

## 531 The Clever Horse

(previously Ferdinand the True and Ferdinand the False).

(Including the previous Type 513C.)

This miscellaneous type comprises various tales dealing with a clever horse. The tale exists chiefly in three different forms, "The Godchild of the King and the Unfaithful Companion", "The Golden-haired Maiden", and "The Clever Horse".

A poor boy goes in search of his godfather [H1381.2.2.1], the king (God, Virgin Mary, etc.) [N811]. On the way he obtains a clever magic horse that offers to help him [B211.1.3, B133, B401]. Against the horse's advice [B341] he picks up a glimmering feather (golden hair, golden horse-shoe, other bright object), which he later gives to the king.

En route the boy is accompanied by a companion ( devil, beardless man, Gypsy, etc.) who forces him to change places [K1934] and to swear silence. At the king's court the boy is employed as a groom. He helps different animals, who in return promise to help him [B350, B391, B470, B501].

A treacherous employee of the king ( the boy's companion) slanders him to the king, saying that he had boasted he could find the bird that had lost the feather and/ or to bring the golden-haired maiden (princess) as bride for the king [T11.4.1, H75.2, H1213.1, H1381.3.1.1]. On pain of death he is assigned to accomplish the dangerous tasks [H911]. He succeeds with help of his horse.

The abducted princess refuses to marry the old king until she receives certain things (her castle, keys that have fallen into the sea, water of life, etc.). The boy brings these with the help of his horse and of the helpers he had met on his way (grateful animals) [H982, B450].

As the last condition for the marriage the princess demands the boy be killed (burned, beheaded, dismembered, by taking a bath in boiling milk or oil of a herd of wild mares, by water of death, etc.) The horse saves the boy or he is resuscitated by the princess, rejuvenated, and beautified [E15.1, E12, D1865.1]. The king has the same thing done to him with fatal results (the princess does not resuscitate him, he dies in the milk, etc.) [J2411.1].

The magic horse turns into a young woman (man) [B313, D131, D700]. The boy marries her (the princess) and becomes king. Cf. Type 328.

Combinations: This type is usually combined with episodes of one or more other types, esp. 314, 327B, 328, 550, 554, and also 300, 300A, 302, 303A, 313, 400, 465, 502, 505, 513A, 513C, 516, 530, 551, 567, 590, and 1119.

Remarks: Classical origin for some motifs. Early versions see e.g. Basile, *Pentamerone* (III,7), Straparola, *Piacevoli notti* ([II,2), and Madame d' Aulnoy, *La Belle aux cheveux d'or*.