

{AT310} The Maiden in the Tower.

Rapunzel. The hair ladder for the witch. The prince is blinded.

I. Promise of Child. To appease a witch whom he has offended, a man promises her his child when it is born.

II. The Hair Ladder,

(a) The girl is imprisoned in a windowless tower which the witch enters by climbing on her hair as a ladder,

(b) The king's son watches and does likewise.

III. Abandonment and Blinding,

(a) When the witch discovers the deceit, she cuts off the girl's hair and abandons her in a desert,

(b) When the prince comes, he saves himself by jumping from the tower, and is blinded.

IV. Blindness cured. Finally his wife's tears falling on his eyes heal them.

Motifs:

I.

[S222] Man promises (sells) child in order to save himself from danger or death.

[G204] Girl in service of witch.

II.

[R41.2] Captivity in tower.

[T381] Imprisoned virgin to prevent knowledge of men (marriage, impregnation).

[F848.1] Girl's long hair as ladder into tower.

[L162] Lowly heroine marries prince (king).

III.

[S144] Abandonment in desert.

[S165] Mutilation: putting out eyes.

IV.

[F952.1] Blindness cured by tears.

Bibliography :

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*Parsons MAFLS XV (1) 228 n. 1.

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Lithuanian 6;

Irish 1;

French 17;

Catalan: Amades Nos. 34, 160, 172; Flemish 1;

German: Ranke 8;

Italian 15 (Pentamerone II No. 1, Tuscan 310 a, b, 313 a—d, [306] , [858] , [859] 9, Sicilian 5, Gonzenbach Nos. 20, 53);

Serbocroatian 3;

Polish 2;

Russian: Andrejev; Greek 11;

Turkish: Eberhard-Boratav No. 200 V, Anlage C 12.

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Franco-American 2;

Spanish-American: Hansen (Cuba) 1, (Puerto Rico) 1, (Dominican Republic) (310**A) 1;

West Indies (Negro) 4.

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