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*James Augustus*

Are You

Superstitious





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## PREFACE.

No matter how vigorously we may deny it, each and every one of us has a pet superstition, a latent survival of the dark ages.

It has been our purpose to compile in brief form a summary of the most popular beliefs and the sayings in this little pamphlet have been taken from English, Irish, Negro, Chinese, German and Russian folklore.

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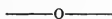
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No 1

## Some Old-Time Superstitions.



Drop a slice of bread and butter, a hungry visitor will come.

Eat Goose on New Year's or Michaelmas Day, you will have plenty of money throughout the coming year.

Pick an oak apple with a worm in it; you will be rich; with a fly in it, however, poverty must be yours.

Meet a man with a wooden leg, you may expect a surprise soon.

Break your apron string, your lover is thinking of you.

To hear the screeching of an owl indicates impending calamity.

It is an exceedingly suspicious omen for a cat to sneeze when a bride enters the house.

Have an irritation of the right foot, you will walk on strange ground with good results; your left foot having the opposite effect.

The last Friday of each month is the almanac index for the next month. If the weather be fair, the month will be likewise; if foul, so will the month be.

Break your needle when sewing a garment, you will live to wear it out.

When you find tea grounds floating in your cup you know that you are going to have company. If the grounds are soft it is a woman; if hard, a man. If the grounds are long, the person coming is tall; if short, the visitor will be short.

See a frog sitting on dry grounds in the springtime, you

will shed as many tears during the year as will make a pond large enough for it to swim in.

If a black cat follow you, good luck will be yours; if it run across your path, you will soon meet with misfortune. If it comes to your house, you will receive money from an unexpected source.

To hear a watch tick and not be able to locate it indicates death of a dear one; also to hear water dripping in a cupboard, indicates death of a near relative.

If a picture fall from the wall you will shortly hear of the death of a close friend.

Take an infant upstairs before taking him down and good fortune will always be his.

If the right ear burns, someone is speaking well of us; if the left, we are being spoken ill of.

To leave the house and have to return for something brings bad luck; the spell may be broken by sitting down and counting thirteen.

Break a looking-glass and for seven years misfortune will surely be yours.

To cross a funeral procession is an ill omen.

To be startled by a snake is a sign of sickness.

To sing during any meal means sure disappointment.

If a vacant rocking chair is rocked violently, the next person who sits in it will be in danger of becoming ill during the year.

When you sleep in a strange bed, if you dream, tell it before breakfast and the dream will come to pass.

Sneeze on Monday, sign of danger,

Sneeze on Tuesday, kiss a stranger,

Sneeze on Wednesday, receive a letter,

Sneeze on Thursday—something better,

Sneeze on Friday, sneeze for sorrow,

Sneeze on Saturday, meet your sweetheart tomorrow.

Sneeze on Sunday, beware how you speak or the devil will



have you the rest of the week.

Sneezing has been held ominous from times of the most remote antiquity. St. Austin tells us that the ancients were wont to go to bed again if they sneezed while they put on their shoe. Sneezing from noon to midnight is good but from night to noon unlucky.

Salt falling toward one is a very unlucky omen. Misfortune will befall the person spilling it. It also denotes the quarrelling of friends, it is thought, however, the evil consequences arising from spilling salt may be averted by throwing a little of the salt over the left shoulder or immediately eating a pinch of it.

To rise on the right side is accounted lucky.

To put the left shoe on the right foot or the right on the left, is the forerunner of some unlucky accident. If you accidentally put on any garment wrong side out, and make a wish before changing it, the wish will come true. It is lucky to accidentally put on a garment wrong side out.

Washing the hands in the same water with another person is very unlucky, as the parties will infallibly quarrel.

If a candle burn blue it is a sign there is a spirit in the house. A collection of tallow rising up against the wick of a candle is styled a winding sheet and deemed an omen of death in the family.

If two spoons are accidentally placed in a cup or saucer at table, it signifies that a wedding will soon take place in the family.

A cat sneezing is a lucky omen to a bride who is to be married the next day.

To remove a cat with a family, when changing residence will bring bad luck.

If you make a rhyme involuntarily, make a wish before speaking again and it will be fulfilled.

