

The background is a dark blue collage. In the top left is a large, bright full moon. A black cat is perched on a calendar page in the center, which shows the number 13. To the left of the calendar is a white cat. To the right is a woman with long brown hair wearing a white dress. The text is overlaid in the center in a large, yellow, serif font.

SUPERSTITIONS IN RUSSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

The image features a stylized representation of the Russian flag. It consists of three horizontal bands: a white band at the top, a blue band in the middle, and a red band at the bottom. The word "RUSSIA" is written in a white, serif, all-caps font, centered within the blue band.

RUSSIA

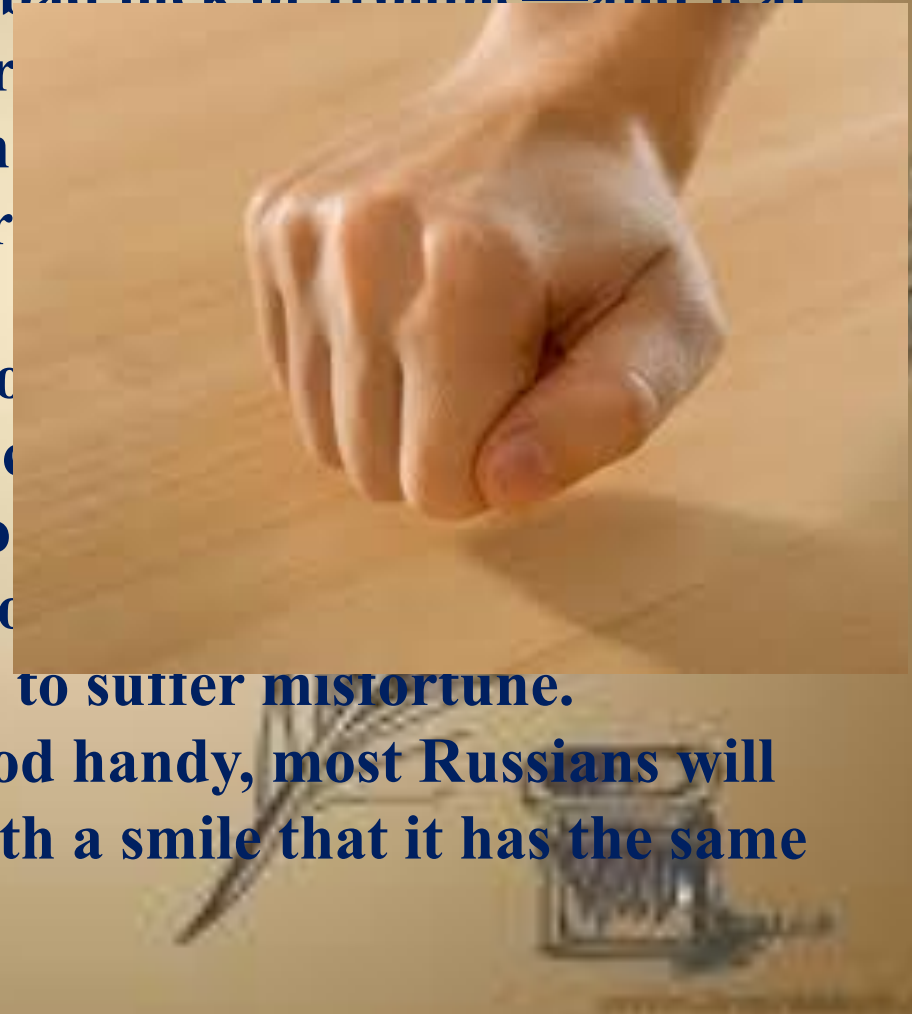
Hiccups

An old folklore states that hiccups occur when someone is thinking about you (good or bad). A third superstition asserts that hiccups mean that you are cursed with bad luck and that Satan lives inside of you.



Spit on or touch wood

Like many other peoples, Russians believe in the evil eye—an evil look that brings bad luck or trouble—and fear it. You will often see that after complimentary about someone's parents will appear to spit through their shoulder and touch a wooden object. This also happens if, for example, someone is about to go on vacation or is about to put the evil eye on any good thing. Russians will touch wood so as not to suffer misfortune. Incidentally, if there is no wood handy, most Russians will tap their own head, saying with a smile that it has the same effect.



