

### **303 The Twins or Blood-Brothers.**

(Including the previous Types 553 and 581.) After having eaten a magic fish (apple, water) [T511.5.1, T511.1.1, T512], a woman gives birth to twins. (Cf. Type 705A) Grateful animals accompany the grown-up brothers, or animals give them one or more of their young ones because the brothers did not kill them. (The brothers are given unusual animals; they win them or bring them up; in some variants, the animals are born at the same time as the brothers [T589.7.1].)

Together with his animals, one of the brothers sets out. When the brothers separate, they agree upon a life token that gives a warning when one of them is in mortal danger and needs help: Water will become cloudy, a plant or a tree dry up, a knife stuck in a tree will grow rusty, etc. [E761]. The first brother frees a princess (three princesses) from a dragon (trolls), unmasks an impostor ("Red Knight") who pretended to be the princess's rescuer, and marries the princess [R111.1.3, K1932, H83, L161]. Cf. Type 300.

Against a warning, the hero follows a light [G451] (is tempted by an animal). He falls into the power of a witch and is turned to stone [D231]. His twin brother is warned by the life token and sets forth in quest of him. The princess mistakes him for her husband, as the two brothers are very much alike [K1311.1]. At night the brother puts a naked sword in the bed between himself and his sister-in-law [T351]. Then he finds the witch, makes her remove the spell from his brother, and kills her. The first brother learns that the second has slept with his wife and kills him out of jealousy [N342.3]. Later on, when he asks his wife why she had put the sword in the bed, he realizes that his brother was innocent. The brother is resuscitated by magic means [B512] (water of life).

In some variants, a youth saves the life of a raven (crane, eagle).

As a reward he obtains magic objects. The youth defeats a sea monster, delivers three princesses, and marries the youngest of them. (Previously Type 553.)

Combinations: This type is usually combined with episodes of one or more other types, esp. 300, 302, 314, and also 304, 313, 315, 318, 327B, 513A, 550, 554, 705A, 1000, 1003, 1006, 1051, 1052, 1072, 1088, and 1120; frequently introduced by Type 567.

### **303A Brothers Seek Sisters as Wives**

(previously Six Brothers Seek Seven Sisters as Wives). A number of brothers (usually six, twelve or one hundred) set out to find a number of sisters as wives for themselves and their youngest brother who remained home [T69.1]. On the way an old man (giant, troll) transforms the brothers and their brides into stone and takes the youngest bride for himself [D231, R11.1].

The youngest brother goes to look for his lost brothers and comes to the old man's house. Here he finds the youngest bride who tells him that the heart (life) of the old man is enclosed in a bird [E715.1]. With the help of grateful animals which he had fed on his way, the youngest brother catches the bird and kills it, thus killing the old man (he rescues his brothers and the brides by performing different tasks). Brothers and brides are restored to life [R155.1]. Cf. Type 302.

In some variants, the brothers marry the daughters of a witch.

During the night in bed the brothers exchange their places with those of their wives. The witch kills her own daughters. Cf. Type 1119.

Combinations: This type is usually combined with episodes of one or more other types, esp. 300, 302, 314, 3278, 328, 513A, 531, 550, and 1119.