

317 The Tree That Grows up to the Sky

(previously The Stretching Tree).

(Including the previous Type 468.)

In a king's yard a tree grows up to the sky [F54.1]. A dragon (giant) living in the tree carries off the princess. The king promises her as a wife to whoever can bring her back. In some variants, the king promises his daughter to whoever brings him healing fruits from the tree.

After noble candidates have failed, a young swineherd succeeds in climbing the tree wearing iron boots [Q502.2]. In the upper world the youth guards the dragon's magic horse which tells him (he asks the princess to find out) where the dragon's power is hidden. The youth kills the dragon, returns to earth together with the princess, and marries her.

In some variants, in the upper world the youth watches over the magic horses of a fairy (Tündér Ilona) who gives him clothes of copper, silver, and gold. The fairy falls in love and marries the youth.

The youth enters a forbidden chamber [C611] and frees a dragon which carries off the fairy. Continuation as in Type 302C*.

Combinations: 300, 302, 314, 400, and 551.