

Ask a Priest!
May 24, 2021

Question: Is the evil eye evil?

Answer: Man, I haven't been asked that before! So what is the "evil eye"? The evil eye — mal de ojo or greek matiasma — is a curse believed to be cast by a malevolent glare, which is usually directed towards a person who is unaware. Many cultures believe that receiving the evil eye will cause one misfortune, bad luck, or injury. Mal de Ojo jewelry and talismans created to protect against the evil eye are also frequently called "evil eyes".

The evil eye falls under one of many forms of "superstition", so a better question is whether superstition is evil or wrong. The catechism offers a paragraph on what superstition is and why it's wrong – basically, you're offering religious submission to something that is not God Himself. It's a sin against true religion, insofar as it is "too much" religion given to something "too little" or unworthy of that kind of attitude.

Here's a link to more that catechism offers:

https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_P7E.HTM

