#MYSTICISM

The Evil Eye Mystery That Spans Centuries and Continents

Exploring the ancient superstition that connects cultures, wards off envy, and still charms the modern world!

I t's a small blue bead, often hung by doorways, pinned to clothes, or worn as a bracelet. Some see it as a charm, others as superstition. But one thing is certain, the belief in the evil eye is as old as civilization itself, and it's showing no signs of fading away.

From the streets of Istanbul to the homes of Rajasthan, the evil eye, often known by its Arabic name *nazar*, is believed to be a powerful force. It is said to be the negative energy or malevolent glare cast by someone who is envious, intentionally or not. And when that energy hits, things can go awry, sudden illness, broken relationships, or unexpected financial trouble.

A History Steeped in Fear

The evil eye isn't bound by religion or region. Its origins date back over 3,000 years to ancient Mesopotamia. References to the evil eye have been found in texts from ancient Greece and Rome, where philosophers like Plutarch theorized that the eye could emit invisible rays capable of causing harm. In

Islamic culture, the concept is mentioned in the Quran, while in Jewish tradition, it appears in the Talmud. Hindus refer to it as drishti, and many tribal cultures in Africa have their own interpretations. Despite differing names and rituals, the underlying belief is eerily consistent: jealousy invites misfortune.

Myths and Modern Magic

In Turkey, the iconic blue-and-white glass bead, known as nazar boncuगu, is more than just an accessory. It's a cultural staple, handed to newborns and newlyweds alike. In Latin America, mothers tie red ribbons around babies' wrists to ward off evil glances. In India, black kohl is applied behind the ears of children to 'con-

fuse' bad spirits. Even today, the evil eye finds its place in pop culture and luxury fashion. From Meghan Markle wearing a protective evil eye necklace to celebrities attaching jewelry lines based on the symbol, it has moved from rural folklore to global trend. But for many, it's not just aesthetic, there's belief beneath the bling.

Science, Skepticism, and Sentiment

Skeptics often attribute the belief to cognitive bias, when something bad happens, people need a reason. "It's easier to blame the evil eye than accept randomness," says cultural anthropologist Dr. Alka Mehra. Yet, the widespread acceptance of this idea across unrelated cultures has

intrigued even historians and psychologists. What makes the evil eye so enduring? Perhaps, it's the human tendency to personify misfortune. Or maybe, it's the comfort of a talisman in an unpredictable world. While science hasn't proven its power, millions continue to swear by it.

The Power of Belief

Whether you see it as ancient myth or spiritual truth, the evil eye remains a fascinating lens into how humans cope with envy, fear, and the unknown. In an age of AI and space exploration, it's remarkable

that a centuries-old symbol still holds power in our hearts, and on our wrists. Maybe, it's just hope. Maybe, just maybe, it's a quiet hope for protection in a world we can't always control.

DEDICATION, STRATEGIC ACUMEN, AND LEADERSHIP

#BRIGADIER MOHINDER LAL WHIG

Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh VSM (RETD)

New Delhi.

Brigadier Mohinder Lal Whig, who hailed from a family with a strong military tradition, was born on 10 December 1925, to Shri Sardari Lal Whig and Iqbal Devi Budhwar, in Ludhiana, Punjab. His early education in Ludhiana laid the foundation for a life dedicated to service and discipline.

He was commissioned into 5 GORKHA RIFLES on 12 September, 1948 from the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun as part of the Third Course and commanded 2/5 GORKHA RIFLES during the 1965 Indo-Pak War, where under his leadership, the Battalion played a pivotal role in the Battle of Charwa. Earlier in his career, he was the first Adjutant of the National Defence Academy.

In 1969, The United Services Institution of India had awarded him the MacGregor Medal for valuable military intelligence through reconnaissance, exploration, and other activities of national importance.

