

592 The Dance among Thorns.

A poor boy, driven from home by his evil stepmother [S322.4] (dismissed from service with a pittance [W154. 1]), gives all his money as alms to a beggar (supernatural being) [Q42.1] who in return grants the boy three wishes [D1761.0.2]: a never failing gun [D1653.1.7] (crossbow [D1653.1.4]), a fiddle (flute) that compels people to dance [D1415.2.5], another magic object or the magic power of having his wishes obeyed [D1761.0.1].

He shoots a bird (on a wager [N55, N55.1]), which falls into a thornbush. When a monk (Jew, the loser of the wager) tries to take the bird out, the boy's magic fiddle makes him dance in the thorns.

The boy is condemned and led to the gallows. He asks for permission to play his fiddle for the last time. The judge and whole assembly have to dance until the boy is released [K551.3.1].

Combinations: This type is usually combined with episodes of one or more other types, esp. 300, 330, 475, 569, 650A, 725, 1000, 1009, 1045, 1062, 1072, 1159, 1653, and 1910.

Remarks: Literary treatments in Europe since the 15th century (*The Frere and the Boy* and *Jak and his Step Dame*).