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Voodoism or Superstition

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There are many people here in Tampa, who are firm believers of what is commonly called voodoo, not only among the Latin element, but also among many white Americans, not counting the negro element. The writer knows that many persons, particularly young white girls who are in love, married women who have difficulties with their husbands, and even many others believe that by going to one of these voodoo practitioners can obtain the results wanted. Of course it is very hard to get one of these practitioners to admit that they do believe in such things, but the fact is that on many occasions husbands have taken cases to court about these things, spending money by going to this so-called form of tellers, as roboyers, and lecturers, and it is also true that many homes have been broken up by the insistence of either the man or woman believing that one of this so-called good luck givers can bring them happiness, etc.

At Fishers camp in Palm Coast, we have G. A. D. PROCTOR, she has an advertisement in the Tampa Daily Times that reads: "I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT DECLOSE OR A L.OO, you may go there and have your fortune told, to a dollar a piece, and you can expect from their work to see something that you could not obtain otherwise, which in the opinion of the writer is all bunk. Another one is ANN LANE at 2733 Florida Ave; this one is a spiritualist and has the circle at 8 P.M. on Tuesdays she also gives advice, this of course for a small amount of money paid, both of these persons are white Americans, and while it can not directly be called voodoo, yet it is so near and has the same dealing and effect with what the Latins call voodoo that it is only a matter of opinion whether or not it is voodoo.

Now amongst the colored race of people, both Americans and Cubans, I am
I will not be surprised if I say that more than 2 of the colored people here are firm believers in what is termed Voodooism even if they do not call it that but just Good Luck, or Witchery. I have known a colored woman named FLORA HENRIQUEZ (ALIAS) PAQUITA who did live at 2915 Green St., West Tampa. This woman would tell you how to get a man to love you. She would have you believe that by having the young man’s picture put under the head of your bed and burning it Thursday night and burning every Friday at five o’clock Dragon Blood, Incense, and Sulphur mixed together. The woman would come back to the girl that wanted him, and vice versa. This recipe can all be purchased at any Drug Store, but they must be taken to the Witch or Bruja as they are called in Spanish, and after she arranges it then you follow her instructions and the charm will start to work. The writer knows another yellow woman who is a resident of Nassau Island, named Minnie Keys. She will charge you 10 cents and after she makes some kind of a prayer she will give you some feathers and some kind of powder. She will also ask you to get her the comb of a rooster and she will get some herbs and prepare them for you. After giving you some kind of instructions she will tell you how to get some one who has done you a wrong to make up for it and also she can put hard luck on any one that you dislike etc., of course this parties all do this kind of work only after you have become acquainted with them and have won their confidence. When you first meet this kind of people the only thing that they will do for you would be to read some cards or tell you about your luck in love or business matters, however later when you have become better acquainted then is when they tell you all of the power that they have and how you may obtain luck, fortune, and happiness, but during my experience I have failed to know of one that have accomplished any of this party’s claims.
the expected results as a matter of fact, very few people have
been able to predict the future or make accurate predictions
based on limited information. Most of these people who
claim to have the ability to predict the future are very poor
and often rely on a骗术 to make a living. They may claim to
have a certain gift given to them by God or nature, but in
reality, they are unable to obtain the results that they promise.

In Cuba and Nassau, many of the old negroes make a living
by this method. Many Cuban and negroes here in Tampa
make it a practice. It is known all over this city that there
are old negroes who can tell you what number is coming out in
the Bolito lottery. Yet, the writer has seen himself many
of these people who claim they can tell what is coming out,
but they lose a lot of money. Some time ago, a negro woman
was arrested in St. Petersburg, Fla. It happened that she gave
some numbers to another negro woman to play by the Cuban
Lottery. The negro woman played the numbers and sure enough,
one of the numbers came out and the woman won a lot of money.
A few weeks later, the same negro woman gave another
list of numbers to another negro woman, and one of the
numbers came out. This was the beginning of a scam that
got out of hand. The police took action and since then,
nothing more has been heard of the old negro auntie, but at
any rate, she made quite a good deal of money with her
scheme.

Some more interesting things can be obtained later in
regards to superstition amongst the Cuban negroes as well as the
Southern negroes, particularly those from Georgia and
Carolina, known as Geechies.