



# The Encyclopedia of Superstitions

By Richard Webster

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**The Encyclopedia of Superstitions** By Richard Webster

Have you ever rubbed a frog on your freckles?

Trivia fans and fun fact fanatics will adore this fascinating, flickable encyclopedia of superstitions! Richard Webster presents over five hundred of the most obscure, curious, and just-plain-freaky superstitions of the Western world.

Discover batty beliefs about baldness, beans, and the Bermuda Triangle, and peculiar practices regarding hiccups, hearse, and hunchbacks. From modern myths to centuries-old lore, *The Encyclopedia of Superstitions* offers a wealth of wonderfully weird beliefs on just about every topic you can imagine:

- Holidays
- Birth
- Death
- Weddings
- Colors
- Gemstones
- Trees
- Flowers
- Fairies
- Weather
- Numbers
- Animals
- Birds
- Insects
- Household Items
- Zodiac Signs
- Gambling
- The Human Body
- Food

"[T]his reference makes for compulsive browsing."-Publishers Weekly

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Prolific author and "noted psychic" Webster (Amulets and Talismans for Beginners, Spirit Guides and Angel Guardians, Is Your Pet Psychic?) presents a remarkably complete collection of the world's superstitions, covering the familiar-unlucky 13, open umbrellas indoors, black cat crossings-and the delightfully obscure, such as the Cornwall, England myth that ants are actually fairies, "enjoying their last incarnation." The New Zealand writer says he's "tried to include everything that is pertinent," and as such covers certain religious material (such as St. Christopher and Wicca) that might draw ire from the faithful (and others): notes Webster, people often "consider their own superstitions to be facts of life." Webster is generally respectful throughout, with occasional shots of gentle humor; the focus is on history and superstition etymology, and each brief entry is informative and to the point. Though, as Webster writes, "superstitions can be effective ways of handling the anxieties and stress of everyday life," anyone who reads straight through will likely develop a nervous twitch; still, this reference makes for compulsive browsing. Illus.

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### About the Author

Richard Webster was born and raised in New Zealand. He has been interested in the psychic world since he was nine years old. As a teenager, he became involved in hypnotism and later became a professional stage hypnotist. After school, he worked in the publishing business and purchased a bookstore. The concept of reincarnation played a significant role in his decision to become a past-life specialist. Richard has also taught psychic development classes, which are based on many of his books.

Richard's first book was published in 1972, fulfilling a childhood dream of becoming an author. Richard is now the author of over a hundred books, and is still writing today. His best-selling books include *Spirit Guides & Angel Guardians* and *Creative Visualization for Beginners*.

Richard has appeared on several radio and TV programs in the United States and abroad including guest spots on Hard Copy, WMAQ-TV (Chicago), KTLA-TV (Los Angeles), KSTW-TV (Seattle) and the Mike and Matty Show (ABC). He currently resides in New Zealand with his wife and three children. He regularly travels the world to give lectures, workshops and to continue his research.

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