

{AT555} The Fisher and his Wife.

The fish fulfills all the wishes of the wife of a poor fisher. r

#### I. The Wishes Obtained,

(a) A poor fisher catches a fish who is a transformed monster and puts him back in the water; in gratitude the fish grants all the wishes of the wife; — or

(b) a poor man goes to heaven on a beanstalk and secures in return for his prayers the granting of his wife's wishes.

#### II. The Wishes.

The wife's wishes become more and more extravagant (to be duke, king, pope, God) until she finally loses all.

Motifs:

I.

[B170] Transformation: man to fish.

[B375.1] Fish returned to water: grateful.

[D1761.0.1] Wishes granted without limit.

[F54.2] Plant grows to sky.

II.

[C773.1] Tabu: making unreasonable requests. Given power of fulfilling all wishes, person oversteps moderation and is punished.

[J514] One should not be too greedy.

[Q338] Immoderate request punished.

[L420] Overweening ambition punished.

Bibliography :

\*\*M. Rommel Von dem Fischer un syner Fru (diss. Karlsruhe, 1935);

\*M. de Meyer Vlaamsche Sprookjesthemas 103ff.;

\*BP I 138 (Grimm No. 19);

Coffin 2.

— Finnish 16;

Finnish-Swedish 5;

Estonian 16;

Livonian 1;

Lithuanian 17, (555A\*) 24, (\*774) 4;

Lappish 2;

Swedish 36 (Uppsala 5, Goteborg 16, Lund 1, Liungman 5, misc. 9);

Norwegian 2;

Danish 1;

Icelandic 1;

Irish 41, Beal XIV 273ff.;

French 32;

Catalan: Amades Nos. 3, 74, 166, 167, 777, cf. 168;

Dutch 4;

Flemish 18;

Walloon cf. 779 I, 779 II;

German 43;

Austrian: Flaiding No. 470;

Italian 2 (Tuscan [1354] a, cf. [1354] b 2;

Rumanian 4, (949B\*) 1;

Hungarian 2;

Czech: Tille Soupis II (2) 455 2;

Slovenian 6;

Polish 12;

Russian: Afanasiev 19;

Greek 1, Loukatos No. 14;

Turkish: Eberhard-Boratav No. 70, cf. 178;

Indonesian: DeVries No. 185.

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Franco-American 4;

Spanish-American: Hansen (Cuba) 1, (Puerto Rico) 6;

West Indies (Negro) 6.

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African 11.

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