During the 1971 War, Brigadier Whig was commanding 121 (Independent) Infantry Brigade in Kargil which was under command of 3 Infantry Division, then located at Leh. It was here that he led daring high-altitude operations in the Kargil Sector.

Married to Rajya Lakshmi Devi, they had a son Major Mohit Whig, who too was commissioned into 2/5 GORKHA RIFLES in June 1980, but unfortunately lost his life when his vehicle was blown up by an IED blast in Kupwara District of J&K in 1997. Brigadier Whig retired from Army on 31 Dec, 1979 and passed away on 19 Feb, 2010, in

Kargil Sector

The Kargil Sector is bounded by the Deosai mountains in the North-West, Ladakh Range in the Northeast, Zanskar Range in the South and the Great Himalaya range in the South-West. Covering an area of approximately 6,720 sq km, it extends from Baltistan in the North to Zanskar in the South and from Zojila in the West to Fotu La in the East. Dras, Shingo, Indus and Suru are the main rivers of the region. The terrain is rugged and interspersed by deep and narrow gorges and ravines. The PoJK area opposite Kargil was served by a jeepable road from Gilgit via Skardu to Gangam, but the tenuous road communication limited Pakistan's capability to induct troops in the area, particularly during the winter. The Pakistani Commanders had, however, taken adequate defensive measures by laying minefields on likely approaches and raising fortifications around the picquets, mostly located at heights ranging from 3,960 to 4,880 metres. The Pakistani strength in this Sector was estimated at ten Companies, including two Wings of Karakoram Scouts and one Wing of Northern Scouts.

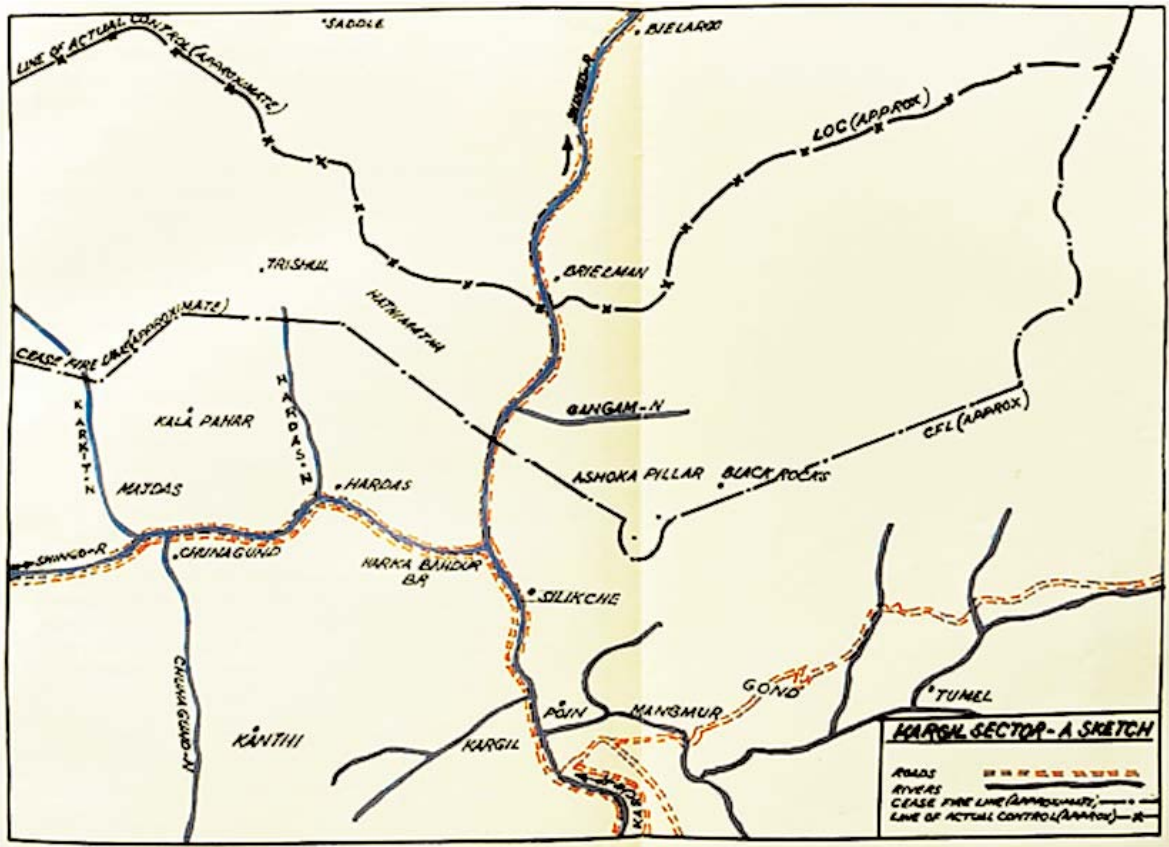There is no vegetation at these heights, and climbing even a few meters involves great physical

