

### **332 Godfather Death.**

(Including the previous Types 332A \* and 332B\*.) A poor man with many children wants a (just) godfather for his new-born son. He refuses God (saint, devil) and chooses death (angel of death, plague) because he treats everyone alike [Z111, J486]. As a gift the father (son) receives the magic power of forecasting recovery or death, depending on whether death stands at the head or the foot of the sick person's bed [D1825.3.1]. Thus the man becomes a famous doctor and grows wealthy.

The doctor betrays death (several times): When promised wealth (the princess), the doctor turns the bed and thus saves the life of a person who was supposed to die [K557] (in the doctor's dying hour, death grants him time to say a last Paternoster, but the doctor does not finish the prayer [K551.1] -cf. Type 1199. Death tricks the doctor into finishing the prayer.)

In some variants, death shows the man his life-light in the under-world and suddenly extinguishes it [E765.1.3, K551.9]. Or the man attempts to lengthen his life by various means (usually without success). (Previously Type 332A\*.) Cf. Type 1187.

Combinations: This type is usually combined with episodes of one or more other types, esp. 1199, and also 326,330,331,334, 1164, and 1187.

Remarks: Documented in the 14th century.