

{ AT332 } Godfather Death.

The man as doctor. Death at the feet of the sick man
(the bed or the sick man turned around).

I. Death as Godfather,

- (a) A poor man chooses death as godfather,
- (b) since he considers him juster than either God or the Devil.

II. Death's Gifts,

- (a) Death gives him or
- (b) the son the
- (c) power of seeing Death standing at the head or foot of the bed and thus forecasting the progress of sickness.

III. Death Tricked,

- (a) The doctor betrays Death by not finishing the Paternoster he had been granted time to say or
- (b) by turning the bed around when Death is standing at the foot.

IV. Death Avenges Self

- (a) by tricking the man into finishing the prayer or
- (b) by putting out the man's life-light which he shows the man in a lower-world of lights.

Motifs:

I.

[Z111] Death personified.

[J486] Death preferred above God and Justice.

II.

[D1724] Magic power from Death. Death as godfather.

[D1825.3.1] Magic power of seeing Death at head or foot of bed and thus forecasting progress of sickness.

III.

[K551.1] Respite from death granted until prayer is finished.

[K557] Death cheated by moving bed.

IV.

[E765.1.3] Life-lights in lower world. Each light mystically connected with the life of a person. When light is extinguished, person dies.

Bibliography :

**R. Th. Christiansen Danske Studier (1915) 71 ff.;

*BP I 377 (Grimm No. 44; cf. No. 42);

*Kohler-Bolte I 291;

*Liungman SSF II 430;

*Espinosa III 140—150.

—

Finnish 57;

Finnish-Swedish 2;

Estonian 16;

Lithuanian 48;

Lappish 1;

Swedish (Uppsala) 1;

Norwegian 7, Solheim 1;

Danish 34, Grundtvig No. 122;

Icelandic 1;

Scottish 1;

Irish 186, Beal XII 165ff.;

French 26;

Spanish 3;

Catalan: Amades Nos. 99, 202, 203, cf. 204;

Dutch 2;

Flemish 11;

German 46 (Ranke 45, Henssen Volk No. 127);

Italian 4 (Sicilian 4, Gonzenbach No. 19);

Rumanian 4, Sainenu 888;

Hungarian 6, Degh No. 5;

Czech: Tille Soupis II (2) 95—103 12;

Slovenian 9;

Serbocroatian 7;

Polish 25, (332A) 1;

Russian: Andrejev 5, Andrejev Ukraine 11;

Greek 5;

Turkish: Eberhard-Boratav No. 112 1;

India 1.

—

Franco-American 6;

Spanish-American: Rael No. 83—86 (U.S.), Hansen (Dominican Republic) 2;

Gape Verde Islands: Parsons MAFLS XV (1) 182 n. 1;

West Indies (Negro) 4.

{###}

{AT332A*} Visit in the House of the Dead.

The man's own life-light. At last Death awaits the sacrifice as a beggar. (Often mixed with Type 332.)

Bibliography :

Laographia XVII 11 Off., 146f.

—

Rumanian 7;

Greek (1191*) 3.

{###}

{ AT332 B*} Death and Luck.

Poor coal miner asks God for enough money to buy chicken to eat. He obtains chicken and prepares to eat it. Luck visits him and asks for some of chicken. He says no, since Luck follows only the rich. Death visits him and he shares the chicken, since Death comes to rich and poor alike.

Bibliography :

Spanish-American: Hansen (332**A) (Puerto Rico) 1.

{###}

{AT332C*} Immortality Won through Betrayal of Death.

Bibliography :

Hungarian (332 I) 3.

{###}

{AT332D*} Death Held off by Magic Formula. Cf. Type 1183*.

Bibliography :

Polish (336*) 1.

{###}

{ AT332E*} Frog as Godfather.

Woman invited to baptism finds the souls of the drowned

Bibliography :

Hungarian (332 II*) 4.

{ ### }

{ AT332F*} Poverty Locked Up.

Poverty lives with a poor man who worked very hard, but must live with Poverty. The poor man by a trick locks Poverty up and afterwards lives happily.

Bibliography :

Hungarian (332 I*) 2.

{###}

{AT332G*} Woman Tries to Induce Death to Take her Husband but Death refuses and chokes her.

Bibliography :

Polish (338*) 1.

{###}

{ AT332H*} The Treacherous Cat.

The cat entices a little girl, a little boy, an old man, and an old woman to the old man. He devours them.

Bibliography :

Russian: Andrejev 1.

{###}