

### **673 The White Serpent's Flesh.**

(Including the previous Types 671C\* and 672D\*.) Contrary to a warning, a servant (cook) eats the flesh of a white serpent (from the king's pot), whereupon he understands the speech of animals (birds) [B217.1.1] (cf. Types 670, 672 [1]).

Or, a boy (driver) tastes the meat of a white snake that has been prepared by a healer (farmer), whereupon he understands the language of the grass and trees. (Previously Type 6720\*.)

When he is accused of stealing a ring this knowledge enables him to prove his innocence. By overhearing the conversation of ducks he learns that one of them has swallowed the queen's ring that fell from the window [N451]. (Previously Type 671C\*.)

He orders the duck to be slaughtered, the ring is found, and he is saved. (He learns that the ring is in the stomach of a grateful fish, who brings it back [cf. Type 736A].)

Combinations: 305, 554.

Remarks: This Type is usually found in combination with Type 554, which follows this introduction.