An empty bucket

If you see someone with any container—bucket or a cart—omen. Russians believe that if you see someone carrying an empty bucket, for example, in the countryside, or a street cleaner in the town, you won't have any luck. Street cleaners try to put any equipment—brooms, rakes or shovels—in their empty carts

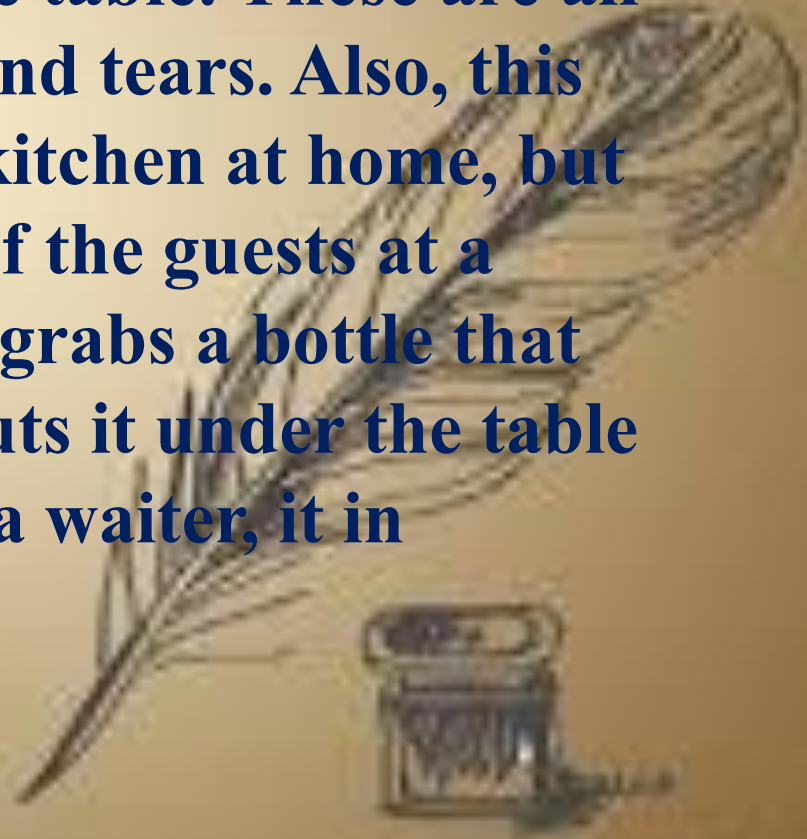


**Don't take anything out of the house
at night**



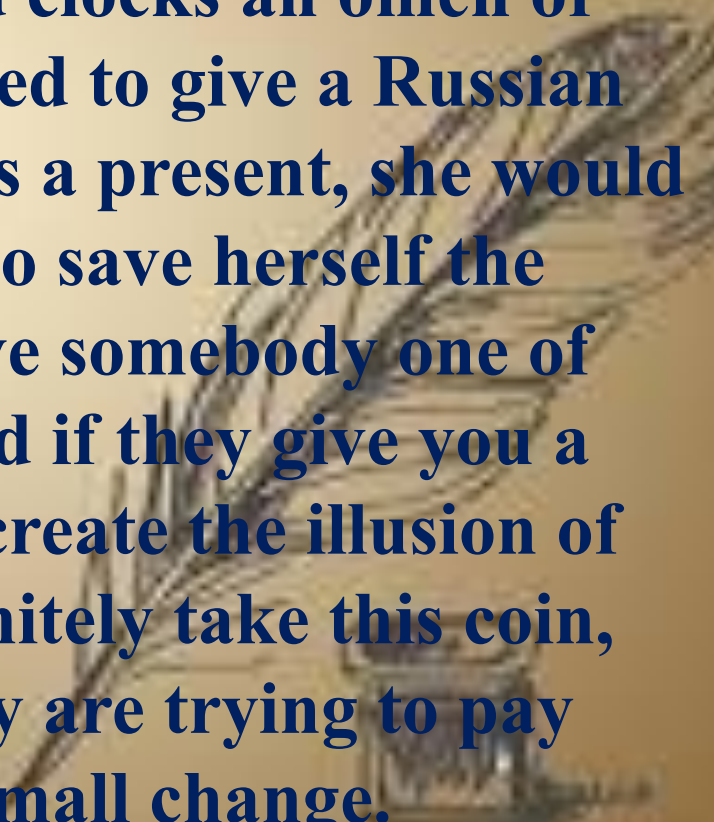
Don't put empty bottles, keys or change on the table

Russians believe that you must not put empty bottles, keys or change on the table. These are all bad omens of financial loss and tears. Also, this omen works not only in the kitchen at home, but also in public places. If one of the guests at a dinner party in a restaurant grabs a bottle that has just been emptied and puts it under the table or starts looking around for a waiter, it in deference to this omen.



Never give knives, clocks or scarves as a present

These things are not considered the best present for a Russian. Scarves, for example, are an omen of tears, knives an omen of enemies, and clocks an omen of parting. Even if you are prepared to give a Russian girl a luxurious Hermès scarf as a present, she would prefer to buy it herself, if only to save herself the tears. If you do nevertheless give somebody one of these things, do not be surprised if they give you a small coin in return. This is to create the illusion of buying the item. You must definitely take this coin, even if it surprises you that they are trying to pay you for an expensive gift with small change.



