

425 The Search for the Lost Husband.

This type refers to a cycle of related tales. It combines episodes from types 425A-425E, 425M, and 425*. Cf. Types 400, 430, 432, and 441.

Combinations: This type is usually combined with episodes of one or more other types, esp. 300, 302, 311, 313, 400, 402, 403, 425A, 425C, 431, 432, 433B, 440, 441, 451, 510, 706, 707, and 857.

425A The Animal as Bridegroom.

(Including the previous Type 425G.) This type combines various introductory episodes with a common main part. Cf. Types 430, 432, and 441.

Introductory episodes:

(1) The youngest daughter asks her father (the king) to bring her a (musical) rose (lark, etc.) from his journey. He finds it in the garden of a beast, but in return has to promise his daughter (the first being he meets when he arrives at home) [L221, S228, S241] to the beast. The father tries in vain to send another girl instead of his daughter [S252]. Cf. Type 425C.

(2) An animal-son (snake, crayfish, also pumpkin, etc.) is born (because of the hasty wish of his parents) [C758.1]. He demands a princess for his wife and performs difficult (impossible) tasks. The princess has to marry him [T111].

(3) A girl is intended (by fate) for an animal bridegroom or agrees to marry him [B620.1, L54.1].

(4) For other reasons a girl has an animal husband and lives together with him in his castle. He becomes a beautiful man by night [D621.1, B640.1].

Mainpart:

When the young wife (often on the advice of her female relatives) burns the animal-skin of her bridegroom [C757.1] (looks at him during the night or burns him with candle wax [C32.1,

C916.1], reveals his secret [C421], or otherwise prevents his disenchantment), he goes away [C932].

The young wife sets out for a long and difficult quest [H1385.4] (in iron shoes [Q502.2], etc.). On her way she is given directions and precious gifts by the sun, moon, wind, and stars [H1232] (helpful old people or animals [H1233.1.1, H1235]). She arrives (sometimes by climbing a glass mountain [H1114]) at her bridegroom's far-away residence. She finds that her husband has another (supernatural) bride.

She takes service as maid [Q482. 1] and trades her precious things (golden implements for spinning, jewels, magnificent clothes, etc.) for three nights by the side of her lost husband [D2006.1.1]. She wants to awaken his memory of her, but two times he is drugged by a soporific. He spills the soporific on the third night, stays awake, and recognizes her as his true bride [D2006.1.4]. (Death of the false bride.) Cf. Type 313.

Combinations: This type is usually combined with episodes of one or more other types, esp. 300, 301, 313, 402, 425, 425B, 425C, 425E, 432, 433B, and 441. Remarks: Many structural similarities between Types 425A and 425B. Partly because Swahn reversed subtypes A and B, some variants are not clearly assigned to one type or the other. Essential for Type 425A are the motifs "wife's quest and gifts" and ".nights bought" ..

425B Son of the Witch

(previously The Disenchanted Husband: the Witch's Tasks). (Cupid and Psyche.)

(Including the previous Types 425J, 425N, and 428.) This type combines various introductory episodes with a common main part. Cf. Type 425A.

Introductory episodes:

A young woman marries a supernatural bridegroom:

(1) She is given to her bridegroom because of a present that she has asked her father to bring back from a journey [S228].

(2) The bridegroom performs a set of difficult tasks.

(3) She pulls up an herb and discovers the bridegroom's subterranean castle (a wind carries her there).

(4) She finds him in another way.

The bridegroom is the son of a witch (ogress) or he is (during the day) an animal [D621.1].

Main part:

The young woman breaks the bridegroom's prohibition (cf. Type 425A), and he goes away [C932]. (Before he leaves, he gives her a token, e.g. ring, feather.) (In iron shoes) she sets out to find him [H1385.4, H1125].

The bride comes to the house of her bridegroom's mother, a witch, who swears by her son's name not to devour her. The witch imposes difficult tasks on the young woman, which she performs (with the help of her bridegroom): to sort a large quantity of grain [H1122], to fill mattresses with the feathers of all kinds of birds, to wash the black wool white and the white black [H1023.6, cf. Type 1183], to sweep a house but leave it unswept [H1066], etc. In some variants she enchants (three) suitors and makes them fight (part of previous Type 425N). Cf. Types 313, 875.

The young woman is sent on a dangerous journey to bring a casket from the sister of the witch. Having passed obstacles (with the advice from her bridegroom) and obtained the casket, she is forbidden to open it. (Cf. Types 408, 480.) When the bride acts against the prohibition, her husband helps her.

At the wedding of the bridegroom and the witch's daughter, the young woman has to hold ten burning candles (torches). Her bridegroom saves her from being burned.

The young woman remarries her bridegroom, or both escape by a magic (transformation) flight [D671, D672].

In some variants a female demon (witch) demands that a young woman accomplish impossible tasks [G204, H1010, H931]. Among other things, the girl has to bring a letter to another demon telling her to kill the girl [K978] (cf. Type 930). A wolf helps the girl to escape the danger -B435.3]. As a reward, the wolf is disenchanting. He turns to a prince [D113.1] and marries the young woman. (Previously Type 428.)

Combinations: 425A, 425C, 425E, 433B, and 857.

Remarks: The earliest literary version is by Apuleius, *Cupid and Psyche*, in *Metamorphoses* (IV,28-VI,24), ca. 100 C.E. Many structural similarities exist between Types 425A and 425B, and often the variants are not clearly identified as belonging to one type or the other. The essential feature of this type is the quest for the casket, which entails the visit to the second witch's house. Usually the supernatural bridegroom is the witch's son, and he helps his wife perform the tasks. According to Swahn (1955), the previous Type 428 is a fragment of Type 425B.

