

621 See Type 857.

857 The Louse-Skin.

A louse that has been found on a princess (king) is fattened to an enormous size (becomes as big as a sheep, calf, ox) [B873.1, F983.2; cf. Type 1960M] and slaughtered. The king (princess, queen) displays the skin in public (has a dress, shoes, gloves made from it; has a chair or drum covered with it; has the louse's meat prepared) and announces, that whoever guesses the kind of animal the skin belongs to [H522.1.1] will receive half of the kingdom and also the princess in marriage [H511].

A (disguised) monster (real or false beggar, shepherd, animal, disguised robber, devil, cannibal ogre), who learns the secret by trickery [H573.3], guesses correctly and wins the princess. (Previously Type 621.)

In some variants the princess is rescued from the monster's power.

She escapes with a magic flight (with the assistance of supernatural or skillful helpers).

Combinations: This type is usually combined with episodes of one or more other types, esp. 653, 900, and also 311, 425, 513A, and 570.