

Knock on wood!!



People often say “touch **or** knock on wood” when they discuss good things that have happened to them, in fear that they may be cursed or get an evil eye. They may even find a wooden chair or table to knock on it. They then immediately feel that nothing bad could happen, and any possible curses will be removed.

The reality is that the ‘wood’ they knock on resembles the Holy Cross of Christ. The word “wood” in the Coptic language is *Shi Ethowaf* (*Estavros* is a Greek word). In English, this literally translates to Holy Wood. Therefore the words “touch or knock on wood”, or Holy wood, means hold on to your Cross.

My dear brethren, always hold on to your Holy Cross, it protects you from all evil. The Holy Wood in all languages is a blessing and protection for all dangers. Davis the Psalmist says: “The Lord reigns on a Wood” (Psalm 95). And “in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by”.
(Psalm 57)

Hold on to your cross at all times.

Father Bishoy Kamel- Alexandria, March 21st 1980