

650A Strong John.

A young man, born of an animal (son of a bear) or from a giant (troll-woman, forged from iron by a smith) [B631, F611.1.1, F611.1.11-F611.1.15, T516] develops great strength (at the forge, in the forest, in war, by suckling for many years [F611.2.1, F611.2.3], by his great appetite, by tests of strength [F611.3.1], etc.).

Because of his enormous appetite he is sent away from home [F612.1, F614.1]. He works for a smith but (often) injures his master [K1411, K1421, K1422], who tries to get rid of him by setting trials of strength [H931, F514.2, F612.3.1, F614.6]. The strong man has to uproot trees, to catch wolves and bears (lions, etc.), to tame devils, etc. [F613-F613.4]. When he is sent to catch wild animals [F615.2.3], he harnesses them to a coach. When he is in a well and a mill stone (bell) is thrown on him, he wears it as collar or complains that chickens are scratching dirt onto him [F615.3.1, F615.3.1.1]. When he is sent to the devil's mill (hell), he drives the devil to his master's house [F80, F615.1, H1272]. When he goes to the king to be paid, the king shoots him (in vain) with cannons. The strong man accomplishes every task and overcomes all difficulties [F615] (kills his master and finally marries).

Combinations: This type is usually combined with episodes of one or more other types, esp. 300, 301, 1000, 1063, and also 300A, 302, 326, 592, 650B, 820, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1007, 1029, 1045, 1049, 1050, 1052, 1060, 1062, 1072, 1082, 1084, 1088, 1115, 1120, 1130, 1132, 1535, 1640, 1881, and 1910.

Remarks: Introduction to Type 301.