

{ AT501 } The Three Old Women Helpers.

Invited to the wedding.

I. Spinning Assigned to Girl,

- (a) Through false boast of a girl's mother or
- (b) of the girl herself, or
- (c) false reports by jealous servants a girl is compelled to spin an impossible amount (cf. Type 500).
- (d) She is to marry the prince if successful.

II. Bargain with Helpers,

- (a) She receives help from three old women spinners who have become deformed from their much spinning,
- (b) In payment she must invite them to her wedding.

III. Guests at Wedding,

- (a) The three old women appear by invitation to the wedding. The prince exclaims in disgust. They tell him that spinning has deformed them. He says that he will never let his wife spin.

Motifs:

I.

[H914] Tasks assigned because of mother's foolish boasting.

[H915] Task assigned because of girl's (boy's) own foolish boast.

[H911] Task assigned at suggestion of jealous rivals.

[H1092] Task: spinning impossible amount in one night.

[T67] Prince offered as prize.

II.

[G201.1] Three witches (hags) deformed from much spinning.

[G244] Witch spins.

[D2183] Magic spinning. Usually performed by a supernatural helper.

[M233] Three deformed witches invited to wedding in exchange for help.

III.

[H51] Sight of deformed witches causes man to release wife from spinning duty. They tell that their deformity has come from too much spinning.

Bibliography :

**von Sydow Tva Spinnsagor.

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Finnish 72;

Finnish-Swedish 2;

Estonian 2;

Livonian 3;

Lappish 1;

Lithuanian 15;

Swedish 18 (Uppsala 4, Stockholm 5, Goteborg 3 , Lund 7, Liungman 2, misc. 3);

Norwegian 8;

Danish 14, Grundtvig No. 50B;

Irish 97, Beal IX 58ff.; English 2;

French 12;

Spanish 3;

Catalan: Amades No. 181;

Flemish 1;

German: Ranke 32, Meckl. No. 67;

Italian 2 (Pentamerone IV No. 4, Tuscan [860] 1, Sicilian 7);

Rumanian (1405 I = 501 III) 3;

Hungarian 2;

Czech: Tille Soupis II (2) 131 — 134 4;

Slovenian 1;

Serbocroatian 7;

Polish 15;

Russian: Andrejev 1, Andrejev Ukraine 2;

Greek 5;

Turkish: Eberhard-Boratav No. 371 6.

Spanish-American: Hansen (Puerto Rico) 7;

West Indies [Negro) 7.

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