If one of the male sex enters your house first on New Year's Day, good luck will be yours the coming year; but if one of the

fair sex enter first, it augurs ill.

If a little spider falls by chance upon one's clothes, money will surely be received, if they are not destroyed or injured in being removed from the person on whom observed.

It is deemed very lucky to have swallows build their nest in the eaves of a house, or in the chimneys.

If you sing before breakfast you will cry before night.

If a spider in weaving his web in some high place comes down before your face, you may look for money from some unexpected source.

It is a lucky sign to have crickets in the house.

It is a sign of death to someone in the house where crickets have been for many years, if on a sudden they forsake the chimney.

If a knife, scissors or any sharp-pointed instrument is dropped and stands sticking in the floor, company may be expected.

The right hand itching is a sign that the person will shake hands with a stranger, the left hand itching is a sign that money will be received soon.

To find a four-leaf clover implies good luck; a five leafed clover, bad luck.

If four persons cross hands while in the act of shaking hands, it indicates that two of the party will soon be married.

Of course, everyone knows the old superstition "See a pin, pick it up and all the day you will have good luck." Some even go farther by saying a pin pointed toward you brings better fortune if picked up than if the head is toward you.

To find a hair pin denotes that one will soon have a new sweetheart, if the pin is small he or she will be short, if large—tall.

If a bird fly into a room, someone in the house will surely die.

It is considered an ill omen to see a spider in the morning. When found in the evening a spider signifies good luck.

If your nose itches early in the morning, you will on that very day hear a piece of good news.

Lay under your pillow a prayer-book, opened at the matrimonial service, bound round with the garters you wore that day, and a sprig of myrtle on the page that says "With this ring I thee wed" and your dream will be ominous, and you will have your fortune as well told as if you had paid a dollar to an astrologer, Zingara tells us.

If you sneeze shortly after being told a piece of news, you may be sure it has been true.

If one's nose bleed, he had best beware, bad luck is lurking near.

The removal of a long worn ring from the finger is an omen of bad luck.

To drop a dishcloth, duster or any cleaning cloth signifies the arrival of one or more visitors.

The superstition has become almost universal that the tickling of a little insect called the "death-watch" presages the death of someone in the house.

The following witty account of this superstition, by Dean Swift furnishes us with a charm to avert the omen:

—"A wood-worm,

That lies in old wood, like a hare in her form,  
With teeth or with claws it will bite, or will scratch,  
And chambermaids christen this worm a death-watch,  
Because, like a watch it always cries click;  
Then woe be to those in the house who are sick;  
For as sure as a gun they will give up the ghost,  
If the maggot cries click, when it scratches the post,  
But a kettle of boiling hot water injected  
Infallibly cures the timber affected;  
The omen is broken, the danger is over,  
The maggot will die, and the sick will recover."

If thirteen sit down to the table together, the first one to rise will die within the year.

If a dog bays at your window at night, it portends sickness or death.

In olden times it was not considered a good omen to find money. It is a very lucky omen to find a horseshoe.

There is luck in odd numbers, thirteen being the exception.

To find a knife or razor denotes ill luck and disappointment to the finder.

To see a new moon for the first time over the left shoulder, is a sign of bad luck; over the right shoulder, good luck.

To have money in the pocket at the time of the new moon is a sign the person will not be out of money before the next moon.

A knife is in all countries an unlucky present and a pair of scissors is equally bad. If a pin or penny is given in exchange the ill effects can be avoided.

It is unlucky says Grosse to lay one's knife and fork cross-wise, crosses and misfortunes are likely to follow.

Cauls are little membranes found on some children, encompassing the head when born. This is thought to be a good omen to the child itself, and many believe that whoever obtains it by purchase will be fortunate and escape dangers. The caul is esteemed an infallible preservative against drowning, and is much sought after by sailors.

Sailors are very superstitious; they consider it ominous to whistle on shipboard, or carry a corpse on their vessel. Whistling at sea is supposed to cause wind, and is, therefore, disliked, except when there is a dead calm. The common-sailors account it very unlucky to lose a water-bucket or a mop. It is also unlucky to throw a cat overboard or drown one at sea. Children are deemed lucky to a ship, clergymen very unlucky.

If no falling stars are to be seen on a bright summer's evening, fine weather may be expected. On seeing a falling star make a wish quickly and it will be granted.

