

H O R R O R S C O P E

ARIES

(Mar. 21-April 20)

Know your Latin well before doing incantations. If you make it to Halloween night without getting murdered, you still risk falling in love with some deranged monster or serial killer. Think twice before walking under a ladder lest the person on top falls on you. Your lucky costume this week is Batman.



TAURUS

(Apr. 21-May 21)

Your only reason for attending Halloween parties is to indulge in sweets. Your best bet to escape a haunted house is to sweet-talk your way out. Relish in the thought that beginner's luck will cover for whatever you do this week. Your lucky costume this week is vampire.



GEMINI

(May 22-June 21)

Go out with your gang rather than sitting at home. You might collapse into a fit of mad, idiotic laughter until you are hauled away to some haunted asylum. Pick up the black cat crossing your path and pet it a bit. Your lucky costume this week is Two-face.



CANCER

(June 22-July 22)

You won't need freaky makeup to scare anyone as you will do it anyway by complaining about the festivities during Halloween. Don't pick on someone's costume lest it turns out that they are the real deal. Always hang out in pairs as bad luck comes in threes. Your lucky costume this week is Ursula.



LEO

(July 23-Aug 22)

Don't end up breaking your mirror while gazing at your reflection. You face your worst fear this weekend when friends don't recognise your Halloween costume. Your bruised self-image compels you to chase after any monster that will pay attention to you. Your lucky costume this week is Lady Gaga.



VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 23)

Your need to over-plan puts a dent on Halloween parties. Try dialling 666 if you feel like no one understands you. Invest in waterproof mascara that won't smear when you are dragged to your doom by the ghost that lives in your bathroom. Your lucky costume this week is Luna Lovegood.



LIBRA

(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Prepare for the horror that awaits when a trusted friend reveals your darkest secret to the world. Embrace all that is the number 13. Curiosity may have killed the cat but best to lock your doors lest the cats were only just practice. Your lucky costume this week is a witch.



SCORPIO

(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Consider moving to a new apartment because pest control can't help with a malevolent spirit. You'll be driven to madness by the secrets you uncover this weekend. Try calling Bloody Mary three times in front of a mirror and you may end up summoning a friend. Your lucky costume this week is a man-eating zombie.



SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

There is an axe murderer behind your shower curtain but rest easy as he just needs the shampoo. Try not to get carried away with your Halloween night celebrations or you could wake up to some horrifying turn of events. Try not to open an umbrella indoors if someone rains on your parade. Your lucky costume this week is Jack Sparrow.



CAPRICORN

(Dec 22.-Jan. 20)

You may have difficulties sleeping and it's probably because of the spirit outside your window watching you. Your ticket to YouTube fame is coming up this week if you manage to get everyone's funny antics. If you happen to spot your doppelganger, make sure to take a selfie on Snapchat. Your lucky costume this week is Donald Trump.



AQUARIUS

(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

Don't judge others for being awkward and shy; remember that no one plans a murder out loud. Consider getting together with a small group and doing a séance to contact your past selves. Don't throw coins in a bucket and expect it to work like a fountain. Your lucky costume this week is Darth Vader.



PISCES

(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Being in costumes is fine but waking up the dead and summoning spirits may be going a bit far. Halloween will provide you with opportunities to break up unique masquerade disagreements ranging from Harry Potter vs. Abraham Lincoln and so on. Don't go on a bird-hunting spree just because all the wishbones have been taken. Your lucky costume this week will be the Mad Hatter.



MUSING

Warding off evil

'The moon is my sun,
The night is my day,
Blood is my life,
And you are my prey.'



Be it a vampire, a ghoul, an evil spirit, a witch or black magic, for centuries we have been trying to protect ourselves against them. Ever since Pandora opened her box and unleashed all kinds of evil on human kind, we've been finding ways to rid ourselves from these creatures lurking in the dark.

One of the most common ways to ward off these immortal beings has been wearing or carrying different types of talismans. Some wear a taweez around their neck like a locket or around their arm as an amulet. A taweez essentially contains a piece of paper with holy lines/verses which are meant to protect and keep evil at bay.

Another commonly used talisman world over is the horseshoe. Hanging a horseshoe above the front door is believed to repel witches, sorcery and bad luck. Wind chimes hung in the doorways or on windows are also supposed to scare away evil spirits.

If different talismans are used as protection against different evils there is only one thing that seems to protect the whole of humanity against an evil eye or 'ku-nojor', and that weapon is the 'kalo teep!'

The colour black mostly from kohli applied as a dot on any part of the body is believed to protect a person (especially babies) from a curse cast by a malevolent

glare.

Then again there are creatures like vampires who are known to hate the pungent smell of garlic. So, if there is ever a fear of being accosted by a vampire on a moonless night in a deserted street, keeping a few bulbs of garlic in the pocket or wearing a garland of garlic around the neck is said to provide ample protection against these bloodsuckers.

Better still is to consume as much garlic as possible because if your breath reeks of garlic no vampire will want to be anywhere near you!

For all the things that people do, necessarily or unnecessarily, as a safeguard against evil, there are certain things that legends claim shouldn't be done because they have the potential to attract evil spirits and demons to us.

Some of the oft heard things are, not to be outdoors at dusk, or not to roam outside with open hair after sunset, as these are the times evil spirits hunt for a body they might want to reside in, and long manes attracts their attention.

Another vile activity that imposes dos



and dunts on our habits and behaviour is the practice of black magic. Always done with malicious intent, it is believed people who practice black magic need certain belongings of the person they intend to harm. Amongst

these, are strands of hair and clipped nails. May be that is why since a young age we've been told to dispose these in water/drains rather than the dustbin so that no one with ill intent can get their hands on them.

Whether you choose to believe or you choose to dispel the above beliefs as mere superstitions, one thing is certain, that there are a lot of unexplained things out there. Whether there exists a world of spirits and immortal creatures is again debatable. But at the end of the day, at the end of a life, one thought needs to be remembered, good begets good, and bad attracts bad. That simple reality should be consolation enough to ward of all things evil.

By Samina Hossain
Photo: Collected