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strain due to lack of oxygen, more so when one is encumbered with loads. If day temperatures are around zero degrees Celsius, night temperature easily touches minus 15 to 20 degrees. High velocity winds sweep the hill tops and ridges. The cold touches the very

bone marrow, and no amount of warm clothing seems adequate. What worried the Indian planners most was the potential threat to the Srinagar-Leh highway near Kargil, as the Pakistani Posts between Zojila and Haniskot overlooked it.

121 (Independant) Infantry Brigade Group, commanded by Brigadier ML Whig, was responsible for the defence of the Kargil Sector, and comprised three Battalions, viz. 7 GUARDS, 18 PUNJAB and 2/11 GORKHA RIFLES. Three more Battalions, namely 5/3 GORKHA RIFLES at Leh, 9 JAK Militia at Battalion HQ and 13 JAK Militia at Dras, were also deployed to support the Brigade. The Brigade Group was tasked to ensure the security of Srinagar-Leh road and to prevent infiltration astride the road, by capturing the surrounding hills and the area up to Olthing Thang near the confluence of the Indus and Suru/Shingo rivers. The initial plan visualised the capture of the Brachil Pass by 18 PUNJAB and Camels Back, Post 12 and

Black Rocks by 2/11 GORKHA RIFLES.

The Battle

The Pakistani position at Brachil Pass, situated at a height of 4,260 metres, was a vast Complex extending over 1,000 metres. It comprised three features, viz. Left Shoulder, the Pass and Bahar Post on the Right Shoulder. The Complex was held in Company strength. 18 PUNJAB advanced silently and attacked the position at 0530 hours on 07 December. The defenders opened up with machine guns and other automatic weapons, but the Punjabis captured the Left Shoulder of the Pass at 1000 hours, after almost five hours of hand-to-hand and bunker-to-bunker fight. The Pakistani troops then concentrated on defending the Bahar Post on the Right Shoulder but could not stand up to the relentless assault of the Indian Battalion. By 1600 hours on 07 December, the whole complex of the Brachil Pass fell into Indian hands.

Post 12, located East of the Shingo river, at a height of approximately 4,040 meters, was strongly fortified and was held by two Platoons and a Section of MMGs. On the night of 06 December, 2/11 GORKHA RIFLES marched through a difficult approach and undeterred by small arms and LMG fire, closed on the Post. After a fierce hand-to-hand battle, the Gorkhas captured the Post at 0845 hours on 07 December. Black Rocks and Post 28 (Hamid) were also captured the same day. However, in

spite of the loss of Brachil Pass, the Pakistanis continued to interfere with the movement of the Indian troops on the spurs and the Pass.

During the battle of the Pass, which lasted much longer than expected, they had set up some Posts to the West of the Shingo river. These Posts hindered the launching of the second phase of operations by 7 GUARDS, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Gurindarjit Singh and were to transit through the Pass to advance towards Olthing Thang.

