

# Freaky Friday!

MISHA PAUL

ARE you paraskavedekatriaphobic? The word might have evoked a confused phalanx and forced them to stare ambiguously at this 22 lettered never ending word. So who are paraskavedekatriaphobics? These are people afflicted with a morbid, irrational fear of Friday the 13th. Both Friday and the number 13 have deprecating reputations since time immemorial, and their unavoidable conjunction are expected to enunciate misfortunes and bad luck. Call it a superstition, legend or an old illogical tale, but Friday the 13th is feared to bring with it bad things.

Dr B Kavita, a Past Life Regression Therapist feels these misfortunes are not only directly related to the conjunction of Friday and the number 13 but also because of planetary positions. "The number 13 is considered a very mysterious number in all ancient texts. Most future foreseers take Roman Culture as the base for forecasting future. 13 adds up to four and in the Roman culture, both 13 and four are considered inauspicious. But these two things are not the prime reasons for misfortunes. Things depend on planetary positions, too. For example, Saturn with numbers four and 13 is a devastating combination. That's



the Shani effect in India."

So is it a thumb rule that Friday the 13th will result in inauspicious effects? "No. My dad's birthday falls on 13th February and every four years the day is a Friday. This day has been giving

me more of an inner strength than bringing mishaps," she smiles.

Swetta Jumaani, a numerologist feels that the number 13 should be feared more than the combination of Friday and 13.

"This hullabaloo related to Friday the 13th is just superstition. Friday is a good day but what is not good is 13. 13 adds to four and it is not a good number for materialistic things. Along with four, eight is another such number so you'll find that 80% of the earthquakes or mishaps like tsunami, the attack at Taj occurred on a date which adds up to eight. Be careful if you want to, but otherwise chill. Friday the 13th will do nothing to you."

According to some research, about 17 to 21 million people in the United States are affected by paraskavedekatriaphobia so much so that many of them avoid their normal routines in doing business, taking flights, buying things or even getting out of bed! Friday the 13th lived up to its reputation in 1997, when a fire engulfed Uphaar cinema hall in the Capital while



a show was on, claiming 59 lives. But that could be mere coincidence. "I messed up my maths exam which was on Friday the 13th. I was going to blame it on 13 for my bad performance to my dad, but thank god I didn't, because I went wrong with up

the other ones too," laughs Ritika Desai, a standard ten student.

When any mishap occurs, people start looking out for reasons. So this Friday the 13th go out and look for reasons to celebrate life!