

Lucky Seven

by

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For a short while in the early 1980s, I worked as a bingo caller for a well known company. The rules of the UK Gaming Act (1968) stated that the first utterance from my lips had to be a number, unlike the commonly known catch phrases heard at the prize-bingo stalls of the seaside. All along the beach promenade one would hear phrases, some of whose origins are lost to the mists of time, amplified above the seagulls and the waves of the sea: Kelly's eye number one, doctor's orders number nine, all the sixes clickety-click. There are, of course, also more easily recognised numbers where the origins of the catchphrase are pretty obvious and no mystery at all, like legs eleven, two fat ladies eighty-eight and top of the shop ninety.

Now one might argue that 'lucky seven' is easily recognised, but no one really knows where the idea came from that seven is in some way lucky. So why is seven supposed to be lucky and not three or eight?

A short scan of the internet on any search engine will reveal quite a few businesses using 'lucky seven' as a name or as an attract mode. Lucky seven has also had pretty strong gambling links from casinos from the dice game of craps to the jackpot symbol on some fruit/slot machines.

One cannot, however, credit the gambling industry with the invention of number seven as a lucky number. Throughout history the number seven has been awarded a special place in the minds of men and women. Some people commonly misquote the number seven was considered special because God of the Hebrew Old Testament made the world in seven days, which is not strictly speaking true. According to the Old Testament it is quite clear that God made the world in six days and on the seventh day God rested. It is possibly from this notion that many people started to consider the number seven as the number of perfection; if God had nothing to do after six days he must have been happy with what he saw. One could argue, however, that if God finished working on the sixth day, would that not make the number six the number of perfection?

And why would there be seven deadly sins if number seven was supposed to be so lucky? Of all the single digit numbers, it would seem that number seven was in some way significant but not necessarily lucky.

Far from the reach of Judaism is the example of the ancient Japanese who had seven lucky Gods. And in popular superstition the seventh son of a seventh son is supposed

to be considered a fortunate individual. In esoteric mathematics it is said that Pythagoras considered number seven to be a perfect number because it was a combination of the triangle and the square – the two shapes that, strangely enough, nearly all children draw to represent a house, which traditionally would represent security (the square) and the expression of love (the triangle). In Masonic law it is said that number seven is special and even sacred.

As a person who has studied the occult science of numerology I believed that it was quite an important task for me to consider all the evidence surrounding the number seven to be able to understand the energy that the number seven was supposed to signify. As in all walks of life there are good and bad practitioners in every trade and profession you can think of. I determined to put my mind to the task of understanding numerology as an applied method. Which is why, in my book, *Numerology: Making it Work for You*, I note that people who are born on the seventh day of the month do not feel very lucky at all. In fact, when you look at anyone in the world who has been considered fortunate for reasons usually connected to the acquisition of vast sums of money, there is no evidence to support the idea that seven as a lucky number is in any way involved.

In the Chinese culture, a culture quite heavily steeped in esoteric practices, magic and myth, it is the number eight that is considered lucky. From a numerology perspective I believe the same evidence as the number seven is equally valid. However, if you consider the number eight's principles of materialism, structure and hard work the connection to fortune at least makes perfect sense; if you work hard and exercise self discipline you will be more inclined to become successful. As many people will profess as their belief – luck is what you make for yourself.

Number seven, on the other hand, is connected more towards the spiritual rather than the material. If one follows this premise through it can be seen easily that the material acquisition of money is an irrelevance to the spiritual growth that number seven offers. Even in biblical terms the seventh day was always considered to be a day when the only work that was done was of the spirit and not the material. Quiet contemplation, prayer, love and family were the focus of the day.

So people who have a birthday with a strong presence of number seven in it are not destined to become suddenly rich. If riches were their destiny, why not be born rich? Why would one be lucky being born poor and then suddenly winning a fortune or becoming the recipient of some wealthy long-lost relative?

It is generally the wrong kind of thinking among the materially focused that makes subjects such as numerology so difficult to understand. People generally associate good fortune with worldly possessions but numerology was not designed to help people win the lottery and it is therefore a hopeless medium to rely on lucky numbers to help you. Forget money, power and property for a moment and then consider how one might be thought of as lucky in life.

Some people believe that luck is of your own making but I believe it is also a state of being. How you are as a person and how you live your life reflects on what you are likely to attract. If you spend your days grumpy and miserable, you will not find yourself surrounded by happy and generous people. If you spend your life mucking

about and taking nothing too seriously, you might not be considered reliable enough by people who might otherwise offer you opportunities to work. How you present yourself to others is as much a part attracting better opportunities as it is enjoying a happy social life. Learning to think with more of a 'glass is half full' attitude is what helps you to consider solutions to problems rather than excuses not to find one.

So what about those people who do suddenly find themselves instantly rich? Perhaps one only has to look as far as the nearest successful gambling establishment to realise that 'chance' is an erratic force within nature and that your encounter with it depends if you consider yourself to be lucky or unlucky as a result. Picking a random set of numbers and winning a fortune is there for anyone to try, regardless of if they appear to be deserving recipients. The poorest and kindest person has as much chance as the ruthless psychopath. Likewise both people have an equal chance of being killed by lightning. Numbers have nothing to do with it, however, it should be noted that one has to buy a lottery ticket to win a lottery in the same way that one has to stand in conditions favoured by lightning to get hit. *Taking* chances is an act of will that promises an uncertain outcome and life's conditions are not always set so clearly like the odds on a roulette wheel. But just like the wheel of fortune you may win or lose and how important that is to you depends upon what you have placed as a stake. What most people class as luck is if the outcome of chance falls in their favour. When it comes to gambling, number seven is no more influential than any other number.

Number seven, in numerology, offers a change in perspective that often seems at odds with other types of thinking. Thinking out of the ordinary and orthodox is its speciality. Albert Einstein was reputed to have asked a train guard the question, 'What time does Oxford stop at the train?' It is with this alteration in our perspective that we learn to see life differently. Education and analysis doesn't stop at the class room. If one keeps an open mind it is possible to learn new things all the time. Consider the most prominent experience you ever had. The chances are your most memorable is not necessarily the most pleasant. But the strange thing is that we tend to become stronger people in the face of adversity and therefore better able to support others in the future. No experience is wasted if we learn to grow by it. Number seven represents questions and introspection; the tools we need to learn by experience and how not to make the same mistakes in life.

Like most esoteric mediums, numerology is about the mastery of self, knowledge, attitude, philosophy and evolution of the soul. Some people, who believe that a sudden windfall would help to make them better people, look for happiness in the wrong places. And with this in mind, anyone who believes that number seven will be responsible for making their fortune is likely to be met with deep disappointment.

On the other hand, if one considers their life in terms of its richness in love, family, health and serenity, then number seven can take on a whole new connotation. For surely anyone who finds lasting inner peace and happiness in their life without it depending on materialism is very lucky indeed.

So is number seven a lucky number? Perhaps it just depends on your perspective of life.