

{AT613} The Two Travelers (Truth and Falsehood).

One puts out the other's eyes. The blind man overhears secrets under a tree (gallows) and recovers his sight. The wicked companion has his eyes put out or is killed.

I. The Blinded Man.

(a) Two travelers (brothers) dispute as to whether truth or falsehood (or whose religion) is the better and call on others to act as judges; the loser is robbed and

(b) blinded; — or

(c) a hungry traveler can not receive bread from his evil companion unless he lets his eyes be put out; — or

(d) a traveler is robbed and blinded by his covetous companion.

II. The Secrets.

(a) The blinded man overhears a meeting of spirits or

(b) animals and learns valuable secrets.

III. Use of the Secrets.

(a) By means of the secrets he restores his sight,

(b) cures a sick king (or princess),

(c) opens a dried-up well,

(d) brings a withered fruit tree to bearing,

(e) unearths a treasure.

IV. The Companion Punished.

His victorious companion asks him how he acquired such wealth, attempts in the same way to deceive the spirits (animals), and is torn to pieces by them.

— Adapted from BP.

Motifs:

I.

[N61] Wager that falsehood is better than truth.

[K451.1] Unjust umpire decides a religious dispute.

[N92] Decision is left to first person to arrive.

[N2.3.3] Eyes wagered.

[S165] Mutilation: putting out eyes.

[M225] Eyes exchanged for food.

II.

[F1045] Night spent in tree. Hero goes into tree and spends the night.

[G661.1] Ogre's secret overheard from tree.

[N452] Secret remedy overheard in conversation of animals (witches).

[N451.1] Secrets of animals (demons) accidentally overheard from tree (bridge) hiding place.

[B253] Secrets discussed in animal meeting.

III.

[H963] Tasks performed by means of secrets overheard from tree.

[D1505.5] Magic water restores sight.

[D2064.1] Magic sickness because girl has thrown away her consecrated wafer.

[C940.1] Princess's secret sickness from breaking tabu.

[V34.2] Princess sick because toad has swallowed her consecrated wafer.

[H346] Princess given to man who can heal her. H1193] Task: causing dry spring to flow.

[F933.2] Dry spring restored by removal of certain stone.

[N452.1] Remedy for lack of water in certain place overheard from conversation of animals (demons).

[N452.1.1] Reason for withering of tree overheard in conversation of animals (demons).

[D1563.2.1] Magic chain renders orchard barren.

[D2101] Treasure magically discovered.

[H1181] Task: raising a buried treasure.

IV.

[N471] Foolish attempt of second man to overhear secrets (from animals, demons, etc.). He is punished.

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- Lithuanian 40;
- Lappish 1;
- Swedish 12 (Lppsala 7, Stockholm 7, Lund 7, misc. 9);
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- Danish 37, Grundtvig No. 70;
- Icelandic 5;
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- Basque 6;
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- Spanish 7;
- Catalan: Amades Nos. 101, 233, 2042, cf. 1414;
- Dutch 7;
- Flemish 10, Witteryck p. 276, 9;

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Spanish-American: Rael No. 262 (U.S.), Hansen (Dominican Republic) 2, (Puerto Rico) 6;

West Indies (Negro) 8.

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African 3.

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{AT613*} Secrets from the Tree.

A boy learns secrets in a tree [N452] and heals the sick princess. He is abandoned on an island and is taken to the king's court by a bird.

Cf. Types 301, 506 A.

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{AT613A*} Witches' Secrets.

The boy overhears the witches' conversation about magic objects, which he gets possession of [D838.9] and which help him win the hand of the princess.

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Lithuanian 20.

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{AT613B*} The Frog Princess.

The hero sets out to seek fortune. He overhears witches and learns valuable secrets: how to cure a sick princess with leaves of certain plant (cf. Type 432 HI); how to rescue a second princess who will be exposed to a serpent (with a sword hidden in a certain lake), and how to disenchant a girl bewitched in the form of a frog (killing a lion guarding her and taking water from pond in which frog lives (cf. Type 432 III]). The hero finds the roots of a plant and a magic sword. He cures the sick princess; kills the serpent with the sword, saving the second princess (cf. Type 300 II, iV); and after wounding the lion that guards the enchanted frog, gives it water from the pond, and it becomes a prince. The frog becomes a princess. The hero returns to first princess but she has died; he marries the frog princess.

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{AT613C*} Brother and Sister Heal the King.

A king with seven sons and seven daughters wants his sons to marry his daughters but the youngest son and daughter do not agree to this plan and leave. They sleep under a tree. The daughter has a dream about an ill king who could be healthy again if he takes a bath in the water coming from that tree. The daughter dresses as a doctor and goes to the ill king's palace with her brother and there they give the king a bath in the special water. The king becomes well again and rewards the brother and sister. They invite the king to a dinner. The daughter dresses like a woman and the king falls in love and marries her.

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