything, weddings and funerals, fishing and football, crocheting or crossing a street. So, this week I went to a major shopping mall to ask people about their superstitions.

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Intrepid: Excuse me, sir, I'm Will Penwright the Intrepid Interviewer from *Periwinkle Press*. I'm asking people shopping here today about their superstitions. What is your name?

1st Interviewee: Well, people call me Bob but I prefer Roberto.

Intrepid: You look familiar, B. . . Roberto, have we met before?

1st Interviewee: Yeah, you came to the mall another time and asked some dumb question, uh, about the most important household appliance. I can't believe the newspaper actually *pays* you to do this. . . so what's the deal today, superstitions, you say? Well, I knew I was gonna have bad luck this afternoon because on the way over here I hit *every* traffic light on *red*! When that happens, it

means bad luck for the rest of the day. You might as well go home, close the shades and take a nap!

Intrepid: So you really believe that?

1st Interviewee: Hey, I ran into *you* again, didn't I?

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Intrepid: Good afternoon, ma'am, I'm Will Penwright the Intrepid Interviewer from *Periwinkle Press*. I'm asking people in the mall about their superstitions. What is your name?

2nd Interviewee: Norma Jean Chavez Norwich-Rockefeller.

Intrepid: Well, Ms. . . umm, Norma, do *you* have any superstitions?

2nd Interviewee: I do not. Superstitions are for people who don't take the time to think through situations or problems. A lot of uneducated people are superstitious, at least until someone points out the irrationality of their thinking. I mean, after all, in this Information Age with the Internet and access to the world's great thinkers online in your own home, no one should be superstitious!

Intrepid: So, Norma, do you browse the Internet a lot?

2nd Interviewee: Every day! I read the financial news and my daily horoscope so I can manage my stock portfolio.

Intrepid: Your horoscope?

2nd Interviewee: Sure! Why take unnecessary chances?

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Intrepid: Hello, sir, I'm *Periwinkle Press'* Intrepid Interviewer here today asking people about their superstitions. What are *your* superstitions?

3rd Interviewee: *Dude!* You are *awesome!* I read your column all the time! This is the *second* time our karmic corridors have connected!

Intrepid: I've interviewed you before?

3rd Interviewee: *Most definitely!* I hang with my main man, Roberto, where he goes, I go. I was with him last time you were in the mall and you interviewed *both* of us. He over there buyin' us yellow ball caps and green jackets to wear at tonight's game to bring our team some awesome luck!

Intrepid: Hmm, well. . .

3rd Interviewee: I mean, *all* of us *live* by superstitions, dude, you know, crossin' your fingers for luck and dodgin' black felines and wearin' double underwear on New Year's Day and never keeping your stash in the 'frige where your parents might find it and. . .

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Intrepid: And you, sir, I'm asking people here this afternoon about their superstitions. I'm Will Penwright the Intrepid Interviewer from *Periwinkle Press*. Do you have any superstitions?

4th Interviewee: Well, let me tell you a thing or two about how fast you can cause trouble by not following *commonsense customs* some people might see as 'superstitions' but they're not. . . definitely *not*.

Intrepid: For example?

4th Interviewee: My wife bought a throw pillow for our sofa. . . it was sale but that doesn't matter. . . anyway, when she got home she cut off that white tag that say plain as day *Do not remove this tag!* I told her not to do it but did she listen to me? No! I said just turn the pillow around so the tag doesn't show. But *no*, she had to go and cut it off!

Intrepid: Are you saying it was, well, bad luck to remove the tag? Actually, I think the law allows the purchaser to. . .

4th Interviewee: Bad luck! You bet there was *plenty* of bad luck! The next day her brother's wife had him served with divorce papers! After *fifteen years* of marriage! And that same night before our dog peed on the kitchen floor!

Intrepid: And you think this was because. . .

4th Interviewee: Well, I stepped in and straightened things out, I can tell you! I made my wife sew that tag back onto the pillow the next night.

Intrepid: And. . .

4th Interviewee: My brother-in-law and his wife were back together by week's end!

Intrepid: What about the dog?

4th Interviewee: Oh, the dogs pees on the kitchen floor almost every night. . . cutting off the tag didn't have anything to do with that. . . what, you think I'm *superstitious*?

Intrepid: I see. . . well, thank you, sir. . . .

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There you have it, Intrepid Interviewer readers. Our next interview question will be "Do really valuable things get tossed out with the trash?" I can hardly wait to get back to the mall!

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