

{AT554} The Grateful Animals.

A youth earns the thanks of several animals (ants, fish, etc.) and with their help wins the princess by performing three tasks imposed upon him (brings a ring from the bottom of the sea, etc.).

I. The Animals' Gratitude.

The hero,

(a) the youngest of three brothers,

(b) rescues from danger or starvation three animals (ants, ducks, bees, raven, fish, fox, etc.).

II. The Tasks. With their help

(a) he wins a beautiful bride and performs various tasks:

(b) sorting out scattered seeds or beads,

(c) bringing a ring or key from the bottom of the sea,

(d) bringing the water of life and of death (cf. Type 551),

(e) building a magic palace,

(f) choosing a princess from others identically clad, (cf. Type 313 II d), or

(g) hiding from the princess (cf. Type 329). Cf. Types 302, 316, 329, 531, 552, 553, 559. —

Adapted from BP.

Motifs:

I.

[L10] Victorious youngest son.

[Q2] Kind and unkind.

[B300] Grateful animals

[B391] Animal grateful for food.

[B360] Animals grateful for rescue from peril of death.

[B481.1] Helpful ant.

[B469.4] Helpful duck.

[B481.3] Helpful bee.

[B451.5] Helpful raven.

[B470] Helpful fish.

[B435.1] Helpful fox.

[B463.1] Helpful sea-bird.

II

[B582.2] Animals help hero win princess.

[H982] Animals help man perform task.

[B571] Animals perform tasks for man.

[H1091] Task: sorting a large amount of grain (beads, beans, peas) in one night.

[B548.2.1] Fish recovers ring from sea.

[B548.2.2] Fish recovers key from sea.

[H1132.1.1] Task: recovering lost ring from sea.

[H1132.1.2] Task : recovering lost key from sea.

[H1321.1] Quest for water of life.

[H1133.1] Task: building magic castle.

[H1131.1] Castle produced by magic.

[H324] Suitor test: choosing princess from others identically clad.

[H162] Recognition of disguised princess by bee lighting on her.

[H321] Suitor test: hiding from princess. She has magic sight.

Bibliography :

*BP I 134, II 19, cf. II 451 (Grimm Nos. 17, 62);

Coffin 2.

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Finnish 11;

Finnish-Swedish 1;

Estonian 60;

Livonian 6;

Lithuanian 48, (554 A*) 14;

Lappish 1;

Swedish 11 (Uppsala 2, Goteborg 2, Liungrnan 4, misc. 3);

Danish 15;

Norwegian 2;

Scottish 2;

Irish 55;

French 7;

Spanish 2;

Catalan: Amades Nos. 3, 149, 152, 194;

Flemish 10;

Walloon 1 (cf. 514A);

German 37;

Italian: D'Arconco Fiabe 24, (Tuscan 554 a, c, [878] , [889] , [916] , cf. [308 a] 7, Friuli 5, Sicilian 6, Gonzenbach Nos. 29, 83);

Hungarian 16;

Czech: Tille Soupis II (1) 317f., 374—387, II (2) 171 f f . FFC XXXIV 207—210, 345f. 16',

Slovenian 18;

Serbocroatian 5;

Polish 24;

Russian: Azadovsky Russkaya Skazka No. 5, Andrejev Ukraine 16, Afanasiev 24;

Greek 24, Loukatos No. 16;

Turkish: Eberhard-Boratav Nos. 61, 215 III, 253 III 3;

India 15;

Indonesian: DeVries No. 184.

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Franco-American 12;

Spanish-American: Hansen (Argentina) 1, (Puerto Rico) (554* *A, 554**B, 554**C) 3, (Cuba) 1;

West Indies (Negro) 7.

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{AT554*} A Youth Rescues Two Sea Birds [B360] .

They provide him with a knife [D1083] and a ring [D1076] . Wooing a bride.

Lappish 1.

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{AT554A*} King of Fishes Protects Fisher who puts him back in the water.

Calls fish by whistling. Performs king's tasks, etc. Cf. Type 303.

Bibliography :

French 1.

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{AT554B*} The Boy in the Eagle's Nest.

Boy is carried off by eagle and raised in nest with eaglets Cagle helps him woo princess and later rescues her from giant.

Bibliography :

Swedish: Liungrnan (GS 553) 1.

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{AT554C*} Dog Warns Master against Buying a Cow. Cow soon dies.

Bibliography :

Polish (666A) 1.

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