A rainbow toward evening is a promise of clear weather, if seen in the morning, look for rain.

A February fog denotes a May frost.

It is considered very lucky to keep an old pair of shoes around the house.

It is very unlucky to kill a cat.

### WERE YOU BORN ON A LUCKY DAY?

Child of Sunday, will always have money,  
 Child of Monday, fair of face,  
 Child of Tuesday, full of grace,  
 Child of Wednesday, loving and giving,  
 Child of Thursday, will have to work for a living,  
 Child of Friday, child of woe,  
 Child of Saturday will have far to go.

The Scotch superstition is—

Whenever a cat in the house is black,  
 The lassies of lovers will have no lack.

Putting a wishbone of a fowl over the door will show one's future husband in the first eligible male who enters.

Two persons take a wishbone, make a wish and break with the little fingers; the one getting the long end will get his wish, the one getting the short end will be married first.

To drop a comb means a sure disappointment unless picked up by someone other than he who dropped it.

If an infant does not cry at all during baptism, it will not live.

To thank anyone for the gift of a pin indicates a quarrel.

### WEDDING SUPERSTITIONS.

The best months in the year in which to marry:

- JANUARY: Those who are wedded in the first month of the year  
 Will have cause for rejoicing, and none for fear.
- FEBRUARY: Those selecting February for their wedding day  
 Will have cause for sorrow, grief and dismay.
- MARCH: The month of March for the wedding ring

- Will triumph o'er all troubles bring.
- APRIL: Wedded this month no cause for strife  
A most delightful wedded life.
- MAY: Those who are wedded in the month of May  
Will surely have cause to rue the day.
- JUNE: The best of wedding months is this—  
With little of trouble, and much of bliss.
- JULY: A most excellent month to wed is July,  
On domestic comfort you can well rely.
- AUGUST: To wed in August is not so good,  
There will be lack of money—perhaps lack of  
food.
- SEPTEMBER: To be married in the month of September—  
You'll have both joys and sorrows to remember.
- OCTOBER: If in October your wedding invitations you're  
giving,  
'Tis surely a sign you'll work hard for your  
living.
- NOVEMBER: If you be married this month when leaves are  
thin  
All sorts of hardships for you will begin.
- DECEMBER: Married in cold December weather—  
Happy you'll go through life together.

Then again in contradiction to this, we have the following:

Married in January's hoar and rime,  
Widowed you'll be before your time.  
Married in February's sleety weather  
Life you'll tread in tune together,  
Married when March winds chill and roar  
Your home will be on a foreign shore.  
Married 'neath April's changeful skies  
A checkered path before you lies.  
Married when bees o'er May blooms flit  
Strangers round your board will sit.  
Married in month of roses—June—

Life will be one long honeymoon.  
Married in July, with flowers ablaze  
Bittersweet memories in after days.  
Married in August's heat and drowse  
Lover and friend in your chosen spouse.  
Married in golden September's glow  
Smooth and serene your life will flow.  
Married when leaves in October thin  
Toil and hardship for you begin.  
Married in veils of November mist  
Dame Fortune your wedding ring has kissed.  
Married in days of December's cheer  
Love's star burns brighter from year to year.

And it is always said that a bright sunny day is most favorable for weddings, while a gloomy rainy day portends ill omen.

Blest be the bride  
That the sun shines on.

Apropos of weddings, it is also said that a bride should always wear "something old and something new, something borrowed and something blue." Moreover should the bride be persuaded to wear the garter of an unmarried female around her left knee during the wedding ceremony, the latter will surely be married within a year.

In the matter of colors in the bride's wedding dress, we have again the old rhyme:

Married in black, you'll wish yourself back.  
Married in red, you'll wish yourself dead.  
Married in pink, your spirits will sink.  
Married in yellow, ashamed of the fellow.  
Married in gray, you'll go far away.  
Married in brown, you'll live out of town.  
Married in green, ashamed to be seen.  
Married in blue, he will always be true.  
Married in white, you've chosen all right.