425C Beauty and the Beast.

(Including the previous Type 425H.) A merchant sets out on a journey and intends to bring back presents for his three daughters. The two elder ones demand jewels and clothes, the youngest a rose [L221]. The father is not able to find one.

He loses his way and stays overnight in a deserted castle, where he breaks off a rose. An (invisible) animal (beast) demands that the man return or send a substitute [S222]. The youngest daughter meets her father's obligation but refuses to marry the (ugly) animal, who treats her kindly.

In a magic mirror she sees her father is ill. She is allowed to visit him but (influenced by her envious sisters) overstays the allotted time [C761.2]. She returns and finds the animal near death, realizes she loves him, and caresses or kisses him. By this means she disenchant the prince from his animal shape [D735.1]. They marry.

Combinations: 300, 425, and 425A.

Remarks: Type 425C is characterized by the "presents for the daughters" introduction and the absence of a quest or search. It first appears in two 18th century French versions, Mme. de Villeneuve's *La Belle et la bête* (1740) and Mme. de Beaumont's tale of the same name (1757). Cf. Mme. d' Aulnoy, *Le Mouton* (1698).

425D The Vanished Husband

(previously Vanished Husband Learned of by Keeping Inn [Bath-house]). (Including the previous Type 425F.) (A childless couple adopts an animal or object which grows up and wants to marry; cf. Type 433B). The animal (crayfish, frog, he-goat, bird, etc., or the head of a donkey) performs the tasks set for the suitors [T68] and marries the king's youngest daughter. During the night he turns into a beautiful young man [B640.1]. He warns his wife against telling his secret, but she breaks the taboo and he leaves her [C932].

The wife sets up an inn (bakery, bathhouse) where everyone who tells a tale gets free service [H11.1.1] (disguised as a man [K1837], she gives a golden coin to everyone she meets, if they will tell a tale). She thus learns where her husband lives and how to save him [C991]. She finds her husband and disenchantments him.

In some variants a princess loses her enchanted bridegroom, a bird [D150], and becomes melancholy. The king promises a reward to anyone who can make the princess laugh [H1194]. An old woman, who knows where the bridegroom lives, tells the princess and makes her laugh. The princess finds her bridegroom in his castle. She releases him from his enchantment by starving for seven years (standing without shelter out in the wind and rain for a year or more). By doing this she becomes so ugly that the prince does not want her. With the help of kind fairies she becomes beautiful and wealthy. Her bridegroom falls in love with her. She makes demands on him (he must build a bridge and lie down in a coffin). They are reunited. (Previously Type 425F.)

Combinations: 425, 425A.

425E The Enchanted Husband Sings Lullaby.

(Including the previous Type 425L.) A young woman follows an enchanted man (usually a prince) to his underground castle (grotto) and marries him. During the night her husband takes on his human shape. He forbids her to open a certain room [C611] (she is not allowed to watch him at night, to wake him up, to open the padlock of his heart or to look through a

keyhole into his body). She breaks the taboo and, although she is pregnant, she is chased away.

The pregnant woman finds lodging in the house of a rich woman (queen) whose son had disappeared a long time ago. Here she gives birth to a child. At night the enchanted husband visits his sleeping wife, sings a lullaby to the child, and thus tells how he may be disenchanting (roosters must not crow, church bells must not ring, etc.). Maidservants report this to the lady of the house. In the third night the conditions demanded in the song are met (the enchanted man is embraced or seized). The man is released from the enchantment and is recognized as the missing son. (Previously Type 425L.) Cf. Type 434.

Combinations: 432.

Remarks: Early version see Basile, *Pentamerone* (II,9).

425F See Type 425D.

425G See Type 425A.

425H See Type 425C.

425J See Type 425B.

425K See Type 884.

425L See Type 425E.

425M The Snake as Bridegroom

(previously *Bathing Girl's Garments Kept*)..

A serpent (water being, dragon) steals the clothes of a bathing girl and gives them back only when she promises to marry him [K1335]. The serpent takes her as his bride to his splendid castle (at the bottom of the sea) where she gives birth to two children.

The serpent promises that the woman may visit her parents if she performs certain impossible tasks (wearing out iron shoes [H1125, Q502.2], spinning an endless thread, etc.) [H1010]. By following the advice of an old woman she succeeds [N825.3], and finally she and her children are allowed to visit her parents for three days. But she is warned not to tell anyone about her husband [C421].

The woman keeps the promise. The children, however, tell the relatives about their father and give away the secret of the magic formula by which he can be summoned. The woman's brothers call the serpent and kill him.

Together with her children the woman returns. She calls her husband, but there is only blood in the sea. So she realises that the children have betrayed her and condemns them to be turned into trees [D215].

Combinations: 857.

425N See Type 425B.

425P See Type 302.

425* The Insulted Bridegroom Disenchanted

(previously Enchanted Animal Husband Insulted by Guests).

A princess (the youngest of three sisters) wants to marry. Her father insists that she must marry the first one whom she meets (whoever picks up a certain rose). A mouse with a stinking tail (a poor man carrying water) comes by, and the princess marries him [T118]. During the wedding feast, when guests insult the mouse-bridegroom, the castle and all its inhabitants disappear, and the princess finds herself alone.

She sets out on a quest for her lost husband [H1385.4]. Two hermits direct her to the underworld. There she finds the castle of the mouse-bridegroom. Through her love he is disenchanted and turns into a beautiful prince [D700].

In some variants the princess lives in poverty with her husband.

She dreams of a splendid castle and of wealth. Two times the dream comes true, and she invites her relatives to the castle. When her poor husband appears, someone calls his name and the castle disappears. The third time, she instructs them not to call her husband's name. Thus he is disenchanted.