

316 The Nix of the Mill-Pond.

A poor fisherman (miller) (unwittingly) promises his son [S240] to a water nix [F420.1.2], who makes the fisherman wealthy. The parents keep the child away from the water.

When the appointed time comes, the son learns about his father's promise and flees. On the way the youth divides the carcass of an animal among a lion, a falcon, and an ant (other animals) by taking the animals' characteristics into consideration. In return he receives from the grateful animals the power to transform himself into their shapes. Using this power he wins a princess as his wife.

After winning a battle (while hunting) the youth comes near the water and is seized and pulled down (swallowed) by the water nix [F420.5.2.2]. By offering precious objects (three golden apples), his wife tempts the nix to the surface. In exchange for these objects the water nix exhibits her husband: first up to his head, then up to his waist. When the water nix exhibits the husband's whole body, he changes into a bird and escapes [R152, D642.2].

Combinations: 302, 329, and 665.