

This I No Longer Believe

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Are ghosts real? Depending on who you ask, the answer will vary and whether they believe in ghosts. My answer, is they do exist. There are many different stories about ghosts most are legends, folklore, and traditional stories that are part of the country's culture. There is an extensive and varied beliefs in ghosts in Mexican culture. Today's modern state of Mexico is inhabited by people such as the Mayans and Aztecs. Their beliefs in the supernatural world have evolved and lived through many generations there combined with the Catholic beliefs of the Spanish conquest in 1519.

A normal holiday here in the United States known as Halloween is celebrated a bit more different in Mexico. The Day of the Dead incorporates pre-Columbian beliefs with Christian elements. Instead of dark night and filled with terror, and mischief, the festivities of this holiday lasts two days and filled with color and joy of celebrating life. Throughout cities and townspeople will hold parades, parties, sing, and dance, wear costumes and makeup, and make offerings to loved ones who have died. The main piece of this holiday is an alter however, there are not for worshiping the person but to welcome the spirits of the dead. But why is this holiday worth mentioning? This holiday incorporates the belief of ghosts or spirits that are present in this world.

Every country and culture has their own folklore, legends, myths, and superstitions, most of these are often to us by our parents when were children in order to scare us and make us behave. Some superstitions are universal and others often cross cultures. A part of Mexico's cultural heritage is mostly folklore and superstitions. One that everyone might know is the ringing or buzzing in your ears, when this happens it's believed that someone is talking about you, it affects your right ear then someone is

talking about positively but if it's left era then it means thee talk is negative. The solution? Is to bite your tongue, it's said thought that doing so will cause the speaker to bite their own tongue and can get rid of the negative thoughts or words. Another one is the Cucuy or the BM in english, is a scary Meixcan urban legend about a creature who kidnaps children who don't behave well or don't listen to their parents. This legend has been passed down from generation to generation, mostly told by parents to their children in order to scare them so they would behave better.

A famous ghosts folklore or legend is the story of the weeping woman. There are many accounts of this story, some say that she fell in love with a rich nobleman others that she fell in love and married a Spanish soldier. But the most common one is that she loved a rich man. The weeping woman fell in love with a rich nobleman, but her lover had cheated on her with another woman and in a rage she threw her children in the river and drowned them, after doing this she proceeded in drowning herself too thus she died. When she died she stood at the gates of heaven attempting to enter but she wasn't allowed in until she found the souls of her lost children in the river, she was doomed to be a spirit and roam the earth finding her children. It's believed that she would take children if they closely resemble her own kids or disobedient kids. This is mostly told to children by parents in order to scare them so they would behave or be obedient. A superstition that's widely believed in Mexican culture is the evil eye curse or legend. This is believed to be a malevolent glare which is given when the person is aware. When someone is giving you an evil eye it's usually because of greed, envy, and grudges. That person wants to wish you bad luck and make your life a living hell. It sucks the life out of people that when not

detected or cured on time can lead to death. It often occurs without envy being a cause, it's a variant of underlying sense of insecurity and relative vulnerability to powerful, hostile forces in the environment around them. But there's a cure that exists, an egg cleansing. Someone who's strong both mentally and emotionally has to massage a raw egg over the person who was cursed in order to get rid of the negative energy and thoughts, after this is done the egg must be thrown away most flush it down the toilet but it's important that when cracking the egg you must not look at it or else the negativity will pass onto you. This isn't as dangerous in adults as it is in children, babies and young children are most vulnerable to this curse. It's important that a mother shouldn't let a person admire or touch their newborn too much because doing so can curse the baby with an evil eye. Most parents buy their children and babies a charm bracelet, a red string bracelet with an eye charm in the middle, this is supposed to act as a protective barrier that shields the children from the curse.

