

300 The Dragon-Slayer.

A youth acquires (e.g. by exchange) three wonderful dogs [B421, B312.2]. He comes to a town where people are mourning and learns that once a year a (seven-headed) dragon [B11.2.3.1] demands a virgin as a sacrifice [B11.10, S262]. In the current year, the king's daughter has been chosen to be sacrificed, and the king offers her as a prize to her rescuer [T68.1]. The youth goes to the appointed place. While waiting to fight with the dragon, he falls into a magic sleep [D1975], during which the princess twists a ring (ribbons) into his hair; only one of her falling tears can awaken him [D1978. 2].

Together with his dogs, the youth overcomes the dragon [B11.11, B524.1.1, R111.1.3]. He strikes off the dragon's heads and cuts out the tongues (keeps the teeth) [H105.1]. The youth promises the princess to come back in one year (three years) and goes off.

An impostor (e.g. the coachman) takes the dragon's heads, forces the princess to name him as her rescuer [K1933], and claims her as his reward [K1932]. The princess asks her father to delay the wedding. Just as the princess is about to marry the impostor, the dragon-slayer returns. He sends his dogs to get some food from the king's table and is summoned to the wedding party [H151.2]. There the dragon-layer proves he was the rescuer by showing the dragon's tongues (teeth) [H83, H105.1]. The impostor is condemned to death, and the dragon-slayer marries the princess. Cf. Types 301,303,314,315,502, 530,554.

Combinations: This type is usually combined with episodes of one or more other types, esp. 301,302,303,304,314, 314A, 315,326,554,567,590, and also 327,327 A, 400, 425C, 465, 502, 505, 511A, 516, 516B, 530, 531, 550, 650A, 935, 1115, 1640, and 1910.