

{ AT531 } Ferdinand the True and Ferdinand the False.

On the advice of a jealous courtier the king assigns the hero difficult tasks, which he performs with the help of grateful animals. Bringing the beautiful bride for the king.

I. The Hero's Horse and Magic Object.

(a) The hero at his christening is given by a beggar a key, with which he later obtains a horse which speaks and gives advice, or

(a 1) the king appears, serves as his godfather, and gives him a ring as a means of recognition: when fifteen years old he sets out to find his godfather; or

(a 2) an illegitimate son of the king seeks his father; or

(a 3) the hero is on some other quest; or (a 4) the hero, son of a huntsman, goes as hunter unto the king's service,

(b) He finds a golden pen (or a golden bird, a spotted animal, a weasel, a diamond, a wild animal covered with glistening diamonds, or an elephant skin) and in spite of the advice of his horse (or his mother or his teacher) picks it up from the ground; he gives this to the king who on the advice of a treacherous courtier sends the hero on dangerous quests,

(c) From a thankful fish he receives a fin and from a bird a feather.

II. The Treacherous Companion.

(a) On the way to the king he is forced to change places with a treacherous companion and to swear silence; together they go into the king's service,

(b) At the companion's suggestions he is assigned dangerous quests: (bringing the golden bird, or its cage, or the water of life, etc.), especially the bringing of a golden-haired maiden.

III. Fetching the Princess.

(a) The hero is to fetch a beautiful princess for the king,

(b) On the advice of his horse, he demands as a condition from the king a supply of meat and bread,

(c) With these he obtains help from giants, lions, birds, ants who help him perform tasks assigned by the golden-haired maiden,

(d) The fish returns his pen which has fallen into the water.

IV. Beautification by Decapitation.

- (a) The princess beheads him and then replaces his head to make him handsomer,
- (b) The king has the same thing done to him with fatal results,
- (c) The magic horse changes himself into a prince.

— Adapted from BP.

Motifs:

I.

[N811] Supernatural godfather.

[H1381.2.2.1] Son seeks unknown father.

[N826] Help from beggar.

[D1158] Magic key.

[B211.1.3] Speaking horse.

[B133] Truth-speaking horse.

[B401] Helpful horse.

[B313] Helpful animal and enchanted person.

[B350] Grateful animals.

[B391] Animal grateful for food.

[B470] Helpful fish.

[B501] Animal gives part of body as talisman for summoning its aid.

II.

[K1934] Impostor forces hero (heroine) to change places with him (her).

[H911] Tasks assigned at suggestion of jealous rivals.

III.

[T11.4.1] Love through sight of hair of unknown princess.

[H75.2] Identification by hair dropped by bird.

[H75.1] Identification by hair found floating on water.

[H1213.1] Quest for princess caused by sight of one of her hairs dropped by bird (or floating on river).

[H1381.3.1.1] Quest for bride for king (prince).

[H951] Countertasks. When a task is assigned, the hero agrees to perform it as soon as the assigner performs a certain other task.

[N812.0.1] Giant's help secured by feeding him.

[N812] Giant or ogre as helper.

[B325.1] Animal bribed with food.

[H982] Animals help man perform task.

[B450] Helpful birds.

[H1132.1.4] Task: recovering pen from sea.

[B548.2.4] Fish recovers pen from sea.

IV.

[E15.1] Resuscitation by boiling.

[E12] Resuscitation by decapitation

[D1865.1] Beautification by decapitation and replacement of head.

[J2411.1] Imitation of magic rejuvenation unsuccessful.

[D131] Transformation : man to horse.

[D700] Person disenchanted.

Bibliography :

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Estonian 12;

Livonian 4;

Lithuanian (*531) 76;

Swedish 24 (Uppsala 2, Coteborg 1, Lund 6, Liungman 1, misc. 14);

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Icelandic 8;

Scottish 1;

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