

### **432 The Prince as Bird.**

The youngest of three sisters asks her father, when he goes on a journey, to bring her an unusual present (feather, plant, book, violin, mirror, pearl, etc.) [L221]. The father at first cannot find such a thing, but then he obtains it from an unknown prince. (Cf. Types 425A, 425B, 425C, 894.) The daughter uses the present to call its owner, who comes (in bird form) through her window [D641.1]. The envious sisters (stepmother) spy and discover the lover. They put knives or broken glass around the window [K2212.1, S181]. The prince is wounded and does not visit any more.

The youngest daughter (disguises herself as a man [K1837] and) goes to look for her lover [H1385.5]. She overhears a conversation between birds (demonic beings, who meet in or under a tree) who speak about where the prince is and how he can be cured by a medicine [N452]. The woman prepares the medicine, finds her lover, and heals him. In payment, he gives her a present (ring, hair, shirt, horse).

The prince recognizes his love. Or, back home, she summons him by means of the feather (etc.). He comes but is angry because he believes that she had injured him, and she explains what really happened. She shows him the second present (ring, shirt etc.) to prove that it was she who had cured him. They are reconciled [B642].

Combinations: 425, 425A, 425B, 480, 510A, 510B, and 511.

Remarks: The beginning of the tale appears in Marie de France's *Yonec* (ca. 1150), see also Mme. d'Aulnoy's *L'Oiseau bleu* (1697).