

# Download The Psychology Of Superstition

These are all examples of superstitions or what Stuart Vyse, PhD, and the author of *Believing in Magic: The Psychology of Superstition*, calls magical thinking. More than half of Americans admitted to being at least a little superstitious, according to a recent Gallup poll. Superstitions, he writes, are the natural result of several psychological processes, including our human sensitivity to coincidence, a penchant for developing rituals to fill time (to battle nerves, impatience, or both), our efforts to cope with uncertainty, the need for control, and more. The everyday magic of superstition. In a 2015 paper on 'superstitious acquiescence', psychologist Jane Risen considers 'dual-process' models such as that of Kahneman and Frederick. Such models posit two systems: the first comes up with quick, intuitive and magical answers to questions of judgement we might encounter. It is hard to mark out the boundaries of superstition. A Frenchman travelling in Italy finds almost everything superstitious, and is hardly wrong. The archbishop of Canterbury claims that the archbishop of Paris is superstitious the Presbyterians levy the same reproach against his Grace of ...