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The Witches' Market

By Thomas Carroll

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by: **Thomas Carroll**

"Son para dinero y trabajo," the plump little witch raises the talismans to eye level. "Con estos tu tendras buena suerte."

Magic talismans for money and jobs? Do they work? Of course not, but I need all the luck I can get, so I purchase the talismans for five Bolivianos. Darn cheap if they'll do as claimed. Depositing the new toys in my leather shoulder bag I continue down the street, with my wife teasing me to the tune of "Raiders of the Lost Ark." She says that I have the hat, jacket and bag similar to Indiana Jones', but lack the bullwhip and gun. I left those in the States. The cobbled street of Calle Linares hosts a crowded line of unusual stores collectively known as El Mercado de las Brujas, The Witches' Market, located in downtown La Paz, and it sums up Bolivia's strangeness quite well. Bolivia is where Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, and revolutionary Che Guevara all met their fate. This is where the British ambassador to Bolivia was strapped naked to a donkey, paraded around the capital, and forced to eat a huge quantity of chocolate after declining the local drink 'chicha.' This is where the original Garden of Eden is located (or so the locals colorfully exclaim). This is where the Salt Palace sits, a hotel made entirely of, well -- salt. And this is where a young girl in Aymara dress, sitting amidst an array of several curiosities, offers my wife and I a dried llama foetus to protect our house against evil spirits. I nod my approval, Veronica makes a face and shakes her head.

"Por favor entren," with a slight bow the girl opens her hands to the store's entrance. "Hay muchas mas cosas adentro."

The untidy place looks like something out of a horror movie. Mounted animal heads glare at me with unseeing eyes, feathers and potions adorn the tables, herbs spill from their dirty bags onto the wooden floor as a dog sniffs the powerful smells. I examine the items in no particular order as the girl offers them. For luck with a new business enterprise I can buy a llama foetus burnt on a plate of sweets and herbs -- too big to pack. The love amulet is to get married -- don't need that one. An amulet of a naked couple embracing to improve the sex life -- hhhmmmm. Dried frogs for more money, armadillos to

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prevent thieves from entering the house, love potions, magic charms, animal skins, medicines and remedies used in Aymara traditions are all for sale -- what should I choose?

I notice a large collection of different colored candles. Intent upon making several sales the girl provides me with an explanation of their powers. They are made of animal wax and when burned release their magical properties. The blue candle is for good luck with work, yellow – health, green – money, purple – happiness, black wards off evil spirits, only to be used in a cemetery covered by night, white – protection... With reverence I pull the black candle off its shelf . "Look at this Vero! This is what we need." "Hey Indiana," she looks up from the naked couple amulet. "I don't think so."

Where did I leave my bullwhip?

If the black candle is going to cause problems a few talismans will have to do. I load up ten more in my shoulder bag, making sure that I include the toad talisman for good luck with money, and the deity

talisman for buena suerte with jobs.

But do they actually work? Well, you're reading this article.

SIDEBAR

Name: El Mercado de las Brujas/Mercado de Hechiceria (Witches' Market)

Street Location: Calle Linares, between Calle Sagarnaga and Santa Cruz

City: La Paz

Country: Bolivia

The Witches' Market is only a couple of blocks from Plaza San Fransisco, behind the Iglesia San Fransisco, and near the Museo de la Coca. From the centre of La Paz, Plaza Murillo, a taxi ride to the market will cost about 8 – 10 Bolivianos for one or two people, and about four more Bolivianos for each additional person. A vast array of unique and highly unusual items are for sale at the Market, many of which are used in Aymara traditions and to honor the earth goddess Patchamama. Bargain with the vendors and shop around to purchase merchandise at a lesser price.

Thomas Carroll shows you how to get paid to travel the world with travel and adventure jobs, how to travel on \$25 a day, and how to travel for free. Subscribe to his free newsletter at:

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Halloween Payday Loans

By Peter Garant

Halloween, which is celebrated on October 31, the eve of All Saints' Day, is a tradition that may be fraught with horrifying expenses. A person will need money for costumes, parties, and Halloween gifts.

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Halloween costumes don't come cheap. Making these costumes has grown into a thriving business because people demand that the costumes appear as authentic as possible. And to make the elaborate costumes appear like the real thing, expensive materials are utilized. Thus, the finish products are expensive. Perhaps a woman has friends who suddenly decided to come to a party as a coven of witches. To save money, this woman may decide to simply wear a long black dress and a pointy hat. But, two days before the Halloween, she finds out that her friends are actually dressing up as modern witches wearing metallic and black leather accessories. The woman realizes that her own chosen costume will make her look out of place. She needs money to buy a costume that will make her fit in.

Perhaps the adult has outgrown his need to wear a costume during the Halloween. But his children want to dress up. The father or mother couldn't very well tell the children to let the Halloween pass by just like any ordinary day, especially if the children's friends have decided to dress up as the heroes of the Justice League. Buying an acceptable Batman costume is expensive. But a boy couldn't be happy wearing a costume that has a too-short cape. Teasing friends won't let him get away with it.

Throwing a party is one of the most enjoyable activities during Halloween. The venue should be decorated accordingly. There should be authentic looking cobwebs, strange picture frames, dark thick curtains, and ancient-looking chandeliers. Acquiring or renting all these will need extra money. And then, the food should also fit the occasion. While ice cream is always welcome, it is not particularly Halloween-ish. This is why special Halloween foods are sold. And these are certainly more expensive than ordinary take-out Chinese food.

Even if a person does not throw a party or wear a costume, his house should have at least one jack-o-lantern. There will also be children forever ringing the doorbell and chirping "trick or treat". In other words, everyone could use some extra money for the Halloween.

Fortunately, there are a few lenders who can grant a Halloween payday loan. Obtaining this type of loan is similar to obtaining any other regular payday loan. A person may fill-up an online application form and then wait for either a call or an email from a representative of the lender. Then, the next day, he may use the loaned amount. Some lenders even offer a free payday loan for the Halloween. That is, the finance charges are waived when the client pays the full amount on due date.

The sites

and

are both

dedicated to help you find the best information available on how to utilize payday loans.

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