**Superstition – By Gabi Hlevner**

**Superstition is not a trivial matter. Most of the population believes in them and acts on them every day. In order to understand the thinking of people who believe in superstition, we will use abstract research tools. Our imagination!**

**Imagine entering the hotel you booked in Shanghai, going to the reception desk and getting the key to your room on the 15th floor. You look at the panel of buttons and look up in the literature to find the floor, between 14 and 16 of course. As your eyes wander the numbers, something refuses to get along. You go over the numbers again and to your surprise you find that 15 does not come after 14, but after 12. Some of the floors have been omitted from the elevator. A thorough examination will tell you that floors 13 and 14 are not part of the sequence of numbers that you know.**

**What is the meaning of this phenomenon? In this strange omission you will also encounter buildings in New York where the 13th floor is missing and in other cities around the world. What is it about the number 13 that frightens large parts of Western culture, or the 4 from which many Chinese distance as from fire? It turns out that despite everything, superstition can have an impact on our lives, and even positive in some cases.**

**Many times superstitions can exist in our lives as mini-rituals that are there in the background without us ever feeling them. Once we saw a movie clicking on a tree, and on another occasion a friend did it, a relative added it too, and so a habit was built without inviting him. It crawled into our lives like a spreading slang, social bonding. Does this mean that we believe that the difficulty will eliminate bad luck? Probably not. It's just part of our way of expression. Another means of communication is to highlight how important we think the game results or the test score. "And because doing something like a knock on a tree does not require much effort, it is often easier to continue with superstition than to consciously resist it."**

**More than that, sometimes superstitions can be very useful to us. Lucky Talismans, for example, may improve our performance by creating a sense of security and ability. This psychological mechanism is particularly noticeable among athletes, many of whom have different rituals. You can see goalkeepers talking to the rafters, players kissing the grass, and those who do not wash clothes they won in the game. But the fact that it is not more than self-persuasion does not mean it does not work. On the contrary, that's exactly why superstitions can work. "They give you the feeling that you have more control over the events.**

**Finally, I can testify that I am superstitious. Every morning I turn on and off the light five times before I leave the house and look in the mirror. These small and insignificant acts (outwardly) do not constitute a "real" part of my success in life, but I believe that if it is harmless why not do it?**