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## 2. SUPERSTITION LINKED TO LOWER IQ

Editorial

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**S**uperstition can be linked to lower IQ rates and poorer exam performance. But belief in UFOs is the exception often linked with coming top of the class. No matter whether you are Pisces, Virgo or Cancer, the warning for this week is the same for every astrological sign — poring over your horoscope can damage your mental health.

If you take star signs too seriously or if you worry unduly about walking under a ladder, you are actually stunting your intelligence and making yourself depressed. Psychologists have discovered a strong link between belief in superstition and poor exam performance in academics. They also found that those students who took account of black cats and Friday the 13th were far more likely to be neurotic and depressed and with a lower IQ than their more skeptical counterparts.

But the one exception was even more out of this world. If you ignore all the other phenomenon but believe in UFOs, then go to the top of the class. A healthy dose of open-mindedness to the existence of extra-terrestrials means you are more likely to be of a higher intelligence.

The team of researchers led by Dr Michael Sonntag of the University of Lander in Greenwood, South Carolina, devised a scoring test to question people about their reactions to a range of superstitions including witchcraft, premonition, ghosts and astrology.

Presenting the group's finding to the annual conference of the American Psychological Association in Washington this week-end, Sonntag said beliefs were more prevalent among students in the humanities, arts, teacher training and business studies while those who had chosen mathematics and sciences were far more likely to dismiss them.

Sonntag also suggested that the growing tendency towards horoscopes and belief in the paranormal in Western society could mean that the higher education system was failing people in not managing to make children "capable of critical analysis of information."

"The results generally support the stereotype that belief in the paranormal is associated with poorer academic performance," said Sonntag. "In particular, belief in the most simple of superstitions such as black cats, broken mirrors and the number 13 were found to be related to the lowest intelligence scores."

From both his research and after assessing previous research done on similar topics, Sonntag concluded that "**superstitious behavior appears to be associated with a host of socially less favorable attributes such as neuroticism, depression and lower intelligence.**"

Next time you feel the need to check your horoscope, resist: it may only bring you bad luck..

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**EDITORIAL NOTE: Nanakian Philosophy has been teaching against superstitions, horoscopes, and paranormals for the last 500 years.**

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