



Knives make great gifts, but superstition also accompanies them. PHOTO BY JOSHUA SWANAGON

“ ... MAYBE YOU HAVE HEARD THE OLD SUPERSTITION THAT STATES THE GIVING OF A GIFT THAT CUTS CAN SEVER A RELATIONSHIP.”

The Gift of a Knife

BY JOSHUA SWANAGON

It's that time of year again. Our television starts reminding us that we are about to separate from our hard-earned money in an attempt to find the perfect Christmas gift for everyone on our list. For some, it is a long list; for others, it is short. Either way, the list of items to choose from seems endless. I have to admit though, my wife and I have always had it a bit easy with our son.

I'm not sure how it worked out this way, but every year our son asks for one thing. Just one, nothing more. In a way, it was kind of easy, but at the same time it made it a bit more difficult, because we always had to come up with something extra. I guess we just felt that there would be something a little lackluster about a Christmas morning in which our son only opens one gift, and he already knows what it is.

Now that he is older, I can do for him

what I like to do for friends of mine ... give the gift of a good knife. Nothing says "You're top on my list," like the gift of solid cutlery.

If you're like me and knives are your favorite things to give or receive, then maybe you have heard the old superstition that states the giving of a gift that cuts can sever a relationship. I should mention here that I am not superstitious, because it is bad luck, and I have no problem with tradition.

Although I am not sure how far it dates back, tradition is tradition and who am I to stop it?

When giving a knife as a gift, it is traditional among some to also give a penny, so that the receiver can pay for the knife. This makes it a "business" transaction and not a gift. (Plus, giving a penny is considered good luck.)

Also, when receiving a new knife from a friend, if you already have a penny, then go ahead and pay for the knife. By doing this, you can avoid the bad luck of severing your friendship.

Of course, I cannot promise that this will help to avoid suffering an injury with your new knife ... that is on you.

Stay sharp, and keep it real. **KI**