

612 The Three Snake-Leaves.

(Including the previous Types 465A * and 612A.)

A man promises his wife (bride) that if she dies before him he will be buried with her [M254, S123.2] (to keep watch at her grave).

She soon (after the wedding) dies. In the grave (at the grave-side) he sees a snake (weasel) revive another dead snake with a herb (three leaves, blade of grass) [B512, B491.1, D1500.1.4]. He revives his wife in the same manner [E165]. His wife then falls in love with another man (ship' s captain) [K2213.5] and, together with her new lover, she throws her husband into the sea [K2213.2, S142].

Or, she leaves her husband and by a ruse causes him to be condemned to death (as a thief). A faithful servant [P361] (friend, his mother) resuscitates him with the snake-leaves [E105]. The guilty pair is exposed and punished [Q261].

In some Indian variants, a god permits a man to resuscitate his wife by giving her half of his own lifespan. She falls in love with another man and tries to kill her husband. He is rescued and asks his wife to return the given years he gave her. She dies for a second time.

(Previously Type 612A.)

Remarks: Early literary sources, e.g. Apollodorus (III,3,1), Hyginus, *Fabulae* (136), *Pancatantra* (IV,5).