My family is a strong believer in these superstitions, myths, and legends. There's always gossip in my house about this and a few experiences my family and close family friends have encountered and experienced. Back in Mexico, both my grandparents had seen the weeping woman closely. My grandmother had been 5 months pregnant and she walking back home late at night. There were people still outside but as she got near her house she was alone, but all of a sudden she felt cold and felt an ominous feeling around her. When she looked around looking for something suspicious, straight ahead about walking distance in the middle of the road she was a lady wearing all white and had a type of veil on. But when she looked down at her feet she was floating, she tried to look

at her face to see who she was, however, the woman kept turning around until she had caught a glimpse of her, she realized that the woman didn't have a face. No words were exchanged as my grandmother stood still for a few moments until the woman turned a corner and disappeared. Later on as told what happened had she realized and what people mentioned was that she had seen the weeping woman, that night. My grandfather had also seen her but a bit differently. He was walking with a friend late at night and they were heading both heading home, they lived in the same neighborhood so they walked together. Making their way home there's a little area that looked like a hill and it was covered with rocks. At the top of the rocks a woman was standing there, they were curious as to why she's standing there late at night and alone, and as they got closer they both realized that she had no feet, that she wasn't even standing in fact she was floating. They looked at each other in question, soon she started sobbing loudly and making her way down the rocks but they couldn't see her face, as she was coming down her cries got louder and became more clear. She was again wearing all white. Fear had made my grandfather and his friend ran home, when he got home he could hear the woman's cries as she was walking by.

An experience I had myself happened when I was a little bit younger. It occurred at night, I was walking home and surprisingly, the street was empty and I fairly close to my house. I was relaxed, since nothing seemed out of the ordinary. But after awhile of walking i noticed a lady wearing all white on the middle of the road. Then heard the lady just start sobbing, when I heard it I knew straight away who she was because my parents would always tell me stories about it. I just ran home after hearing it, but I dropped my

keys right when I was outside my door out of fear. Thankfully, I managed to get home. I can't recall specific details of what had exactly happened since a while ago but I do remember just seeing her standing on the middle of the road late at night.

Bad luck is one way to look at the evil eye curse. But its not necessarily bad luck to the person who is cursed. A close family friend had been cursed, and the person who cursed them was their best friend. I'll call the person who got cursed Lily and their friend Jenny because out of respect I can't say their real name and it's bad to talk about it.

Anyways, Lily had the life every woman dreamed of, she had a somewhat wealthy husband, good kids, she had nice clothes, and she was beautiful. Jenny on the other hand had a similar yet different life Lily. Jenny was married but a part of her wished she had a life like Lily. Over time Jenny had grown envious of Lily's lifestyle, and soon this envy she felt had turned into hatred. Jenny was cursed with an evil eye. When your given an evil eye it takes anything good in your life if the person doing it to you is envious. It can be thought as Karma but done towards yourself by another person while the person doing is benefiting from it. When cured of this, one can slowly their old life before it happened but it takes a while. To be cured you can either get an extensive eg cleanse regularly or go to "specialist" and get rid of the negativity that has been inflicted by you.

This I no longer believe. When I heard their stories and talk about what happened to other people who my family knew, I used to think it was gossip or made up that they don't actually exist. But as time went by and I heard more people talking about their experiences and my family's own encounters, I start to believe all the superstitious, legends, folk lore, and myths about my culture. If people didn't believe in these kind of

things they wouldn't be passed down from generation to generation and eventually became a rich part of Mexico's culture. Yet, these stories and beliefs are still heard and talked about today. But how do I not believe stories from my own culture? Hearing these when I was a child from my parents when I misbehaved or was disobedient, so I didn't think much of it back then, I wasn't scared of them. I never believed the stories my parents told me because nothing would actually happen. As I got older, I started to understand more of the stories and listen to people's experiences, I question the existence of these things.

Are ghosts real? I guess I can say yes. Because if they were proved scientifically that there not real then people won't believe as much as most do but will still find interesting. Some people are drawn to scary movies and thrilling roller coasters, the same way people are drawn in believing that spirits of the dead are wandering around is just as thrilling. If ghosts aren't real then any haunted houses, ghosts hunters, and television shows about ghosts wouldn't exist. But the phenomenon that surrounds ghosts is what creates all these attractions for people who believe in them to visit those places.

The stories, folklore, myths, legends, and superstitions that our family passes down from generation to generation is what creates a rich part of our culture. This is what identifies a specific culture and what makes unique to other different cultures. My culture's celebrated holidays are what express our beliefs in certain things. The belief of these supernatural entities is widely believed by everyone as well as people experiencing them face to face. Superstitions are also widely believed and talked about almost everyday since most personally experience these superstitions. My belief in this also

changed because it just became a real thing that happens to people and then experiencing it myself then one would start to believe in them too. Sure for some there just ordinary ghost stories or superstitions that aren't real, but this I no longer believe.