To facilitate the advance, 7 GUARDS captured Post 29 (Ghora), which was located on the spur leading to Karkit Nala from the Hamid Post, at 1630 hours on 07 December. An ad hoc Platoon of 7 GUARDS and 18 PUNJAB evicted the Pakistanis the same day from Posts 30, 31 and 32. The next day, 7 GUARDS captured the Trishul Post, which dominated the entire area in the Brachil Pass Complex. The Guards then cut off the Pakistani rear by capturing Point 3985, after a bitter fighting on the night of 10 December. To consolidate the position, West of Shingo River, Wali and Malik Posts located East of Trishul, the bridge connect-

ing it with Hathimatha, were captured by a Company of 18 PUNJAB on 14 and 15 December respectively, after fierce fighting.

Attention was now devoted to the Posts located to the East of the Shingo River. The Post at Point 13620 was tactically vital as it gave Pakistanis a clear view of the Kargil Base and enabled them to fire at own troops in the plateau area. Post 13 (Laila) covered the approach to Point 13620 from the North and connected it with Black Rocks. The continuous shelling of the Post by Indian Artillery and Infantry Mortars, combined with air strikes (two each on 07 and 08 December) and the disruption of water supply, demoralised the Pakistani troops. When 2/11 GORKHA RIFLES launched an assault on 09 December, it found the Post deserted.

The operations conducted on 07, 08 and 09 December enabled them to firm in on the West and East of the Shingo River. But they were short of Olthing Thang, the main objective. A decision was, therefore, taken to launch an attack along the West Bank of the Shingo, to facilitate the advance to Bielargo, located on the Gangam-Olthing-Thang-Skardu road. It was hoped that the capture of Bielargo would cut off the Pakistani lines of communication and facilitate the reduction of their posts to the east of the Brachil Pass.

However, before a new front could be opened, it was considered

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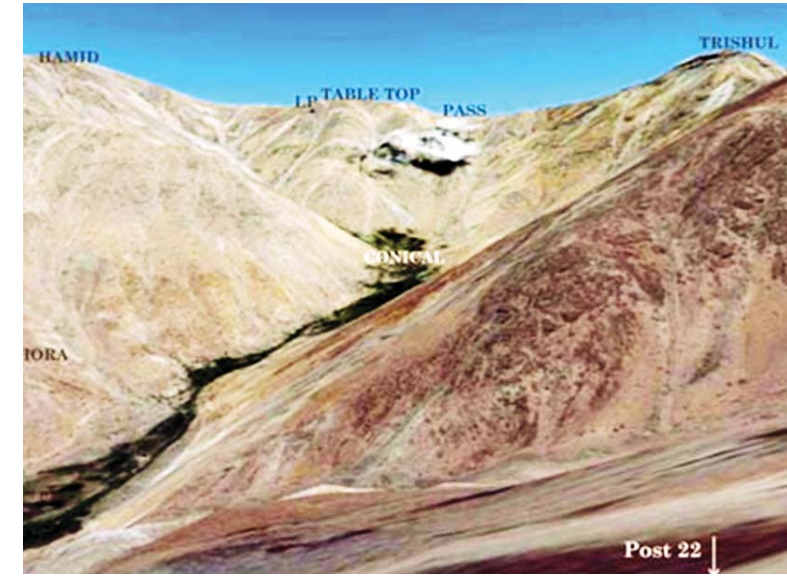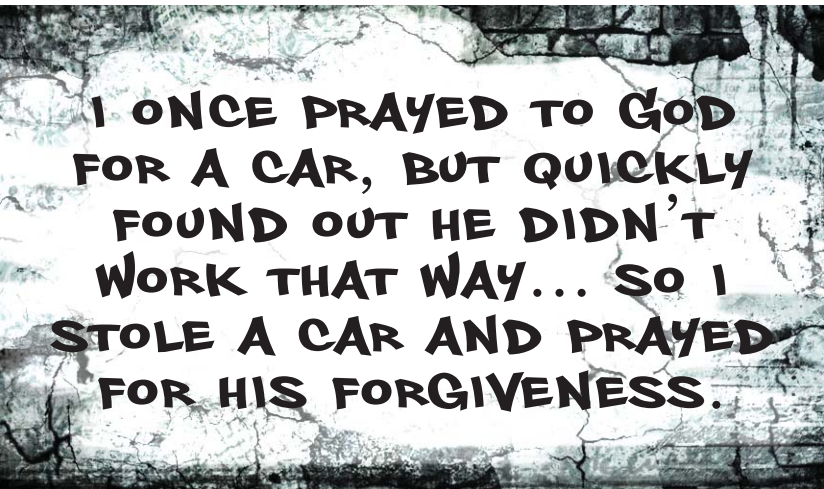
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One Company of 18 PUNJAB succeeded in capturing Post 43 on 13 December. The Indian troops further extended their hold to the East of the Shingo River with the capture of Sher Quila by 9 JAK Militia on 15 December. On the left of that sector, some Pakistani Posts, though encircled by the Punjabis, held out in the Hathimatha Complex (Posts 21, 22, 23 and 24). Finally, a Company of 5/3 GORKHA RIFLES attacked the Complex from the rear and captured it on 17 December.

