



Chinese Superstitions

China is a land of many popular beliefs, customs and superstitions, which are all part of the Chinese life. These beliefs and customs may be called superstitions, and they form part of the essence of life in this Oriental nation. A basic understanding of the popular Chinese superstitions, customs, and beliefs, will make it easier to appreciate the social/cultural life in China.

The following are popular superstitions and beliefs in the Chinese world:

- (1) If one hits another person with a broom, the hitter will have bad luck and he will ruin his life.
- (2) The Chinese believe that one should keep a well-shaven face. If one wears a moustache, it should be well-trimmed. If one violates this norm it will bring bad luck.
- (3) Another Chinese superstition is that if a dog howls for a few hours late at night, it means someone died somewhere.
- (4) If one has a dream of teeth or snow, it indicates that his parents are dead.
- (5) If a baby cries for no reason, the Chinese believe that there are ghosts around and the child is being disturbed by the ghosts.
- (6) Building a house facing the North will bring ruin to the family.
- (7) If one marries a person who is either three or six years older or younger, it is bad and will bring bad luck to the couples.
- (8) The Chinese believe that clipping toe-nails or finger-nails at night will bring ghosts to that place.
- (9) Another popular Chinese superstition is that if one points at the moon with one's finger, it will make one's ear tips fall off.
- (10) If one catches and keeps a turtle as a pet, it will ruin his business and fortune, because it will slow a person's business down.
- (11) The Chinese believe that the number 8 is a lucky number because the pronunciation of the number 'eight' and the pronunciation of the word for 'prosperity' in Chinese are similar. Hence, the number 8 has much value in the social life in China. So if a house number, or the registration number of a car has the 8 as a number, people think it is a lucky sign. Often people pay big sums of money to win a number 8 for their car license.
- (12) The number 4 is considered unlucky because it has it sounds similar to the Chinese word for "death". Hence this number is unacceptable for vehicles and houses.

(13) Those who are on a business trip prefer the room numbers 8, 18, 13 and 168, because the numbers are considered to be lucky. These numbers are in great demand, and often disputes and fights arise over who can have these numbers.

(14) In another popular Chinese superstition, the Chinese do not sweep during the New Years, because if one does, he/she will sweep away all the good fortune. Sweeping for the New Year is to be done the day before.

(15) Eating noodles is not easy in China. They believe that uncut noodles in soup will increase longevity, but if a noodle is cut, it will cut the longevity.

Your Task:

Write a short story of how one of the above superstitions originated.