

Shake On It And Spit In The Dirt: The History of a Timeless Handshake



Shake on It and Spit in the Dirt by Lynne Gregg

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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The Origins of the Handshake

The handshake is one of the oldest and most universal gestures used by humans. Its origins can be traced back to ancient times, with depictions of people shaking hands found in cave paintings and sculptures from around the world.

One of the earliest known examples of a handshake is found in a Sumerian relief from around 2500 BC. The relief shows two men shaking hands as a sign of agreement. Other early examples of handshakes can be found in ancient Egyptian and Greek art.

In the Roman Empire, the handshake was used as a legal gesture to seal a contract. The Romans believed that a handshake created a binding obligation between the two parties involved.

The Handshake in the Middle Ages

During the Middle Ages, the handshake became a common way to greet friends and acquaintances. It was also used as a sign of respect and submission.

In some cultures, the handshake was even used as a way to settle disputes. In the Viking sagas, for example, it was customary for two men to shake hands after a fight, as a way of ending their conflict.

The Handshake in the Modern World

The handshake remains a common gesture of greeting and agreement in the modern world. It is used in both formal and informal settings, and it is seen as a sign of trust and respect.

In some cultures, the handshake has taken on additional meanings. In Japan, for example, the handshake is used as a sign of apology. In China, it is used as a way to show gratitude.

The Significance of the Handshake

The handshake is a powerful gesture with a long and rich history. It is a symbol of trust, friendship, and agreement. It is a way of connecting with others and showing our respect for them.

In a world where communication is often mediated through technology, the handshake remains a valuable way to connect with others on a personal level. It is a gesture that transcends language and culture, and it is a reminder that we are all connected.

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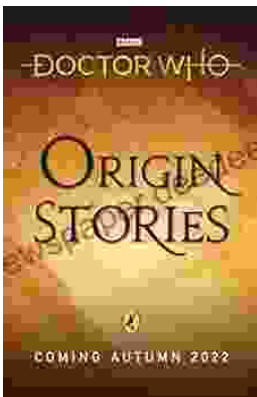


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