

{AT440} The Frog King or Iron Henry.

A maiden promises herself to a frog in a spring. The frog comes to the door, the table, the bed. Turns into a prince.

I. Promise to Marry the Frog,

- (a) To the youngest of three sisters a frog in a spring gives clear water (a ball thrown into the water),
- (b) In return he exacts the promise that the girl shall marry him.

II. Reception of the Frog,

- (a) Though the girl has forgotten her promise, the frog appears at her door and requests entrance,
- (b) He then sleeps at the door, on the table, and finally in her bed.

III. Disenchantment. The frog is disenchanting and becomes a prince

- (a) by being allowed to sleep in the girl's bed,
- (b) by a kiss,
- (c) by decapitation,
- (d) by being thrown against the wall, or
- (e) by having his frog-skin burnt.

IV. Iron Henry. His faithful servant has three iron bands around his heart to keep it from breaking; at his master's rescue the bands snap one by one.

Motifs:

I.

[L50] Victorious youngest daughter.

[C41.2] Tabu: letting ball fall into water.

[G423] Ball falling into water puts person into ogre's (witch's, water spirit's) power.

[B211.7.1] Speaking frog.

[S215.1] Girl promised herself to animal suitor.

II.

[D195] Transformation: man to frog.

[K1361.1] Transformed person sleeps before girl's door, at foot of bed, in the bed.

[B645.1.2] Marriage to person in frog form.

III.

[D734] Disenchantment of animal by admission to woman's bed.

[D735.1] Disenchantment of animal by being kissed by woman.

[D711] Disenchantment by decapitation.

[D712.2] Disenchantment by slinging against something.

[D721.3] Disenchantment by destroying skin (covering).

[L162] Lowly heroine marries prince (king).

IV.

[F875] Iron bands around heart to keep it from breaking. When master is disenchanted, bands around heart of faithful servant snap one by one.

Bibliography :

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