**FORTUNATE AND UNFORTUNATE DAYS IN THE WEEK  
ON WHICH TO MARRY.**

- SUNDAY:** It is the almost universal custom to choose any other day in the week in preference to this one.
- MONDAY:** Couples married upon this day will have a successful future before them. They may occasionally be imposed upon, but not often.
- TUESDAY:** Should the wedded couple take care to govern their tempers, and avoid giving cause for jealousy, this will prove a fortunate day upon which to wed.
- WEDNESDAY:** Marriages taking place upon this day will prove happy to both parties.
- THURSDAY:** A most fortunate day, on which to wed, predicting wealth in love and also in this world's goods. They will prosper abundantly.
- FRIDAY:** Another lucky day for weddings. Indicative of health, wealth and high position in society. They will succeed in all they undertake.
- SATURDAY:** Most unlucky. Foreshadows great trouble and loss of fortune.

Another wedding day superstition—told in rhyme—rather conflicts with the above. It goes in this wise:

Monday for health,  
Tuesday for wealth,  
Wednesday the best day of all,  
Thursday for losses,  
Friday for crosses,  
And Saturday no luck at all.

In this as well as in the foregoing, Saturday is unfortunate, and Wednesday considered very good. Sunday is not mentioned at all.

It is said that a married person will not get rich until their



wedding clothes are worn out.

It is also unlucky for a bride to view herself in a mirror in her wedding costume before she is married. It is unlucky for either bride or bridegroom to see a funeral procession on their wedding day.

At the wedding, when the bride shows her bouquet the damsel catching it will be the next bride. And also at a shower given for a bride—the guest presenting the first parcel which she (the bride) opens, will be the next to wed.

Should the bride elect stumble going up stairs—her wedding day will be unfavorable. Should she fall, sustaining injury, the reverse is predicted.

Should the wedding party meet a funeral procession it is considered extremely unlucky for the future happiness of the bride and groom.

Should the bridegroom not be on hand at the exact moment he is wanted during the ceremony, it is extremely unlucky in several ways.

Should the ring be dropped during the ceremony, it is an extremely unlucky omen.

The custom of throwing rice after a married couple comes to us from the Chinese, and means literally "May you have as many children as these grains of rice number."

The custom of throwing an old shoe after a newly wedded pair is a very old superstition, and is supposed to insure them good fortune. This superstition, however, is not confined to newlyweds, but to anyone starting on a journey.

## SIGNS BY WHICH TO CHOOSE GOOD HUSBANDS AND WIVES.

If the party have a clear ruddy skin, full nosed, and arched eyebrows, full eyes, of a lively color, it denotes a goodnatured person, born to good luck.

Should the person be lean and of a dusky complexion, given to melancholy, beware of such.

A rather wide mouth, full cheeks, small ears, dark hair, ordinary features, is considered good.

A very long chin with protruding underlip signifies a cranky person, not a good business person, yet given to folly.

A well set broad chin in a man is good, provided his face be round but not too fat.

### LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS.

ANEMONE: I think of you always.

BUTTERCUP: Your nearness is consoling.

APPLE BLOSSOM: I fear the result.

CARNATION: How I want you.

CLOVER BLOSSOM: I will live always for you.

COLUMBINE: Your words are plausible.

DAFFODIL: Don't let me grieve.

HEARTSEASE: I think of you.

HELIOTROPE: I require proof of your affection.

HONEYSUCKLE: I will be faithful.

HYACINTH: You'll be sorry you were so unkind to me.

IRIS: Why have you disturbed my peaceful heart?

LILY (white): I adore you.

MARIGOLD: I dislike you.

OLEANDER: Faithful unto death.

PEONY: You are too vain.

POPPY: I detest you.

PRIMROSE: Let me have your love.

MONTHLY ROSE: Each month you have a different love.

ROSE (red): I love you madly.

ROSE (white): I love your innocence.

ROSELEAF (red): Yes.

ROSELEAF (white): No.

ROSEMARY: Remembrance.

SWEETPEA: Inconstancy.

VIOLET: I love your modesty.

### THE EYES.

Persons with small eyes are usually healthy, very witty, rather jealous and very good hearted. Their undertakings will be met with very good fortune.

Persons with large bright eyes are frank, insisting upon justice in everything.

An eye sunken in the head shows a jealous and suspicious nature, cunning, deceit and treachery.

People who squint are selfish but are strict and honorable in their dealings.

