

{AT533} The Speaking Horsehead.

On the journey to her wedding the princess is forced by her waiting-maid to change clothes and places with her. The princess's horse is killed, but through the speaking horsehead which hangs on the wall, the betrayal is revealed. Cf. Types 403, 450] The princess is sometimes blinded and her eyes later bought from the person who has blinded her. She is recognized not only from the speaking horsehead but also by her golden and silver hair, and by a song sung in a stove.

Motifs:

[K2252] Treacherous maid-servant.

[K1911.1.1] False bride takes true bride's place on the way to the wedding.

[K1934] Impostor forces heroine to change places with her.

[K1933] Impostor forces oath of secrecy.

[B401] Helpful horse.

[B313] Helpful animal an enchanted person.

[B335] Helpful animal killed by hero's enemy.

[K1816.5] Disguise as goose-girl Turkey-girl).

[H151.12] Geese tell of beauty of their mistress and bring about recognition.

[D1011] Magic animal head.

[B133.3] Speaking horsehead. The helpful horse is killed. The head is preserved and placed on the wall. It speaks and reveals the treachery practiced against the heroine.

[S165] Mutilation: putting out eyes.

[E781.2] Eyes bought back and replaced.

[H71] Marks of royalty.

[F545.2.1] Gold star on forehead.

[F171.2] Gold (silver) hairs as sign of royalty.

[H12] Recognition by song.

[H13.2.7] Recognition by overheard conversation with stove.

[H13.1.2] Recognition by overheard conversation with dog.

Bibliography :

**Liungman SSF III 184ff.;

*BP II 273 (Grimm No. 89).

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Lithuanian 1;

Swedish 6 (Uppsala 1, Goteborg 1, Liungman 1, misc. 3);

Irish 2 ;

French 2;

Spanish 1;

Catalan: cf. Amades Nos. 27, 191;

Flemish, cf. 403A;

German: Ranke 5;

Italian (Pentamerone cf. IV No. 7, cf. Tuscan 403a, c, p, [895] a 4);

Hungarian 1;

Polish 6;

Russian: Afanasiev (533A) 5;

Turkish: Eberhard-Boratav No. 75, cf. No. 240 2;

India 6.

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Franco-American 17;

West Indies (Negro) 2.

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African 3.

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{AT533*} The Snake Helper.

A girl is kind to snake and receives gift of dropping gold from her fingers when she washes her hands. Her father tells the king, who demands to see -her. Her wicked godmother and daughter accompany her. En route they take her eyes out and throw her overboard. She is picked up by a kind fisherman.

The godmother substitutes the daughter as bride to the king. A fisherman cares for the girl and becomes rich with gold from her hands. The snake seizes the fisherman's boy and commands the fisherman to take the son's eyes and give them to the girl. The girl dresses in beautiful clothes and goes to king's court.

She is recognized by king when she washes her hands. He marries her and burns the old woman and her daughter. The snake is the girl's guardian angel and returns to Heaven (cf. Type 506). The fisherman's son recovers sight

Bibliography :

Spanish-American: Hansen (403**D) (Chile) 1, (Dominican Republic) 1 (Puerto Rico) 1.

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