

{AT590} The Prince and the Arm Bands.

The youth whose evil stepmother seeks his life finds two armbands: strong. Adventures. Two lions become his helpers. The stepmother has his eyes put out. He is cured and the stepmother punished. Cf. Type 315.

I. The Blue Band, (a) A boy traveling with his mother finds a blue belt (two armbands) which gives him supernatural strength.

II. The Treacherous Mother,

(a) They find lodgings with a giant who persuades the mother to marry him.

(b) They plot to kill the boy.

(c) The boy because of his strength defeats the giant. (Cf. Type 650).

(d) The mother feigns sickness and sends the boy on a quest for lion's milk; by his great strength he succeeds and later turns the lions on the giant,

(e) He is likewise sent for certain magic apples in the garden of the giant's brother; these will cause him to sleep so that the brothers may kill him; the lions protect him.

III. Rescue of the Princess.

On awakening he rescues a princess from the giants' castle, marries her and lives in the castle, until she leaves to go to her father, king of Arabia.

IV. Secret of Strength Discovered.

(a) On his return to his mother she gets from him the secret of his strength and steals the belt,

(b) The hero is blinded and set adrift in a boat.

V. Helpful Lions.

Helpful lions rescue him and restore his sight with water which they have seen animal use for that purpose.

IV. Denouement.

- (a) He recovers his belt and avenges himself,
- (b) He goes to Arabia for his wife and recovers her.

Motifs:

I.

[D840] Magic object found.

[D1335.5] Magic ring gives strength.

[D1335.4] Magic belt gives strength.

II.

[S12.1] Treacherous mother marries ogre and plots against son.

[F615] Strong man evades death. Vain attempts to kill him.

[H931] Tasks assigned in order to get rid of hero.

[H1211] Quests assigned in order to get rid of hero.

[H1212] Quests assigned because of feigned illness.

[H1361] Quest for lion's milk.

[F615.2.1] Strong man sent to milk lions: brings lions back with him.

[H1333.3.1.1] Quest for magic apple.

[D1364.4.1] Apple causes magic sleep.

[B315] Animal helpful after being conquered.

[E431.2] Helpful lion.

[B520] Animals save life.

[H1333.3.1] Quest for marvelous apple.

[H1333.3.1.3] Quest for apple of life.

III.

[R111.1.1] Rescue of princess from ogre.

[L161] Lowly hero marries princess.

[K975] Secret of strength treacherously discovered.

[S165] Mutilation: putting out eyes.

[D861] Magic object stolen.

[S141] Exposure in boat.

V.

[B512] Medicine shown by animal. It heals another animal with a medicine (herb, water, etc) and thus shows the man the remedy.

VI.

[D880] Recovery of magic object.

[Q261] Treachery punished.

[T96] Lovers reunited after many adventures.

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{AT590A} The Treacherous Wife. Cf. Types 315, 318.

I. An Enchanted Castle,

- (a) The hero receives three magical objects (a horse, a sword, a shirt)
- (b) for spending three nights in an enchanted castle or
- (c) through the gratuitous service of a sorcerer or
- (d) from an enchanted princess whom he has delivered.

II. The Treacherous Wife,

- (a) Thanks to the magical objects he helps the king in gaining a victory and as a reward he receives the hand of the king's daughter,
- (b) His wife coaxes out of him the secrets of the magical objects, takes them away, and orders her husband killed;
- (c) the horse carries back the body cut in pieces to the disenchanted castle,
- (d) or the hero asks that the cinders of his body be fired from a gun.
- (e) Resuscitated by the person who gave him the magic objects, he returns to his wife.

III. The Metamorphosis and the Vengeance.

- (a) Recognized and killed he changes in turn into the apple-tree, the bed, the duck;
- (b) as a duck he takes away the magical objects from the wife's paramour and avenges himself on the wife,
- (c) He marries the girl who has helped him in the metamorphosis by covering a part of the killed animal in the ground, by picking up the splinter of the felled tree, etc.

— Adapted from Krzyzanowski Polska Bajka Ludowa.

Motifs:

I.

[B184.1] Magic horse.

[D1080] Magic sword.

[D1056] Magic shirt.

[D1053] Magic cloak.

[D1361.14] Magic hat (shirt) renders invisible.

[D1174] Magic box.

[DM75] Magic object furnishes soldiers.

[H1411] Fear test: staying in frightful place.

[D812.5] Magic object received from genie.

[D817] Magic object received from grateful person.

[D700] Disenchantment.

II.

[D1400] Magic object conquers enemy.

[T68] Princess offered as prize.

[K2213] Treacherous wife.

[K975] Secret of strength treacherously discovered.

[D861.5] Magic object stolen by hero's wife.

[E30] Resuscitation by arrangement of members.

III.

[E610] Reincarnation as animal.

[E648] Reincarnation: man—object - man.

[D882] Magic object stolen back.

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Slovenian; Serbo-Croatian 1.

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{AT590*} The Magical Belt. The foolish youngest son finds a magical strength-giving belt.

Polish (675) 1.

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