Bright hazel eyes belong to a candid but rather devilish person who usually has good understanding.

Mild blue eyes show an amiable character, very liable to be imposed upon. Such people usually know how to take care of their money, are gifted with good memories, and usually die without entering into matrimonial bliss.

Small rather swollen eyes that stand out slightly denote an intelligent character, and would also make good writers.

Very many rogues have what is termed a "wall eye," denoting deceit, selfishness, and absolute indifference to the opinion of others.

Gray eyes usually denote an industrious disposition, these people being very bright but rather cruel toward others.

### THE NOSE.

A person with a sharp nose is usually looking for trouble, and is very inquisitive.

Persons with a flat fleshy spreading nose are usually likeable but are so vain and silly they do not usually amount to much.

A "pug" or turn-up nose usually denotes sauciness and quick wit.

A hook-nose generally denotes greed.

Large nostrils usually belong to smart, energetic and good hearted people.

### THE FINGER NAILS.

Round fingernails that are a delicate pink denote a person of good health and probable longevity.

Long narrow pale nails predict an early death.

If the flesh grows up around the nail it foretells poor health.

### THE HAIR.

Thick, straight, fine glossy black hair usually belongs to persons of good disposition, very firm in their resolutions, usually faithful in love. If the hair be curly it shows one is easily influenced and if the hair be coarse and straight, the person will be unprincipled but yet be popular with the opposite sex.

Thick, straight, glossy, fine brown hair shows a person of very good health, very fond of the opposite sex. Such people usually live long. If the hair be coarse and wiry it shows great determination to succeed in anything undertaken. If the hair be curly or kinky it shows a weakness of character, though not from lack of ability.

Light brown hair if thick, shows a person with first-rate characteristics, they are usually generous and slow to anger. If the hair is curly the person is usually unreliable and will not be a desirable friend, as even though their intentions would be the best, they are so fond of comfort and ease, when the time comes to be accommodating, they will sacrifice anyone rather than be disturbed.

Red hair when thick denotes a cunning, suspicious and treacherous person. Ladies with red hair usually spend most of their time gossiping, and are great mischief makers as they do not always adhere to the truth.

### THE EYEBROWS.

Full and even eyebrows show a person with few undersirable characteristics, they are usually sincere, witty, but rather too generous with money, and for such reason will never be wealthy, although poverty will keep at a distance.

Thick and very hairy eyebrows usually belong to a pessimistic, greedy person; given to excesses when someone else pays the bill, they cannot be sincere to any friendship, being amiable with people just so long as they can use them.

Small thin eyebrows show the person to be goodtempered, bright and generous but a trifle too fond of praise.

An eyebrow that is thick and goes off suddenly very thin, ending with thin points, shows a disagreeable person who if they do not get their own way make themselves and everyone around them very miserable, but whose manners are so delightful and perfect if things are going their way that they always have many friends.

An eyebrow that is only thick and bushy in the center indicates the person has a bad heart and nothing is ever too terrible to seem impossible for them to do.

#### WHAT DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS INDICATE.

Delicacy in touch belongs to those who have a soft skin, though these people are subject to nervousness.

A good memory is usually attached to persons who are smaller in the upper than the lower parts, these people are usually matter-of-fact and very precise in all they do. A bad memory is found in a dreamer. These people are usually slouchy and are never interested in the subject in hand, and the men are usually bald, and even though they may be very bright, their poor memory is constantly a source of annoyance.

A good imagination is distinguished by a prominent forehead. People of this type usually make our best writers. They frequently have a fixed, attentive look and are unconscious to what is going on around them.

Good sight is enjoyed by persons who have thick straight eyelashes and large bushy eyebrows with eyes slightly contracted inward.

The best faculty for tasting is enjoyed by those who have a spongy, soft tongue, well moistened with saliva.

Persons with a large nose with short upper lip enjoy the

most perfect sense of smell.

A thick tongue usually denotes short life.

Prudence is distinguished by a large head slightly bulged at the sides, high forehead, soft voice and thin hair.

Stupidity may be recognized in a thick neck, plump arms, sides and loins, a small round head, flat in back, pale eyes, snuffing nostrils, giggling in excess, little hands, short fingers and thick short legs.

