

Other Miscellaneous Dominican Superstitions:

—El Pasma: Never go from hot to cold too abruptly, or you'll get paralyzed in a tetanus-like condition. (Taking a cold shower after being too hot or sweaty, putting your hot feet in the cool floor...)

—“Antojos”: If you deny a pregnant woman a craving, something bad will happen. You'll be punished with a sty in your eye and the baby will be harmed by being born with a birthmark in the shape of the denied craving.

—If your breasts are itchy, it means an old man wants you.

—If your fingertips are itchy, that means you're about to receive money.

—If your ear rings, that mean someone is gossiping about you. Quick! Pick a number from 1 to 29 and the corresponding letter of the alphabet would tell you what the initial of the gossip is (Yes, Spanish has more letters: don't forget CH, LL and Ñ).

—Asomos. When somebody dies, it's not uncommon that people reports seeing the dead person coming to say goodbye right before or around the time of death.

—Dreaming of the lottery number. People have dozens of formulas to interpret a dream into numbers to try to guess the winning lotto numbers. If they see a person, they'd ask them for their “cedula” (equivalent of social security number). If they see a farm scene, they count the number of legs in the animals.

—If , putting on your belt, you forget to thread some of the belt loops, that means your man or woman is cheating on you. Sometimes, people would also say that staining your teeth with lipstick accidentally is also a sign of your man cheating (though others say it's just a sign of you being “chismosa” or gossip).

—If you have a hole under your shirt's sleeve, that means you have “amores escondidos” (secret love).

—“Ciguapas” and “galipotes.” The ciguapas are wild women with hair long enough to cover their naked body and whose feet point backwards—so to catch one you need to follow the footprints to the opposite direction they point at. Galipotes are half-monster men who wonder the woods. These mythical beings are like aliens and UFOs: everybody “*knew someone who knew someone*” who had seen a ciguapa or a galipote—yet I don't remember ever meeting an actual witness.

—You must have your meals sitting down, instead of pacing around the house—otherwise, your poor guardian angel will go crazy.

—If you talk in your sleep, the remedy for that is eating in the bathroom. (?)

—More on the Evil Eye. The Evil Eye can come in many different forms: It can be something as serious as life threatening illness. But it can also be something less dangerous but equally upsetting, such as turning the baby ugly or (self-racism alert) “Turning the baby darker.”

—Women having their period were cursed. They could ruin the harvest and give babies cholera.

—If a pregnant woman suffers from heartburn, that means the unborn baby is “hairy.”