

The LATE NIGHT Superstition DINER

Friday May, 13th 2011

MENU

Pancakes to appease fate A stack of 7 pancakes served right-side up, with an X traced on top to deter the devil, eggshells crushed after use to prevent witchcraft, and served with a pinch of nutmeg for good luck.

Pancakes to tempt fate A stack of 4 pancakes served upside-down, with a cavity in the middle symbolizing a coffin, eggs cracked at the small end for bad luck, and served alongside spilt milk or salt.

SPILT MILK, FRIDAY, 13, AND OTHER RELEVANT SUPERSTITIONS

(Ref.: Oxford Dictionary of Superstitions)

FOODS: Cooking and Eating

It is **bad luck to spill good milk** or to give it away.

Blackberries are not to be eaten after September 29th.

If you **boil water over the side of the pot you will lose your lover**. If the water lands on the floor you will cause an argument.

If you throw bread into a fire you are feeding the devil.

The **first loaf of bread must be broken not cut with a knife** or else you will invite bad luck.

A hollow in a loaf of bread is either a coffin symbolizing death, or a sign that the baker of the bread is pregnant.

If you turn over a loaf of bread in the oven or on the table there will be a death in the family or a shipwreck (depending on whether you are baking on land or at sea).

If you **cut the top of the loaf of bread** (the upper-crust) before the bottom, your status will rise.

It is **bad luck to crack an egg at the small end**.

You should **crush the shell of an egg after using** to ward off witches.

Garlic hung over an entryway will protect against bad spirits.

Eating lettuce causes sterility.

Nutmeg sprinkled in a sick person's pocket will cure their ills.

An onion rubbed over a wound will make it heal faster.

It is bad luck to leave a chopped onion in the house.

It is unlucky to receive a gift of parsley and to eat parsley planted by a stranger.

Rosemary is good luck if it is hung in an entrance, grown near your house or received as a gift.

Salt functions as an invitation to good luck and prosperity, and as a protection against evil spirits.

It is bad luck to serve salt to another, and worse luck repay salt that is loaned to you.

To spill salt is to invite future quarrels and bad fortune, but can be averted by throwing salt over your left shoulder immediately after.

It is good luck to eat pancakes on Mardi Gras.

MORE RELEVANT SUPERSTITIONS

MEALS: Preparation and Gatherings

Two cooks in the kitchen will inevitably have an argument.

It is bad luck to leave food on the table overnight.

To stir food with a knife or pass food with a knife invites back luck.

The last bite of food or the last slice of bread is the luckiest.

An extra setting should be left at the table during the month following the death of a member of the household.

It's bad luck for two people to drink from the same cup.

A diamond, or coffin, -shaped crease in the center of a table cloth or bed sheet is a sign of death.

It is unlucky to sit next to an empty chair.

If your chair falls over when you rise, someone at the table will fall ill.

If you place your chair back under the table upon leaving, you will never be invited back.

If you sit in someone else's chair when they get up you are portending their death.

By turning your chair around you can reverse bad luck.

It's good luck to have beer or wine spilled on you.

A lull in conversation is a bad omen for everyone at the table.

Dropped cutlery foretells of a visitor: a woman visitor if a fork dropped, a man for a knife, and a child for a spoon.

TODAY: Friday, 13 and May

Friday is the unluckiest day of the week and the time of the most accidents.

Never start anything new on a Friday or else you will never finish it.

Never embark on a journey on a Friday or else you will never return.

If you hear bad news on a Friday it will add a wrinkle to your face.

It is unlucky to court someone, get married, move house, or start a new job on a Friday.

Thirteen is generally thought to be an unlucky number, and is often replaced by 12A or 14 in addresses, building floors, and seat numbers.

If thirteen people gather for dinner, one of them will die within the year. The one who rises from his chair first is at the highest risk.

May is the unluckiest month, and the most dangerous.

A baby born in May will grow into a sickly child.

It is bad luck to get married or wash your sheets in May.

A cat born in May is a bad omen, and it's unlucky to keep one.