Boldness is characterized by full lips, prominent teeth, arched eyebrows, short nose, long neck and full chest.

Bashfulness may be known by downcast eyes, never wide open, but which look half shyly at one, and rather prominent ears.

Irascibility is accompanied by an erect posture, a muddy complexion, large nostrils, direct speech, fat neck, full chest, and one who walks with short quick steps.

Envy announces itself by a dark sullen melancholy expression with small squinty eyes.

Gayety is shown by an open carefree countenance, a musical voice, and a clear skin.

An amorous disposition may be known by a small slender face, dark complexioned, a quantity of hair on all parts of the body and narrow chest.

Strength of mind is signified by brown hair, a body neither large nor small, broad shoulders and a direct way of speaking.

Pride confesses itself in arched eyebrows, large prominent eyes and a small mouth slightly compressed.

We should flee when we meet with a high forehead, firm, short thick neck, quick speech, a piercing eye, short fleshy hands and fingers, because we may be sure the person is too perverse to make a friendship desirable.

Upright eyebrows show an amiable disposition, accompanied by tidiness often carried to an extreme.

A very large mouth with overhanging lip shows a person of unsteady character.

Small mouths usually belong to very capable persons who mean exactly what they say.

Great ears indicate a generous heart, which guides the person in all actions instead of the head.

Square ears denote a person who never jumps at anything before first weighing the matter in every particular. These people are usually very successful in life.

### HANDKERCHIEF FLIRTATION.

Drawing across the lips signifies—Desirous of acquaintance.

Drawing across the eyes—I am sorry.

Taking it by the center—You are too willing.

Dropping—We will be friends.

Drawing across the cheek—I love you.

Drawing through the hands—I hate you.

Letting it rest on right cheek—Yes.

Letting it rest on left cheek—No.

Twirling it in left hand—I wish to get rid of you.

Twirling in right hand—I love another.

Folding it—I wish to speak with you.

Over the shoulder—Follow me.

Opposite corners in both hands—I wait for you.

Drawing across the forehead—We are watched.

Placing on left ear—I have a message for you.

Letting it remain on eyes—You are cruel.

Winding around forefinger—I am engaged.

Winding around third finger—I am married.

Putting it in pocket—No more at present.

### PRECIOUS STONES.

Precious stones as well as flowers have their sentiments, which many people consider when they make a gift of one to a sweetheart or friend.

The garnet signifies constancy and fidelity.

Amethyst—Sincerity.

Bloodstone—Courage.

- Sapphire—Repentance.  
Emerald—Success in love.  
Agate—Health and long life.  
Ruby—Forgetfulness of, and exemption from vexation caused by friendship and love.  
Sardonyx—Conjugal fidelity.  
Chrysolite—Freedom from evil passions and sadness.  
Opal—Hope and faith.  
Topaz—Fidelity and friendship.  
Turquoise—Prosperity.  
Diamond—Innocence.  
Pearl—Purity.  
Cornelian—Contentment.  
Moonstone—Protection from danger.  
Amethyst—Sharpens wits, turns away evil thoughts, and gives knowledge of future in dreams.  
Bloodstone—This revives the spirits and incites to great deeds.  
Coral (red)—Stops bleeding; preserves houses from lightening and children from evil spirits. It will be observed to grow pale when the wearer is ill.  
Diamond—Gives victory to him who carries it on his left arm. Panics, pestilences, enchantments—all fly before it. It is good for sleepwalkers and the insane.  
Emerald—A good preservative against decay. The emerald loses its color particularly when given as a love token, as the faith of the giver wavers.  
Garnet—Preserves health, and promotes joy, but with lovers it is a cause of discord.  
Jasper (green)—Gives strength to brain and promotes eloquence.  
Opal—Cheers the heart and dispels sadness. Also preserves from infection.  
Pearls—Comfort the heart and render possessor chaste.  
Ruby—Preserves bodily health and reconciles differences among friends.  
Sapphire—Promotes cheerfulness. Good amulet against fear.



Topaz—Relieves affections of the mind and is good against sleepwalking.

Turquoise—When given as a love token—should this stone turn green, it is a sign of unfaithfulness.

### CHARMS AND CEREMONIES.

Any person fasting on midsummer eve and sitting on the church porch, will at midnight see the spirits of the persons of that parish who will die that year come and knock at the church door in the order and succession in which they will die.

