

{ AT671 } The Three Languages.

The youth learns the languages of dogs, birds, and frogs. Through this knowledge he makes his fortune. The father drives him out for his stupidity and orders him killed, but a compassionate servant substitutes an animal's heart and lets him escape. By means of his knowledge he cures a sick princess or discovers a treasure (cf. Type 613 III b, c) and marries a princess. Later a bird indicates his election as pope (king).

Often mixed with Type 517.

Motifs:

[D217] Animal language learned.

[B215.2] Dog language.

[B215.1] Bird language.

[B215.4] Frog language.

[L425] Dream (prophecy) of future greatness causes banishment (imprisonment).

[S11] Cruel father.

[M373] Expulsion to avoid fulfillment of prophecy.

[K512.2] Compassionate executioner: substituted heart.

[B580] Animal helps men to wealth and greatness.

[H346] Princess given to man who can heal her.

[D2101] Treasure magically discovered.

[H41.3] Test of king (pope): his candle lights itself.

[H171.2] Bird indicates election of king (pope).

[L161] Lowly hero marries princess.

Bibliography :

*BP I 322 (Grimm No. 33).

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Finnish-Swedish 1;

Lithuanian 4;

Danish 1;

Icelandic 1;

Irish 5, Beal XVII 23Iff., XVIII 59ff.;

French 14;

Flemish 3;

German 4;

Italian (Tuscan [335] 2);

Hungarian: Berze Nagy (762*) 2;

Czech: Tille Soupis I 30 7;

Slovenian 6;

Serbocroatian 3, Istrian No. 43;

Polish 2;

Russian: Afanasiev 7;

Greek 2.

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Franco- American 7.

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African 9.

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{AT671*} The Father Sends his Son into the Woods to Learn Animal Languages [B217] .

The son saves his father from the hostile army with whom a bridge collapses as they are crossing it.

Bibliography :

Livonian (671) 1.

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{AT671B*} The Host Puts the Frog into his Spring to spend the winter.

In gratitude [B165.2] the frog teaches him the language of animals, by means of which the host learns that his people are mistreating the animals.

Bibliography :

Livonian (670B) 2.

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{AT671C*} Servant Understanding Language of Birds learns that lost ring has been swallowed by a duck.

Bibliography :

Polish (668) 4.

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{AT671D*} To Die Next Day.

A farmer, who listens to the conversation of the beasts, finds that he is to die the next day. The prediction comes true.

Bibliography :

Polish (669) 18.

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{AT671E*} A Magic Boy.

A boy understands the language of the birds and can interpret dreams. A merchant takes him as if in payment for goods and orders him slaughtered. He orders the heart and liver of this boy served him for dinner in order that he may obtain his wisdom. The boy escapes. The merchant is called to the tsar to interpret a dream. He cannot do this. The boy appears, interprets the dream and exposes the merchant.

Bibliography :

Finnish 2;

Russian: Afanasiev (*671 I) 6.

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{AT671F*} The Language of Flowers.

Philosopher in contest with a physician plays dumb and obtains liquid which teaches him the language of flowers. With this knowledge he defeats the physician.

Bibliography :

Polish (661) 7.

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{AT671G*} Language of Oxen learned from fernseed in one's boots.

Bibliography :

Slovenian 1.

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