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## LESSON NOTES

# Culture Class: Russian Superstitions and Beliefs #1 Black Cats Crossing Your Path and Horseshoes Above a Doorway

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# 1

# RUSSIAN

1. чёрный кот перебежал дорогу
2. подкова над входом

# ROMANIZATION

1. chornyy kot perebezhal darogu
2. patkova nad fkhodam

# ENGLISH

1. black cat crossing your path
2. horseshoe above the doorway

# VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
защищать	zashchishchat'	to protect, save	verb	
не везёт	ne vezyot	(I am) not lucky (lit. not carrying)	verb	
перебежать	perebezhat'	run across	verb	
удача	udacha	luck	noun	feminine

# SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Этот талисман защитит тебя от зла.</b> <i>Etat talisman zashchitit tebya at zla.</i></p> <p>"This talisman will protect you from evil."</p>	<p><b>Мне сегодня чертовски не везёт!</b> <i>Mne sevodnya chertovski ne vezyot!</i></p> <p>"The damned luck I am having today!"</p>
<p><b>Я видел, как она перебежала Невский проспект.</b> <i>Ya videl, kak ana perebegala Nevskiy prasppekt.</i></p> <p>"I saw her running across Nevsky Avenue."</p>	<p><b>От него отвернулась удача.</b> <i>At nevo atvermulas' udacha.</i></p> <p>"His luck took a turn for the worse."</p>

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### **чёрный кот перебежал дорогу (*chornyy kot perebezhal darogu*) "Black cat crossing your path"**

In Russia, it's believed that if a black cat runs across your path, you're going to have bad luck today. This is because black cats are believed to be concerned with mysterious and dark things.

### **подкова над входом (*patkova nat fkhodam*) "Horseshoe above the doorway"**

In Russia, it's believed that a horseshoe hung above the front door brings you luck. If you hang the horseshoe on the inside the house, it protects the people and the things inside. If you hang it on the outside, it will keep thieves and all the bad stuff out of your house.

## LESSON NOTES

# Culture Class: Russian Superstitions and Beliefs #2 Spilling Salt and Sugar

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# 2

## RUSSIAN

1. рассыпанная соль
2. рассыпать сахар

## ROMANIZATION

1. rasypannaya sol'
2. rasypat' sakhar

## ENGLISH

1. spilled salt
2. spilling some sugar

## VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
рассыпать	rasypat'	to spill, strew	verb	
ссора	sora	fight, quarrel	noun	feminine
любовь	lyubof'	love	noun	feminine
нечаянно	nechayanno	by accident, unintentionally	adverb	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Кто рассыпал сахар?</b> <i>Kto rasydal sakhar?</i></p> <p>"Who spilled the sugar?"</p>	<p><b>Ссора уже улажена.</b> <i>Sora uzhe ulazhena.</i></p> <p>"The quarrel has been patched up already."</p>
<p><b>Любви все возрасты покорны.</b> <i>Lyubvi vse vozrasty pokorny.</i></p> <p>"Love has no age."</p>	<p><b>Мужчина любил женщину.</b> <i>Muzhchina lyubil zhenshinu.</i></p> <p>"The man loved the woman."</p>
<p><b>Извини, я нечаянно!</b> <i>Izvini, ya nechayana!</i></p> <p>"Sorry, I did it by accident! (I didn't mean to!)"</p>	<p><b>Мы сделали это нечаянно.</b> <i>My sdyelali eto nyechayanno.</i></p> <p>"We didn't do it on purpose."</p>
<p><b>Она нечаянно разбила чашку.</b> <i>Ona nyechayanno razbila chashku.</i></p> <p>"She broke the cup by accident."</p>	

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### рассыпанная соль (*rasypannaya sol'*) "Spilled salt"

In Russia, it's believed that if you spill some salt you are going to have a fight or quarrel with someone. This is because there were times when salt was as expensive as gold in Russia, so if someone spilled even a little bit, a fight seemed imminent.

### рассыпать сахар (*rasypat' sakhar*) "Spilling some sugar"

In Russia, it's believed that if you spill some sugar by accident it's a good sign because love will come to you. Maybe, the reason is that sugar is sweet, and people associate it with good things, contrary to salt.

## LESSON NOTES

# Culture Class: Russian Superstitions and Beliefs #3 Handing Something or Carrying the Bride Over the Threshold of a Door

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# 3



## RUSSIAN

1. передавать через порог
2. переносить невесту через порог

## ROMANIZATION

1. peredavat' cheres parok
2. perenosit' nevestu cheres parok

## ENGLISH

1. handing something over the threshold (of a door)
2. carrying the bride over the threshold (of a door)

## VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
передавать	peredavat'	to hand over, give, pass	verb	
предок	predak	forefather	noun	masculine
жених	zhenikh	bridegroom	noun	masculine
невеста	nevesta	bride	noun	feminine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Вы не могли бы передать соль?</b> <i>Vy ne mogli by peredat' sol'?</i></p> <p>"Could you pass the salt, please?"</p>	<p><b>Это земля наших предков.</b> <i>Eta zemlya nashykh pretkaf.</i></p> <p>"This is the land of her forefathers."</p>
<p><b>Так, кто из вас жених?</b> <i>Tak, kto iz vas zhenikh?</i></p> <p>"So, which of you is the bridegroom?"</p>	<p><b>Почему невеста надевает белое платье?</b> <i>Pachemu nevesta nadevaet belae plat'e?</i></p> <p>"Why do brides usually wear a white dress? "</p>

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### **передавать через порог (*peredavat' cheres parok*)** **"Handing something over the threshold (of a door)"**

In Russia, it's believed that you shouldn't hand anything over the threshold of a door. You should be completely on one side or the other before giving something to someone. This is because, in the past, the ashes of one's forefathers were buried under the thresholds of the doorway. So, when handing something through the door, you could bother their souls.

