

555 The Fisherman and His Wife.

A poor old fisherman rescues a supernatural being (magic fish [B170], other animal, divine being, saint, ogre, man in form of animal) from distress (danger of death, imprisonment, transformation). Or the fisherman puts a fish back into the water [B375.1]. In return the magic being grants him (and his wife) that all his wishes will be fulfilled [D1761.0.1].

In the beginning they profit only moderately, but later the wife becomes excessively demanding (e.g. they wish to become noblemen, kings, and finally even God himself). The fish (spirit) takes back his gift and the couple is returned to their former poor condition or punished in addition [C773.1, J514, Q338, L420] (transformed to animals).

Combinations: 303,563, and 1960G.