An unmarried woman fasting on midsummer eve and at midnight laying a clean cloth, with bread, cheese and ale and sitting down as if going to eat, the street door being left open, the person whom she is to marry will come into the room and drink to her, afterward filling the glass will leave it on the table, make another bow and retire.

To find out the name of your future husband, let any two girls in the company take a Bible and open it in the book of Ruth at the verse beginning "And Ruth said: 'Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee, for where thou goest, will I go,' etc.," and place a key therein, binding the book together tightly with the garter of the young woman who wishes to know the name of her future husband, leaving the top of the key protruding from the book. Then let each of the two damsels aforesaid put her forefinger under the key, and say over the alphabet slowly. For instance after saying the letter "A" the one desirous of knowing her fortune will repeat the verse in the Bible aforementioned, and after each succeeding letter. As she reaches the first letter in the man's name the key will turn on the fingers as the verse is being repeated. Then begin over again going through the same process until the whole name has been spelled out.

### SIGNS OF SPEEDY MARRIAGE.

For a woman to have the first and last letters of her Christian name the same with the man's surname that makes love to her, denotes a great union and a generous love.

For a man to have the first and last letters of his Christian name the same with the woman's surname, denotes the same.

To think of a party on a sudden awakening without any meditation on a Friday morning, indicates a declaration of love.

If a ring accidentally falls and rolls to the feet of an unmarried woman, it is a sign that she will speedily be married.

The singing of a robin at your window at the time of courtship on a Wednesday is a sign that you shall have the party desired.

If walking abroad with your sweetheart you perceive a pair of pigeons circling around you, it is a sign of marriage and happiness.

If a hare cross you on a Saturday morning, it promises happy days, riches and pleasure.

#### TELLING FORTUNES BY MEANS OF MOLES.

A person's character can generally be told by the moles that appear on their body. If the mole is round, it signifies good, if oblong, a moderate share of good fortune, if angular, a fair proportion of good and evil. The more pronounced the color, more pronounced will be the good or bad fortune. If the mole is very hairy, one had best beware, as much misfortune is in store, if only a few hairs grow on it, a little better fortune will be in store, but if no hair at all appears, Dame Fortune assures us she will smile favorably upon all our undertakings.

**ANKLE.** If on a man, he will be very effeminate, will be fond of loud clothes, and will make a better salesman in a store dealing with women's goods than anything else he could undertake to do. If on a woman, she will be active and witty. A happy marriage, riches and honor will be hers.

**ARM.** On either arm it denotes great success in life, conjugal fidelity, and although there will be many battles to fight, the firm resolution and industrious disposition which accompanies a mole so situated, predicts great success in all, denoting a happy life never knowing poverty. If on a man, he will be a widower in the prime of life, but if on a woman, she will survive her husband.

**ARMPITS.** You will be very goodlooking and will become rich through legacies, and do much good with your money.

**BACK.** This is very unlucky, signifying misfortune and defeat in any enterprise, even though an energetic disposition accompanies it.

**BELLY.** Shows an indolent slothful disposition, very selfish, and so fond of the pleasures of life, that there will be small successes, but marriage to a partner who will be successful enough to make life comfortable, and children who will be very successful.

**BOSOM.** Shows an irritable, nagging disposition.

**BREAST.** Shows a disposition given to drink, denotes much misfortune brought about thereby and sudden reverses from riches to poverty, in fact a life made up mostly of disagreeable incidents, one blessing, however, being a kind, industrious partner. Many children will be yours but all will be girls, who will marry well and take care of you in your old age. A mole on the left breast shows one fond of athletics, healthy, with much love and happiness derived from a happy marriage.

A mole near the heart on a man shows an unsettled indifferent disposition, not caring enough for public opinion to guard one's actions, until about thirty-five, when there will be a reformation. In a woman it denotes a strict regard for character, rather fortunate than otherwise.

**BUTTOCKS.** Signifies poverty, for though possessed of good brain power, you will be too lazy to do anything for yourself and under this sign none will do anything for you.

**CHEEK.** A mole on either cheek shows an industrious disposition but too grave and solemn to make many friends or be successful enough to become rich, although poverty will never knock at the door, as the disposition accompanying a mole so situated is plodding, never being content to sit idle. Two children will come who will be more successful than the parents.

