

475 The Man as Heater of Hell's Kettle.

A poor soldier (servant) takes a job (for seven years) in hell [M210]. Or, parents wish that the devil will take their greedy child [M411.1].

The soldier has to heat the kettles and is not allowed to wash [C721.1] or comb himself. He is also not allowed to look into the pots [C325]. He breaks this rule and finds his former masters or unfriendly relatives in the kettles. He heats them even more. Or, he releases poor souls (transformed into animals).

In payment he receives sweepings which later change into gold [D475.1]. Or, on the advice of a soul he has released, he asks for something worthless (an old piece of clothing) that gives money. The host at an inn where he stays for the night robs him of his gold [D861.1], but with the devil's help he recovers it [cf. D885]. Cf. Types 332C*, 360,361, and 563.

Combinations: 592, 650A.