

Why People are Superstitious

Introduction

Margaret Mead's "New Superstitions for Old" introduces new examples of fantasies and the assumption that they give massive amounts of hope to people. In most instances, people tend to misuse the word superstition as a way to avoid admitting how superstitious they are. Despite attempts by people to deny their superstitious sides, most would cross their fingers in hope of getting good luck or avoid telling too much of their wealth to avoid attracting the evil eye. This paper is a cause and effect essay on Margaret Mead's "New Superstitions for Old" discussing why people are superstitious.

Thesis Statement

Although, people tend to do superstitious things unconsciously, there is no denying that superstition is in people from their childhood. From Margaret Mead's "New Superstitions for Old", it is evident that some phobias people hold are a result of superstitious beliefs people. Fears like fear of darkness, fear of heights, and fear of sleeping in a room alone, all emanate from the folk tales and fables narrated to us when we were young. Apart from the fables related to the young ones, the movies classified as horror or science fiction people watch further reinforce delusions in people's minds. But, where do these superstitions come from, and why are people superstitious. This paper discusses why people are superstitious as discussed in Margaret Mead's "New Superstitions for Old."

Why Superstition

Paragraph two of Margaret Mead's "New Superstitions for Old" shows that irrational beliefs give people enormous hopes. In numerous instances, people believing in superstitions are optimistic avoiding bad luck and bringing good luck along their paths. Mead asserts that

Pogrebin together with her mother would try to distract the “Evil Eye” attention in keeping their good fortune. Pogrebin’s mamma would always practice rituals of interference to try to get rid of the “Evil Eye” from their home. From this description, Mead mentions that irrespective of whether it is a new belief or an old conviction, the credence reflects a person’s wish. This desire is to have something come true or to prevent something bad from taking place. Consequently, superstitions serve as a hope to block misfortune and to bring in luck.

In Margaret Mead’s “New Superstitions for Old” people believe in superstitions or are superstitious because falsities bring a great deal of security. Many people hold false notions as having magical powers that give them good luck along with good health. Mead asserts that one must leave by the back door when going on a journey or put on a green dress when taking an examination. Doing this, will enable one to feel safer in the living environments. Mead further asserts that at the home, one would give three bows to his deceased parents whenever he walks past their portrait as a religious practice and form of respect. However, this practice is not only done out of respect but out of asking them for protection.

Conclusion

There is a certain level of being superstitious with every person. Some people accept that they are superstitious, others however, deny it but unconsciously practice superstition. Margaret Mead’s “New Superstitions for Old”, show that the fears people hold are the results of their superstitious beliefs. Superstitious beliefs emanate from childhood fables and tales and further reinforced by the media people consume. This paper thesis statement involved discussing why people are superstitious relying on Mead’s text. The reasons why people are superstitious is that superstitions serve as a hope of blocking misfortune and to bringing in luck, makes one feel safe in his environment, and help in asking for protection from ancestors.