



## "BRIDGING CULTURES: A COMPARATIVE EXPLORATION OF SUPERSTITIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK SOCIETIES"

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### **Annotation**

The article "Bridging Cultures: A Comparative Exploration of Superstitions in English and Uzbek Societies" delves into the rich tapestry of superstitions that permeate both English and Uzbek cultures. It examines how these beliefs, often rooted in historical, social, and religious contexts, shape behaviors and attitudes in each society. The article highlights specific superstitions prevalent in both cultures, analyzing their origins and significance. By comparing and contrasting these beliefs, the study seeks to uncover underlying cultural values and societal norms, fostering a deeper understanding of how superstitions influence daily life and interpersonal relationships. Ultimately, the article aims to bridge cultural divides, showcasing the universal human tendency to seek meaning and control in an unpredictable world through superstitious practices.

**Key words:** 1. Superstitions, culture, English society, Uzbek society, comparative analysis, beliefs, traditions, historical context, social norms, religious influences, cultural values, human behavior, interpersonal relationships, meaning-making, cross-cultural understanding

### **Annotatsiya**

Birlashtiruvchi madaniyatlar: Ingliz va o'zbek jamiyatlaridagi irim sirimlarning qiyosiy tadqiqoti nomli maqola ingliz va o'zbek madaniyatiga singib ketgan irim sirimga oid so'z birliklarining boy tarixini o'rganadi. U ko'pincha tarixiy, ijtimoiy va diniy kontekstlarda ildiz otgan ushbu e'tiqodlar har bir jamiyatdagi xatti-harakatlar va munosabatlarni qanday shakllantirishini o'rganadi. Maqolada har ikki madaniyatda keng tarqalgan o'ziga xos irim sirimga oid so'z birliklari, ularning kelib chiqishi va ahamiyati tahlil qilingan. Ushbu e'tiqodlarni solishtirish va taqqoslash orqali tadqiqot asosiy madaniy qadriyatlar va ijtimoiy me'yorlarni ochib berishga, xos irim sirimga oid so'z birliklari kundalik hayotga va shaxslararo munosabatlarga qanday ta'sir qilishini chuqurroq tushunishga intiladi. Oxir oqibat, maqola madaniy tafovutlarni bartaraf etishga qaratilgan bo'lib, xurofiy amaliyotlar orqali oldindan aytib bo'lmaydigan dunyoda ma'no va boshqaruvni izlashga bo'lgan umuminsoniy moyilligini namoyish etadi.





**Kalit so'zlar:** Irim siringa oid so'z birliklari, madaniyat, ingliz jamiyati, o'zbek jamiyati, qiyosiy tahlil, e'tiqodlar, an'analar, tarixiy kontekst, ijtimoiy normalar, diniy ta'sirlar, madaniy qadriyatlar, insonning xulq-atvori, shaxslararo munosabatlar, ma'no yasovchi, madaniyatlararo tushunish

Superstitions are intriguing cultural phenomena that reveal a society's values, beliefs, and anxieties. The parallels and contrasts between Uzbek and English superstitions will be examined in this essay, with an emphasis on how these beliefs influence social interactions and behavior. In many facets of human existence, superstitions are important because they act as comforting systems, explanations for the inexplicable, and unifying forces within a community. Here is a more thorough examination of these superstitious functions. In a world full of uncertainties, superstitions frequently provide people a sense of control. People may seek comfort in superstitious beliefs when they are afraid or uncertain. For example, doing certain rituals (such as wearing a fortunate charm or adhering to a certain schedule prior to a significant occasion) might offer psychological solace.

Where there may not be cause-and-effect correlations, superstitions frequently create them. For instance, if someone follows a ritual and is fortunate, they can attribute their success to it, which would strengthen the belief. Moreover, superstitions are frequently linked to folklore and cultural narratives that aid in the explanation of life's mysteries. Events like accidents, diseases, or unanticipated accomplishments can be contextualized with tales of luck, fate, and divine intervention. Socialites and a feeling of community can be strengthened by superstitions. A common cultural identity is formed by shared superstitions. Community members can strengthen their relationships and social cohesiveness by taking part in rituals or adhering to traditions. A lot of superstitions have to do with group customs like holidays or life transitions. Superstitions help maintain cultural continuity since they are frequently passed down through the generations. Intergenerational relationships are fostered and cultural legacy is preserved when elders share superstitions with younger generations. In conclusion, superstitions serve important social, cultural, and psychological purposes. Through common beliefs and behaviors, they build communal bonds, offer consolation in the face of uncertainty, and explain the unexplained. Even while superstitions are frequently written off as illogical, they have a significant influence on social dynamics and human behavior, expressing innate demands for comfort, explanation, and connection in an uncertain environment.

