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Mirror Myths and Legends

06/10/14

They hang on doors, jut out from the sides of cars, cover entire walls and even serve as entertainment when collected together around the surface of a lighted sphere.

And, properly framed and mounted, mirrors can also nicely conceal your flat screen television, lending any room a clever designer touch during those times when you'd prefer not to watch a favorite program or event.

Mirrors also have a mysterious quality, which, like anything mysterious, causes people to create myths, legends and superstitions about them. Such as:

Breaking a Mirror Brings Seven Years of Bad Luck: There seem to be a couple of reasons for this idea. One, mirror-making developed in the 16th century, when fashioning a mirror from glass was an expensive process. As a result, saving up enough money to buy a new one could have taken a good seven years. Two, mirrors were believed to reflect the soul. Some cultures believed that the soul could be trapped in a broken mirror. Since the soul was thought to renew every seven years, that's how long it could take to get back one's good luck.

Looking into a Mirror Reveals Evil Spirits: This was likely an admonition to those who tended toward vanity. By proclaiming such a warning, people might then not be so self-obsessed with their image or appearance. A glance or two will do.



Mirrors Are a Portal to Magical Worlds: The story of Alice in Wonderland is one such popular purveyor of this idea. Other legends suggest that mirrors can also transport people to darker worlds, and vice-versa. Alice's travels through the looking glass seem to have triumphed over the others.

Mirrors Can Help in Choosing a Mate: The superstition of "srying" suggests that if a woman stands before a mirror and combs her hair by candlelight at midnight, she will eventually see the image of her future husband.

Best of all, though, mirrors can enhance daily living by opening up smaller spaces while reflecting the world as it really is.

And mirrors can also mask the world of televised illusion, providing you with flexibility in decorating choices in every room in your home.

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