

306 The Danced-out Shoes.

(Including the previous Type 306A.)

Every day, a princess(es) wears out a pair of shoes. Her father wants to know why and offers the princess (one of the princesses) to whoever discovers the secret [H508.2]. Anyone who fails will lose his head.

A youth (soldier, Gypsy, tailor, shepherd, farmer, etc.) acquires a magic object (e.g. shoes, cap, overcoat, stick) which makes him invisible [D1980]. He refuses a narcotic drink and does not fall asleep [K625.1]. After making himself invisible, the youth accompanies the princess on a magical underground journey [D2131]. In the under-world he watches the princess wear out her shoes by dancing with the devil (dragon, other supernatural beings) [F1015. 1.1]. The next morning the youth tells the king what happened and corroborates his tale by tokens (e.g. twigs, apples, ring, piece of the princess's garment) from the underworld [H80]. He marries the princess [L161] and becomes king. Cf. Type 507.

Mainly in Indian variants, a prince accompanies his wife to the otherworld where she has to dance each night before a divinity. He frees her [F87]. (Previously Type 306A.)

Combinations: 307, 505, 507, and 518.