

Superstition And Supernatural Beliefs



PSYCH 1101: DAY 33

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Tupac Shakur: Died Friday 13th, 1996

- From a website outlining a conspiracy theory about Tupac's death:
 - The title of the new album by Makaveli (Tupac) is "The 7 Day Theory."
 - He was shot on September 7th; and survived on the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and "died" the 13th. (Hence the title "The 7 Day Theory.")
 - Tupac's album "All Eyes on Me" was released on Feb.13, 1996. Tupac "died" on Sept.13, 1996.
 - It is *quite a coincidence* that the two dates are exactly 7 months apart.
 - Tupac officially died at 4:03 PM. $4+3 = 7$ Also he "died" at an age of 25 years. $2+5 = 7$.
 - It seems as if seven is Tupac's number.



Is The Pope The Anti-Christ?

V = 5		
I = 1		
C = 100		
A = 0	F = 0	
R = 0	I = 1	
I = 1	L = 50	D = 500
V = 5	I = 1	E = 0
S = 0	I = 1	I = 1
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
112	53	501

Vicarius	112
Filii	53
Dei	<hr/>
	501
	<hr/>
	666







The Human Mind Is Built To Detect Patterns

Which Series Of Coin Flips Is More Random?

H

T

H

T

T

H

H

H

H

H

T

H

The “Clustering Illusion”
(Aka Chance Is Lumpy)



The Law Of Small Numbers

Gambler's Fallacy

- In a game of roulette, the ball has landed on “black” 7 times in a row.
- What are the chances that it will land on “black” again?



Hot Hand Fallacy

- A basketball player has a 50% shooting average.
- She has made 7 shots in a row.
- Does she have a 'hot hand'? Are the chances that she'll make the next shot greater?



**We Develop Elaborate Causal
Theories To Explain These Patterns**

Dirty Socks Superstition



...Or Dirty Boxers

- “Detroit Tigers' manager Jim Leyland wanted to make sure that his team kept on winning in 2011. When the team began a winning streak, Leyland wore the same pair of boxers to the ballpark the next day. He would not wash them, and he continued to wear them until the Tigers' winning streak ended.”

Correlation And Causation