Look at yourself in a mirror if you have had to go back

**For Russians, going back to
omen, a portent of bad luck
discovers after leaving the
forgotten something, he will
whether it is something he
it is, he will go back, but with
looking himself in the eye
another trick of the trade
omen.**



Don't sit on a table

Many Russians are disturbed when they see scenes in American films where the hero sits on a table or puts his feet on a table. And it is not just because it is unhygienic—sitting on a table is variously seen as an omen of death or



Sit before a journey

When a guest in someone's home or a member of the family is getting ready for a long journey, everyone in the house has to sit down. The children's game is called "sit before a journey" because there is nowhere to sit in the house, but unlike the game, the family sits as soon as someone is going on a journey." This is a good omen. Everyone in the house sits down. This omen, incidentally, is used by people to calm down before a journey, whether they have



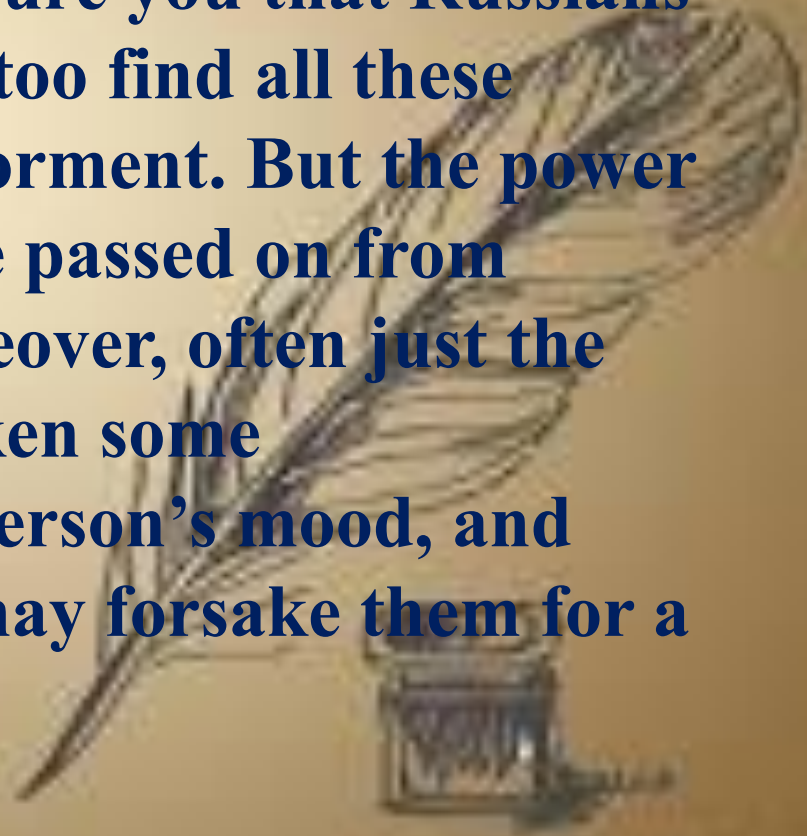
Foto: Fotolink

Good omens

Mind you, not all Russian omens are precursors of misfortune. There are also lots of good omens. For example, if a spider or a “message from a pigeon” appears on your clothes, or if, for example, you accidentally step in some dog dirt, don’t be in a rush to curse your fate. These are omens of great financial success.



There are many more Russian omens and superstitions. If it seems to you that they cause a lot of everyday inconvenience and it's difficult to remember them all, we can assure you that Russians actually think the same! They too find all these frightening old wives' tales a torment. But the power of superstitions is that they are passed on from generation to generation. Moreover, often just the realization that they have broken some commandment can change a person's mood, and their inspiration and success may forsake them for a while.



