

{AT451} The Maiden Who Seeks her Brothers.

The twelve brothers are changed into ravens. Cf. The Speechless Princess, Types 705, 710.

I. The Brothers and their Sister,

(a) Seven (twelve) brothers have a younger sister,

(b) The parents have promised the death of the brothers if a daughter is born; the brothers discover this; the mother lets them know by a sign if a girl is born; the brothers flee; the sister finds them; or (c) the boys leave home out of fear of their father or stepmother.

II. Transformation of Brothers to Ravens,

(a) Through a wish of their father or

(b) stepmother or

(c) because their younger sister has plucked twelve flowers from an enchanted garden, the brothers are transformed to ravens.

III. The Sister's Quest,

(a) The sister seeks for them and asks direction of sun, moon, and stars and finds them on a glass mountain (and they are thereby disenchanting) or (b) the sister must remain speechless for years and make shirts.

IV. The Calumniated Wife,

(a) A king sees the speechless girl and marries her.

(b) On the birth of her children they are stolen and she is accused of killing them.

V. Disenchantment,

(a) As she is about to be executed her period of silence is over, the ravens fly down, are disenchanting and all is cleared up.

Motifs:

I.

[Z71.5.1] Seven brothers and one sister.

[P253.0.5] One sister and six (seven, eleven, twelve) brothers.

[P251.6.7] Twelve brothers.

[S272] Sacrifice of brothers promised if girl is born.

[T595] Sign hung out informing brothers whether mother has borne boy or girl.

[N344.1] Wrong sign put out leads to boys' leaving home.

[S272.1] Flight of brothers from home to avoid being sacrificed.

II.

[S11] Cruel father.

[S31] Cruel stepmother.

[D521] Transformation through wish.

[D515] Transformation by plucking flowers in enchanted garden.

[C515] Tabu: touching (plucking) flowers.

[D151.5] Transformation to raven.

[D161.1] Transformation to swan.

III.

[P253.2] Sister faithful to transformed brothers.

[H1385.8] Quest for lost brothers.

[H1232] Directions on quest given by sun, moon, and stars.

[H1114] Task: Climbing glass mountain.

[D783] Disenchantment by being found when lost.

[D753] Disenchantment by accomplishment of tasks.

[D753.1] Disenchantment by sewing shirts for enchanted brothers.

[D758] Disenchantment by maintaining silence.

[Z72.2] Seven years, seven months, seven days.

IV.

[N711] King (prince) accidentally finds maiden in woods (tree) and marries her.

[K2116.1.1] Innocent woman accused of killing her new-born children.

V.

[H215] Magic manifestation at execution proves innocence.

Bibliography :

*BP I 70, 227, 427 (Grimm Nos. 9, 49, cf. No. 25);

Coffin 2.

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Finnish 46;

Finnish-Swedish 4;

Estonian 6;

Livonian 5;

Lithuanian 43;

Lappish 3;

Swedish 18 (Uppsala 11, Stockholm 1, Goteborg 2, Lund 2, Liungman 2, misc. 3) ;

Norwegian 8, Solheim 1;

Danish 21, Grundtvig No. 40;

Icelandic 2;

Scottish 4, Campbell-McKay No. 22;

Irish 96, Beal I 115ff.;

Basque: Delarue 2;

French 14;

Spanish 2;

Catalan: Amades No. 45, cf. Nos. 11, 32, 163;

Flemish 2; German: Ranke 57, Meckl. No. 61, Henssen Volk No. 131;

Italian: D'Arconco Fiabe 21 (Pentamerone IV No. 8, Tuscan 451 h, [310] a, b, [869] 4); Rumanian 7;
Hungarian 9;

Czech: 1 ille Soupis II (2) 45—55 12;

Slovenian 10,

Istrian No. 14;

Polish 20;

Russian 15, Andrejev Ukraine 3;

Greek 1, Laographia XI 452ff.;

Turkish: Eberhard-Boratav No. 165, cf. 166 15;

India 3.

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Franco-

American 6;

Spanish-American: Hansen (Dominican Republic) 2 (Puerto Rico) 7;

West Indies (Negro) 7.

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{AT451A} The Sister Seeking her Nine Brothers.

She sets forth with the mare whose offspring are the steeds of her nine brothers. Contrary to warning the girl obeys and goes bathing. The fairy takes the girl's clothes and cartilage and leaves in their place her own rags and a hog harnessed to a trough. She claims to be the sister of the brothers [K1934], and they entertain her. Meanwhile the real sister of the brothers, tending to the grazing horses, relates her sad fate in song [H12]. The brothers hear the song, understand the trickery, and recognize her for their sister. The wicked fairy is torn to pieces by a horse smeared with pitch [Q416].

Bibliography :

Lithuanian (*452) 20; Prussian: Plenzat p. 21.

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{AT451*} Sister as Mysterious Housekeeper.

Two brothers leave home. A bird carries off sisters necklace or ring [N774.1] , telling her she can find it at her brothers' house. After wandering she arrives, puts their house in order and hides [N331.1] ; on the third day they discover her. She keeps house for them.

Bibliography :

Spanish (327*D) 2.

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