

109. MAGIC FLIGHT¹

A woman had three sons. An' she was po'. She sent all two of them to work. Evey day dey go to work an' never come back, de two bigges' ones. The smalles' one says to de moder one day, "Moder, I'm going to try look bread for you." De moder says, "My dear little boy, you are de on'iest one dat live wid me, for you oder two broders went out an' never come back to me. I don't know if they are alive or dead." Says, "Moder, I am goin' still," an' he went. He walks, he walks, until he sah a house. Befo' he met de house, he meet two girls dat are bathing. As dey see him, one run, but de oder stay in de bat'. He took de clothes an' hide dem. An' one run to de fader an' says, "Fader, a man has took my clothes an' I don't know whey to find them." An' de oder did not go anywhere because she had love de boy. She says to de boy, "Where are you goin' to?" An' he says he is goin' to look for some work to support his po' moder. An' she said, "My fader is a very wicked man, he has work, but he is a devil. Everybody goes there he eats them." The boy says, "I don't mind, I'll go." The girl says, "Anything he sends you to do, say you will do it an' be damn' to him." An' he went along. Met the house wid a light an' rap at the door. The wife answered, "Who is there?" He says, "It is I, madame. I come to see if your husband will give me some work to do." She says, "Yes, he has a plenty of work to do, my deah chil', but he eats everyone dat comes here; he is a wicked man." It was night, de boy did not know what to do, so the wife hide him away an' gave

¹ Informant 31.

him a lodging. When the man did come in he says, "I smell fresh meat." She says, "No, no, dere is no fresh meat in de house." He says, "Yes, I smell fresh meat." An' he search until he find de boy. De boy tol' him, "I come to ax you if you have any work to give me, sah, to do." He says, "I have a plenty work to do, but I believe you can not do it." He says, "Oh yes, sah. I will do it an' be damn' to you." An' he slep' until next mornin'. Wakin' up in de mornin', de man says, "You see dat hill." De hill was all in bushes an' big fields. He says, "I want you to go in dat hill, cut it down, burn it, hoe it, plant it, an' bring down ripe fruit to me, banana, oranges." He says, "I'll do it an' be damn' to you, sah." Nex' mornin' he went up to work. It was twelve o'clock, he did not do any work as yet, an' he was sittin' down cryin'. De gyirl dat didn't run from him went an' cyarry his breakfas'. He ask why he was cryin' like dat. He says, "Because your fader give me a job an' I don't know how to do it." She says, "Oh, take dis little t'ing an' you look to de hill an' says, "Thing, I want you to cut down de bushes, plow it, plant it and bring me ripe fruit to bring to my mahster." He did it and it was done. He went down in the night to sleep. De mahster ask him how it was done. He said, "You give me a job to do and I did it an' be damn' to you." He says, "Dis boy is mightier than I." The night he put him to sleep in a room by himself. He t'ought to himself dat was the girl dat taught him all dese tricks. So he put de gyirl in a nex' room to him. De gyirl bore a hole in de nex' room an' tie de boy toe wid a twine. He put a coppah of boiling water to boil, was to kill de boy an' de daughter. De daughter, every time dat she hear de fader call, pull de twine an' it bu'n de boy foot an' he wakes up. After de fader come, he shake him, he find him all de time awake. An' she did dat until morning. De nex' day de man find he was a smart man, an' he tell him he wants him to go in de bush, dere was a river he mus' dry de river, take de watah an' make fiah, take de smoke an' make a wad, take de watah an' make boa'd, de smoke to make a wad to cyarry de boa'd. When he went down, he could not do it firs', so at twelve o'clock de girl come an' met him cryin' still, an' ask him what he had. He says, "How de hell you fader want me to take water, an' make fiah an' cut boa'd, take de fiah an' make smoke to make wad to carry boa'd down to him?" She says, "Take dis little t'ing an' put you face to de mountain an' say dese little words, an' it will be done." He try, but could not do it. He went home the night, the father said to him, "Did your work done?" The girl say to him, "When he ask you dis word, you say to him, 'How the hell that you want me to take water to make boa'd an' fiah to make a wad to bring down to you?'" He went to sleep the night. He tried to kill him again. De daughter did the same thing with the twine again. She cut two bananas body in the night and put in both of dem bed. She spit on the floor, dat whenever he call, the spit might answer him. An' she took the best part of

her father's money, and with the boy went along. She took the twenty and thirty mile horse an' went along. When it was morning he haul the trap an' went an' told the wife, "I have them all well now!" The wife say, "Oh, you have them ah all right." They went to clean them in the nex' mornin', an' find it was two bananas body. He says, "Whey is my horse? Whey is my horse?" Tell de servant to get the twenty and thirty mile horse for him, "for they take my money and gone!" The girl take the eggs with her. When she went a distance she look back behin'. She saw a lot of smoke comin'. She says, "Oh John, oh John, my father is comin' at us." She break an egg. An' she went along. When de fader come it was all bar' up wid hill, cahsses an' al' sort of evil things to bar him; could not get them. All the way long 'twas like that. When she went a further distance again she tu'n in a river of water an' a duck. The father come an' saw them, and say he didn't see nobody but a duck an' the river, an' tu'n back to his wife. She says to him, "Oh, you is a fool, man! If you take a feather an' a little watah you will have them." He went back again at them. An' he met a church an' a priest. An' when he went, the priest says, "Dominus nobiscum!" An' he went about his business. The girl went along, she stay one side, an' sent him to his familee. She says to him, "When you will reach your familee you will not remember me again." He says, "No, I will always remember you, for it was you that saved my life." She took a little cock an' a little hen, a pullet. She take three grains of corn. Whiles he went home to his familee an' she saw a tree dat was over a well of water. She went up in de tree dat everybody can see her picture in the water. Whiles he was at home amusin' himself he forgetted her. Somebody come at de well to take watah, an' saw de picture in de watah. Look up an' sah it was her. He was den acourtin' to be married. She took the two little chickens an' went in de house. Whiles dey was all amusin' demselves, she took de two chickens and put on de table, with three corns. An' every time the cock took the corn, the hen took it away from him, and says, "You are an ungrateful cock, don't you remember all my father has done to you an' it is I that save your life?" Three times the three words was repeated. And he remember that it was him that she was speaking to. He fall in her arms, begin to play wid her. Kiss her up an' marry her instead of de oder one, and take de sweatheart for de servant. Dey were all merry, moder, fader and all, to see deir son come home. And dat was all of it. At the dinner table they give me a little bone and they send me to tell you that.