

## 449 Sidi Numan

(previously The Tsar's Dog [Sidi Numan]).

(Including the previous Type 1898\*.)

This tale exists chiefly in two different forms:

(1) A man discovers that his wife eats corpses in the night. When he accuses her of this, she turns him into a dog. Another sorceress recognizes that the dog is really a human and returns him to his original form. With her help the husband is able to turn his wife into a mare and he beats her (to death).

(2) An unfaithful wife turns her husband into a dog [D141, K1535], which herds sheep and also rescues the king's baby [D682. 3]. When he returns to his wife, she turns him into a bird [D151.8]. He finds a magic wand, becomes a man again, and changes his wife and her lover into donkeys [D682.3].

Combinations: 313, 400, and 992A.

Remarks: Version (1) is traced to the Arabian Nights. Version (2) is thought to be a folktale from Syria that has spread to eastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Caucasus. Its characteristic features are the absence of the corpse-eating and the transformation of the dog into a bird.