All hurdles on the way to Bielargo had thus been cleared, but it could not be captured due to the ceasefire. By the end of the war, India had captured 36 out of 80 Pakistani Posts and approximately 110 sq km area in the Kargil Sector. The enemy line of defence had been shattered, and the Brigade was now poised for an offensive on Olthing Thang. Brigadier Whig's leadership had inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy and secured large quantities of arms and ammunition. During these operations, 114 Pak troops were killed and 32 made Prisoners of War. The Indian casualties were estimated at 55 killed, 195 wounded and 28 missing. In recognition of his outstanding leadership, Brigadier Whig was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra. Brigadier Whig's military career is a testament to unwavering dedication, strategic acumen, and exemplary leadership. His contributions during the 1965 and 1971 wars have left an indelible mark on India's military history. The battle honours and accolades earned under his command continue to inspire generations of soldiers. His legacy is further carried forward by the sacrifices of his son, Major Mohit Whig, reflecting a family's profound commitment to the nation's service. Brig Whig's life story serves as a beacon of courage and patriotism, embodying the highest traditions of the Indian Army.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

Meet Codex: OpenAI's Code, Cracking AI That Works Like a Teammate

From fixing bugs to writing full features, OpenAI's Codex is the multitasking AI agent that's changing how developers work.

Imagine if your coding assistant could not only suggest solutions but actually write, debug, test, and even update your software, without you lifting a finger? That's exactly what OpenAI's newest AI marvel, Codex, is designed to do. Launched on May 16, 2025, Codex isn't just another code autocomplete tool, it's an autonomous AI coding agent that behaves like a junior software developer, ready to take on tasks in parallel, follow instructions in plain English, and even propose pull requests. And yes, it can multitask.
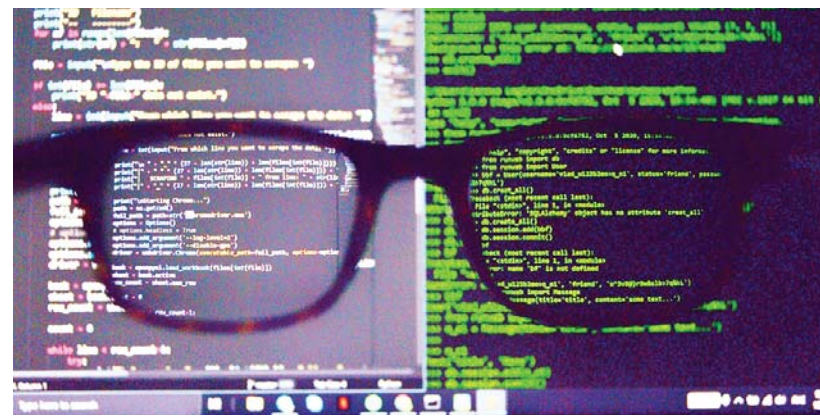
What Exactly Is Codex?

