

{AT316} The Nix of the Mill-pond.

The youth promised to the nix is pulled into the water by her.

I. Promise to the Water-Nix. A boy is unwittingly promised to a water-nix.

II. Grateful Animals. A youth receives from grateful animals the power of transforming himself into their shapes.

III. Rescue from the Water-Nix. He falls into the power of the water-nix but is rescued

(a) by his wife who received advice from an old woman and

(b) through his power to transform himself.

IV. Recognition. After many years recognition is brought about, and he is united to his wife.

Motifs:

I.

[S240] Children unwittingly promised.

[F420.1.2] Water-spirit as woman (water-nymph, water-nix).

II.

[B500] Magic power from animals.

III.

[F420.5.2.2] Water-spirits kidnap mortals and keep them under water.

[R152] Wife rescues husband.

[N825.3] Old woman helper.

[H923.1] Task assigned before wife may rescue husband from supernatural power.

[D642.2] Transformation to escape death.

[D659.2] Transformation to animals to fight.

IV.

[H0] Recognition: identity tests.

[N730] Accidental reunion of families.

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*BP III 322 (Grimm No. 181).

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