

Bridal superstitions surround the bride around the world

Bridal superstitions are as old as time. Every country in the world has its own particular favorites. More myths surround the bride than any other aspect of the wedding ceremony, most of them to ensure the lady has a long and happy marriage.

Here are some of the known and not-so-well-known superstitions:

• The little verse, "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue," deals with the bride's ensemble. The something old should be her shoes

or handkerchief, the new and borrowed have no stipulations but the blue should be sky-blue, the color of the heavens.

• The bridal gown should be white denoting purity, and the wearing of her mother's dress will ensure good fortune for the bride. Colored dresses should be reserved for the bridesmaids, preferably blue, pink or gold. Colors to avoid are red (a short life), green (jealousy - unless you are Irish), and materials to avoid are satin, which is unlucky, and velvet, which de-



notes poverty.

• The dress should preferably be made of silk with no designs, especially birds which are unlucky and - heaven forbid - vines which

signify death. If the bride makes her own dress or tries on the whole ensemble before her wedding day then she will be unhappy.

To avoid this, many brides-to-be leave off a part of their outfit when having a fitting. To ensure the ceremony goes off according to plan, it is said that a last stitch should be put in the dress as the bride is leaving for the church.

• The veil was introduced to hide the bride's face until she was safely in church and in the care of her husband in

case the evil spirits tried to snatch her away.

• The bride's bouquet is to ensure a happy marriage as the flower symbolizes sex and fertility.

• On the way to the church it is unlucky for the bride to meet a policeman, a physician, a lawyer, a priest or a blind man and on arrival the bridal party should always enter by the door they intend to leave. After the ceremony it is unlucky for the bride to see a pig or a funeral party, but black cats, chimney sweeps and elephants are

good omens.

• Throwing rice or confetti on the happy couple will ensure fertility, which is also the reason behind the wedding gifts.

• Finally, the bride must always be carried across the threshold of her new home in order to stave off bad luck.

It is interesting to note that there are no superstitions surrounding the groom which is possibly why, when a marriage fails, the man is always quick to blame his wife - for not following all of the above perhaps?


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