### **переносить невесту через порог (*perenasit' nevestu cheres parok*)** **"Carrying the bride over the threshold (of a door)"**

In Russia, it's believed that when entering the house after the wedding for the first time, the bridegroom should carry his bride over the threshold. This is because the spirits of one's forefathers are believed to live near the entrance. So, bringing your new wife (a new person) in the house using your own hands is like introducing her to them.

## LESSON NOTES

# Culture Class: Russian Superstitions and Beliefs #4 Broken Mirrors and Pigeons on the Windowsill

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# 4

# RUSSIAN

1. разбитое зеркало
2. голубь на подоконнике

# ROMANIZATION

1. razbitae zerkala
2. golup' na padakonike

# ENGLISH

1. broken mirror
2. pigeon on your windowsill

# VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
осколок	askolak	piece	noun	masculine
подоконник	padakonik	windowsill	noun	masculine
сесть	ses't'	to sit, sit down	verb	
разбить	razbit`	to break	verb	

# SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Он перелез через подоконник.</b>  <i>On pereles cheres padakonik.</i></p> <p>"He climbed over the windowsill."</p>	<p><b>Голубь сидит на крыше и воркует.</b>  <i>Golup' sidit na kryshe i varkuet.</i></p> <p>"A dove sits on the roof and coos."</p>
<p><b>Он разбил мне сердце.</b>  <i>On razbil mne sertse.</i></p> <p>"He broke my heart."</p>	<p><b>В гостинице я случайно разбил пепельницу.</b>  <i>V gastinitse ya sluchayna razbil pepel'nitsu.</i></p> <p>"I accidentally broke the ashtray in the hotel."</p>

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### **разбитое зеркало (*razbitae zerkala*)** **"Broken mirror"**

In Russia, it's believed that if you break a mirror, 7 years of troubles are waiting for you. This is because in the 15th century, when glass mirrors began to appear, they were very expensive.

### **голубь на подоконнике (*golup' na padakonike*)** **"Pigeon on your windowsill"**

In Russia, it's believed that a pigeon sitting on your windowsill is a good sign that nothing bad will happen in the near future. This is because the pigeon is believed to be a symbol of peace and love in many countries. Furthermore, there were times when pigeons used to bring mail, so pigeons are still associated with good news.

## LESSON NOTES

# Culture Class: Russian Superstitions and Beliefs #5 Itching Right Palms and Itching Left Palms

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# 5

# RUSSIAN

1. правая ладонь чешется
2. левая ладонь чешется

# ROMANIZATION

1. pravaya ladon' cheshetsa
2. levaya ladon' cheshetsa

# ENGLISH

1. itching right palm
2. itching left palm

# VOCABULARY

Russian	Romanization	English	Class	Gender
получить	paluchit'	to receive, get	verb	
деньги	den'gi	money	noun	plural
чесаться	chesatsa	to itch	verb	
отдать	atdat'	to give away	verb	

# SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Я вчера получил зарплату.</b> <i>Ya fchera paluchil zarplatu.</i></p> <p>"I received my salary yesterday."</p>	<p><b>Мне не нужны твои деньги.</b> <i>Mne ne nuzhny tvai den'gi.</i></p> <p>"I don't need your money."</p>
<p><b>Деньги - не самое главное в жизни.</b> <i>Den 'gi - ne samoye glavnoye v zhizni.</i></p> <p>"Money is not the most important thing in life."</p>	<p><b>В бумажнике были деньги и кредитные карточки.</b> <i>V bumazhnikе byli den'gi i kreditniye kartochki.</i></p> <p>"In the wallet, there was some money and credit cards."</p>
<p><b>У меня нет денег.</b> <i>U menya net deneg.</i></p> <p>"I have no money."</p>	<p><b>Рана уже почти не болела, только чесалась.</b> <i>Rana uzhe pachti ne bolela, tol'ka chesalas'.</i></p> <p>"The wound hardly hurt anymore, just itched."</p>
<p><b>Она никогда ничего не просит, скорее сама всё отдаст кому-нибудь.</b> <i>Ana nikagda ni u kavo nichevo ne prosit, skaree sama fsyo atdast kamu-nibut'.</i></p> <p>"She never asks for anything; she'd sooner give away everything to someone."</p>	

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### **правая ладонь чешется (*pravaya ladon' cheshetsa*)** **"Itching right palm"**

In Russia, it's believed that if your right palm is itching, you will have to give away or lose some money. This is because the right hand is considered to be the "giving hand" and the left one is the "taking hand."

### **левая ладонь чешется (*levaya ladon' cheshetsa*)** **"Itching left palm"**

In Russia, it's believed that if your left palm is itching, you are about to receive some money. This is because the left hand is considered to be the "taking hand" and the right one is the "giving hand." So, to get some money, you should scratch your left palm more often.