

{AT432} The Prince as Bird.

Visits to the princess. The wicked stepmother. The wound on the window ledge.

I. The Bird Lover.

- (a) A prince in the form of a bird flies to a beautiful maiden,
- (b) When in her presence he becomes a man.

II. The Lover Wounded.

The cruel stepmother (sister) severely wounds him with a knife, a thorn, or glass placed on the window-ledge.

III. The Lover Healed.

- (a). The maiden follows her lover and
- (b) on the way overhears in a conversation of animals or witches how he may be healed,
- (c) She follows their directions and heals him.

Motifs:

I.

[L221] Modest request: present from the journey. Asked what her father shall bring her as a present, the heroine chooses a modest gift. It is usually a flower but sometimes does not turn out to be such a simple gift after all (golden cloak, golden apple).

[D150] Transformation: man to bird.

[D641.1] Lover as bird visits mistress.

[D620] Periodic transformation. A person or thing is transformed at definite intervals.

[B642] Marriage to person in bird-form.

II.

[S31] Cruel stepmother.

[L55] Stepdaughter heroine.

[K2212.1] Treacherous stepsisters.

[S181] Wounding by trapping with sharp knives (glass).

III.

[H1385.5] Quest for vanished lover.

[H1232.1] Directions on quest given by herdsmen (peasants).

[N452] Secret remedy overheard in conversation of animals (witches).

Bibliography :

*BP II 26Iff.

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Finnish 1;

Finnish-Swedish 2;

Lithuanian 1;

Lappish 1;

Swedish 12 (Uppsala 1, Stockholm 1, Liungman 3, misc. 7);

Norwegian 6;

Danish 11;

Irish 22;

Spanish 2;

Catalan: Amades Nos. 13, 97, 138;

German 3;

Italian: D'Arconco Fiabe 15 (Pentamerone II No. 2, cf. V No. 3, Tuscan 432 a, [880] , [891 sexies] , [900] 3, Sicilian 4); Hungarian 1, (666*) 1;

Czech: Tille Soupis II (2) 356f. 1;

Slovenian 1;

Serbocroatian 1;

Russian: Afanasiev 8;

Greek 10, Dawkins Modern Greek Folktales Nos. 15, 16, 17;

Turkish: Eberhard-Boratav No. 46 IV, 93, 102 48; India 8.

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Franco-American 2;

Spanish-American: Hansen (432** A, B, C) (Chile) 1 , (Puerto Rico) 1, (**429) 1, (Dominican Republic) 1, (Cuba) 1.

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African 1.

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{AT432*} Bird Lover Disenchanted.

Boy is pledged by mother to pigeons (magicians). He learns from them how to change to a bird. Flies as bird to princess. When she is ready to give birth he sends her to his father's home. Boy's mother hides at night and takes his feathers and burns them. He is disenchanted. [Variant: Princess confined in glass tower. From hole in glass tower prince as dove steal ring from princess. Later [H11.1.1] , she learns where doves are and thus finds the prince as dove, removes nail from head and disenchant him.)

Bibliography :

Greek 4.

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