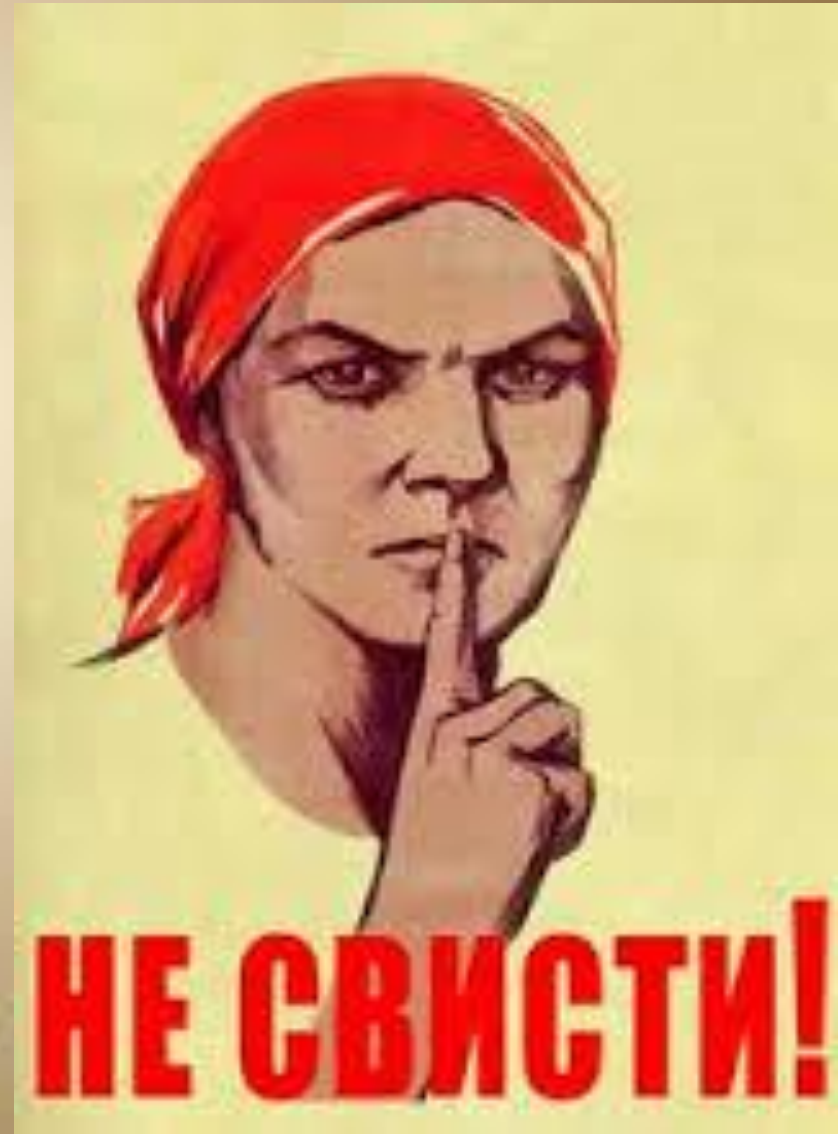
“Bud’ zdorov”

**When someone
sneezes, don’t forget
to say, “Bud’ zdorov”
(Be healthy).
Otherwise the
sneezing person will
get sick.**



Whistling indoors

Whistling indoors is taboo. On one hand it means that you loose all your money soon. On the other – it's simply very rude.





GREAT BRITAIN

The number 13

The number 13 is
said to be unlucky
for some
the 13th
month for
Friday, and
people prefer
stay at home



Umbrella in the house

It is that it is unlucky to
open an umbrella in the
house.

misfortune

that Open

household

who open

in fine

unpopular



Walking under a ladder

It's very unlucky to walk under a ladder. If you must pass under a ladder you can avoid bad luck by crossing your finger and keeping them crossed until you've seen a dog.



“White rabbit”

It is considered that if on the first day of the month you say "white rabbit", the entire month luck will be with you. If you see a magpie, the Englishman believes it brings bad luck.



Breaking mirror

The worst misfortune that can befall you is breaking a mirror. That will bring you seven years of bad luck. This superstition is supposed to have originated in ancient times. Because mirrors were considered to be tools of the gods.



Wood for luck

There is a superstition of touching wood for luck. This measure is most often taken if you have said or done something wrong or stupid.





Fortune cookie





CHINA

A broom

It is considered that the brooms are possessed by spirits. Therefore, a broom can sweep the floor, but not clean cobwebs from the statues of the household gods. If someone hits you with a broom, this is tantamount to a curse. It is bad if your head touches the broom.



8 & 4

Lucky number in China is eight, which sounds the same as the word lucky, and the number four brings bad luck because it sounds like the word death.



JAPAN



A stick vertically in the rice

**People believe
that you are
calling death if
you pierce a stick
vertically in the
rice**



Three shot people

If three people are shot, the one in the middle will die, says Japanese superstition.



SLAVIC COUNTRIES



BLACK CATS

In Slavic countries, people believe that meeting a black cat brings bad luck. The only way to neutralize the meeting with the black cat, is to spit over your left shoulder. In England, however, the black cat brings happiness.





GREECE

Blue beads with painted eyes

Blue beads with painted eyes are carried in a pocket - again against the evil eye. Blue is considered, however, dangerous - it is believed that blue eyed people overlook.



Wearing a little bone of a bat

In Greece, since ancient times it is believed that wearing a little bone of a bat protects from evil eyes. However, the killing of a bat, even in order to obtain a little bone, brings bad luck.



A pot with a cactus

At the door of the house is placed a pot with a cactus to protect your home from evil forces. If your shoes have their soles up, it also brings bad luck.