Here are some examples of superstitions from both English and Uzbek cultures:

**Black Cats:** Although they are lucky in some cultures, it is generally thought that encountering a black cat is unlucky. The idea that black cats are unlucky has its origins in a number of historical and cultural beliefs. The following are some of the primary





justifications for this belief: Witchcraft's historical associations. Black cats were linked to witchcraft during the Middle Ages, especially in Europe. Witches were said to have the ability to change into black cats or to keep them as familiars, which are incredibly natural pets that help them with their magical activities. Because of this connection, black cats were commonly thought to be bad luck or malevolent. This superstition's cultural symbolism is that black is frequently associated with death, darkness, and the unknown in many cultures. Superstition and terror may be evoked by this iconography. Other hues, like white, on the other hand, are frequently connected to luck and purity. The idea that black cats are unlucky may have been influenced by the negative connotations associated with the color black. The belief that black cats are unlucky is perpetuated by a variety of stories and folklore from many civilizations. For instance, it was believed in certain European customs that a black cat would bring bad luck if it happened to cross your path. These tales were frequently passed down through the centuries and assimilated into society's beliefs. It's interesting to note that not every culture has a bad opinion of black cats. They are regarded as lucky charms and lucky charms in some places. For example, a black cat crossing your path is considered a good omen in some parts of Scotland and Japan. The human propensity to interpret random events and look for patterns may also be a psychological factor in this superstition. The superstition may be strengthened if someone encounters a black cat and then suffers a run of bad luck, attributing their misfortune to the cat. Although it's common in some cultures to believe that black cats are unlucky, it's important to understand that these superstitions are mostly based on folklore, historical context, and cultural symbolism rather than any intrinsic traits of the animals. Many people celebrate Black History today.

**Breaking a Mirror:** Breaking a mirror is said to bring seven years of bad luck. This superstition stems from the belief that mirrors reflect not just our image but also our soul. Roman artisans who actually learned to manufacture mirrors from polished metal surfaces, and believed their gods observed souls through these mirrors.

**Knocking on Wood:** People often knock on wood toward off bad luck after making a hopeful statement, believing that it invokes protective spirits.

**Friday the 13th:** This day is often considered unlucky due to various historical and cultural associations, leading to widespread fear and avoidance of certain activities.[4]

**Garlic protects from evil:** People often believe that garlic protects them from evil [4]

**Throwing Salt Over the Shoulder:** If you spill salt, tossing a pinch over your left shoulder is believed to counteract bad luck, as it is thought to blind the devil waiting behind you. Uzbek Superstitions are as follows:





The Number 40: In culture, the number 40 is very significant, particularly in rituals related to mourning. For instance, on the 40th day following their death, it is traditional to honor the departed. The number 40 has important cultural and superstitious meanings in Uzbek culture. Here are some explanations for why it is considered unique or even sinister. Numerous cultural and religious contexts make frequent use of the number 40. It is linked to completeness or a noteworthy amount of time in many cultures, including Uzbek. The significance of the number is increased by the fact that, according to Islam, the Prophet Muhammad received his first revelation at the age of 40. The number 40 is frequently associated with mourning customs in Uzbek culture. Memorial services (also known as "chilla") are traditionally held 40 days following a person's passing. This time frame is thought to be important for the deceased's soul because it signifies a change and gives the family time to grieve. According to some superstitions, if the number 40 is not honored, it may bring misfortune or bad luck. For example, because the 40th day following a death is considered a sensitive period, certain behaviors or events may be avoided during this time. In Uzbek culture, the number 40 is mentioned in a variety of sayings and proverbs that frequently offer insight or moral guidance. Its existence in daily life and thought is thus reinforced. In Uzbek culture, the number 40 represents a synthesis of superstitious, cultural, and religious beliefs.

**Whistling Indoors:** Whistling inside the house is believed to attract evil spirits or bring misfortune, so it's generally avoided.[4]

**Avoiding Certain Days:** There are specific days considered unlucky for starting new ventures or making important decisions, often based on traditional lunar calendars.

**Not Giving a Knife as a Gift:** Giving a knife is thought to sever relationships, so if one must give a knife, they should also give a coin to symbolize a purchase.

**Spitting Three Times:** After mentioning something negative or someone who has passed away, it is common to spit three times towards off evil spirits or bad luck. These superstitions illustrate how different cultures interpret luck, misfortune, and the supernatural. While some beliefs may seem peculiar to outsiders, they often serve important social functions within their respective societies.

**Lucky Colors and Numbers:** The meaning of broken mirrors, black cats, and the number seven. Like in many other cultures around the world, the number seven has a special meaning in Uzbek language and culture. The number 7 is frequently connected to luck, wealth, and favorable results in Uzbek customs and folklore. It is regarded as a number that promotes balance and harmony. The number seven is common in Islam, which is the most common religion in Uzbekistan. In Islamic belief, for example, there are seven heavens, and performing the act of Tawaf, or circumambulating the Kaaba,





entails seven circuits. The Uzbeks have a greater respect for the number because of its religious significance. The number seven appears in many Uzbek proverbs and folktales, frequently emphasizing themes of a complete cycle or completeness may be symbolized by the number seven in some traditional customs, such as weddings or festivities. For instance, seven objects or behaviors may be used in specific rituals to represent wealth and contentment. Numerology frequently views the number seven as a spiritual number that denotes reflection and introspection. This feature aligns with Uzbek society's cultural value of knowledge and wisdom. In Uzbek culture, the number seven has many connotations, including those related to luck, religion, folklore, and customs. It is a beloved number in the community because of its positive connotations. customs like throwing salt over one's shoulder, avoiding walking beneath ladders, and knocking on wood. Superstitions serve as a window into the cultural psyche of a society. By examining the superstitions of English and Uzbek cultures, we gain insight into their values, fears, and the ways they navigate life's uncertainties. Understanding these beliefs fosters greater appreciation for cultural diversity and the common human experience.

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