**Interview Transcript: Mika Lee**

**Interviewer**: This is a collection of superstition regarding good and bad luck from Korea. The name of the informant is Mika Lee. Place collected is Novack Room. Date collected is November 6th. So could you give us a little bit of background about yourself?

**Interviewee**: My parents are Korean. I was born in South Korea but I moved to Singapore, which is probably one of the most multiracial country in the world. I lived there from when I was ten to when I was about fourteen, fifteen. And then I moved back to Korea for middle school and then I came to the U.S. for high school and college.

**Interviewer**: So, what is your superstition regarding good luck?

**Interviewee**: So, in Korea, we celebrate first birthday of babies and during the birthday celebration there are various object that are placed in front of the baby such as a pencil, soccer ball, a baseball ball, and money. And each object represents the career path of that baby and if the baby picks up the pencil, it means that the baby will be very studious. If he or she picks up a soccer ball, it means the baby will be very athletic and so forth.

**Interviewer**: Do you have any superstitions regarding bad luck?

**Interviewee**: I do, so in Korea, it’s common knowledge that if you write someone’s name in red, the color red, it probably means that they want that person to die.

**Interviewer**: So could you give us any social context as of why that superstition might have arose? So like, when and where did you hear it? Who might have been present? Is this performed at a specific time?

**Interviewee**: I mostly heard it from my friends and my family members. I can’t remember exactly who told me because this is common knowledge and there are a lot of references to the superstitions in every day life so I would say because it’s such so prevalent knowledge, I cannot remember who exactly told me but I’m sure a lot of people in Korea are aware of these superstitions.

**Interviewer**: Do you think there’s any Korean culture that might have caused this superstition to arise? Like, why would this superstition exist in Korea specifically?

**Interviewee**: Well, I can think one superstition that is kind of linked to Korean culture, it’s that the number four is linked to death so you know when you ride elevators in Korea, people don’t write number four, it’s noted as the letter ‘F’ instead. And Korean culture is very heavily intertwined with Chinese culture and in Chinese, four is ‘si’ and death is also pronounced as ‘si.’ They have the same pronunciation so I think because of Korea’s close relationships with East Asian cultures some of the superstitions like the close relationship with four and death have arose.

**Interviewer**: So you think that might have had an impact on superstations regarding writing your name in red ink and also grabbing pencils?

**Interviewee**: I’m not exactly sure how those superstations came into being but, perhaps, that might be a reason and that is another issue that is worth studying and addressing for future scholars.

**Interviewer**: Alright, thank you.