Codex is OpenAI's latest AI coding agent, running on the codex-1 model, a tailored version of its advanced o3 reasoning engine,

fine-tuned for software development. But Codex doesn't just spit out code snippets, it actually gets to work like a real developer.

Here's what it can do

- Write and deploy new features
- Fix bugs in your codebase
- Run and evaluate test cases
- Answer questions about existing code
- Suggest structured pull requests ready for review

Chatting with Codex Is Like Messaging Your Developer Friend

Integrated directly into ChatGPT, Codex makes it super intuitive to collaborate. Just type what you want it to do like 'add a login function' or 'find the bug in this code,' and Codex

will handle it. Don't know the right technical lingo? No problem. You can talk to Codex in natural language. It understands you and translates your requests into smart, functional code.

What Makes Codex Special?

1. **Multitasking Magic:** Codex can juggle several development tasks at once. For instance, it could be fixing a typo in one file while writing tests in another, something even human developers find taxing.
2. **Autonomous Workflows:** Codex isn't waiting for you to approve each step. It reads the

repo, makes changes, tests them, and suggests improvements all on its own. You just need to review its work.
3. **Personalized to Your Team's Style:** Working with a team that has a strict code style or documentation standard? Codex can learn and adapt to it, helping enforce consistency across your projects.

Where Can You Use Codex?

As of now, Codex is available to ChatGPT for Pro, Enterprise, and Team users under a research preview. It runs in the cloud, ensuring your computer doesn't need heavy processing power to benefit from this AI developer. OpenAI has announced plans to bring it to ChatGPT Plus and Edu subscribers soon.

A Competitive Edge

With Codex, OpenAI isn't just making waves, they're challenging the likes of Google's Gemini Code Assist and Anthropic's Claude Code. The AI coding tools space is heating up, and Codex stands out by offering a truly agentic experience. It doesn't just help, it does.

What's Next for Codex?

OpenAI sees Codex as just the beginning of a broader vision: AI agents that can collaborate like teammates, take ownership of technical tasks, and support developers in increasingly complex projects. The current release is a research preview, meaning feedback is crucial. OpenAI encourages developers to test it out, push its boundaries, and help shape how Codex evolves.

Final Thoughts

Codex isn't here to replace developers, it's here to amplify them. By taking over repetitive and time-consuming tasks, Codex frees up engineers to focus on big-picture thinking, creative solutions, and faster innovation. So, whether you're a startup founder, a solo coder, or part of a massive team, Codex might just become your favourite new coworker, one who never sleeps, never complains, and always ships clean code.

Each job Codex handles spins up in a secure, isolated cloud environment loaded with your project repository. That means your main codebase stays safe, and Codex works like a remote teammate who brings their own tools and workspace.

OpenAI Codex

THE WALL

I ONCE PRAYED TO GOD FOR A CAR, BUT QUICKLY FOUND OUT HE DIDN'T WORK THAT WAY... SO I STOLE A CAR AND PRAYED FOR HIS FORGIVENESS.

BABY BLUES
By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

WHAT'S GOING ON?
FIREFIGHTER PRACTICE.
HAMMIE IS CARRYING ME TO SAFETY.
AAAUGH! WHAT DO YOU WEIGH? LIKE, A TON??
HE'S ALSO NOT GETTING ANY DESSERT.

ZITS
By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

I THINK I'LL HAVE THAT LAST PIECE OF APPLE PIE.
TOO LATE.
I ATE IT DURING THE LAST COMMERCIAL.
CRISIS COUNSELING? FOR WHAT?