**EAR.** On either ear, it denotes riches which will be made by an unexpected stroke of luck. On the very lowest tip, it denotes death by drowning, and such people should never take any trips by water.

**CHIN.** A mole on the chin shows a peaceful and amiable disposition, very fond of travel and of the opposite sex. It denotes great success in life and the accumulation of a large fortune by lucky speculation, though about the age of forty losses are indicated on the water.

**ELBOW.** A mole on either elbow shows a dissatisfied disposition, discontented in the married state. It predicts losses of both reputation and money.

**EYE.** A mole on the outside corner of either eye denotes a pleasure loving disposition, foretelling a sudden death after a life of pleasure, together with some misfortune. Poverty will never be known under this sign.

**EYEBROW.** On the right eyebrow shows a quick active nature, ability to make friends and keep them and predicts great success in all undertakings, and a very happy marriage. Long life is also predicted under this sign. If on the left eyebrow, an irritable disposition is shown, few friends, unsuccessful business undertakings, disobedient children and a peevish conjugal partner.

**FINGER.** It denotes dishonesty and poverty.

**FOOT.** A mole on either foot shows a brooding, dreaming disposition, one who waits for good fortune to present itself, without doing anything by his own efforts to bring it about. These people are usually great readers and not athletic and their inactivity often produces poor health. Much misfortune and many sorrows will be theirs.

**FOREHEAD.** A mole in the center of the forehead predicts an untiring worker, good disposition, and one who will surmount many obstacles and be very successful in life, make a happy marriage and have a child who will become distinguished. (See Eyebrow for mole on side of the forehead.) On the right of forehead or temple, shows a fair industrious character, much given to outdoor sports, riches from an unexpected source and a very happy marriage.

**GROIN.** On the right groin it predicts much poor health but not serious enough to confine one to bed, much pleasure being derived from the wealth which follows under this sign.

The left groin is unfavorable, predicting much poor health, the need to work to live and not much success.

**HAND.** Moles on either hand indicate industry and wealth; also that you will be happy in your progeny.

**HEEL.** A mole on the heel shows a spiteful nature, but with much energy. Such a person will not have many friends.

**HIPS.** A mole situated on either hip indicates a contented person, industrious and abstemious. It foreshadows moderate success in life and many children.

**INSTEP.** You will be a great walker and dreamer, quick tempered and people will be inclined to shun you as you will be very fond of an argument.

**KNEE.** A mole on the left knee shows a passionate disposition. It denotes extravagance and little consideration for the feelings of others; your head will rule your heart and you will make a rich marriage and have one child. On the right knee shows an even unruffled temper, a happy marriage with few crosses, many friends, with moderate success in business.

**LEG.** Moles on either leg show a person of indolent, thoughtless disposition, amorous and given to dissipation. Although imprisonment is foreshadowed, yet such a person will generally succeed in his undertakings.

**LIPS.** A mole on either lip signifies a sober, affectionate disposition, successful in undertakings—particularly in love affairs, and indicates rising above present surroundings.

**NECK.** On the front this is a very good sign and if born poor your circumstances will be absolutely reversed and you will become very rich. It is unlucky on the back of the neck, foretelling many disappointments. If on the right side behind the ear you should learn to govern your temper as this sign prognosticates quarrels and often murder, the subject often being hung.

**NOSE.** Indicates a hasty and passionate nature, sincere in friendship, amorous and rather intemperate. Denotes success in love and such a person should marry well.

**THROAT.** Predicts good health and a happy and wealthy marriage.

**TONGUE.** A mole on a man's tongue indicates he will marry a rich celebrity. On a woman it denotes reserve of manner, also a fortunate marriage.

**SHOULDER.** On the left shoulder shows a person inclined to be nervous and cranky, fond of pleasures of love, and a life with success and misfortune about equally divided. On the right shoulder indicates a person who weighs their words well before they speak, one who will travel extensively and be very prosperous after thirty.

**WRIST.** Denotes industry, constant in affections. Will acquire a comfortable fortune, a good life companion, but such a person will have some trouble about the age of thirty. In a man it indicates he will be married twice.









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