

## **707 - The Three Golden Children (previously The Three Golden Sons).**

Three girls boast that if they marry the king [N201] they will have triplets with golden hair [H71.2, H71.3], a chain around the neck [H71.7], and a star on the forehead [H71.1]. The king overhears the youngest and marries her [L162, N455.4].

When she gives birth to three marvelous children the elder sisters substitute animals (dogs) [K2115]. She is imprisoned (banished) [K2110.1, S410], her children are exposed [S142, S301] but are rescued by a miller [R131.2] (fisherman [R131.4]).

When they have grown up, the eldest son sets out to find his father [H1381.2.2.1], to seek a speaking bird [H1331.1.1], a singing tree [H1333.1.1], or the water of life [H1320, H1321.1, H1321.4, H1321.5]. He and his brother both fail and are transformed to marble columns [D231.2]. The sister, with the help of an old woman [N825. 3], succeeds in rescuing them [R158] and in bringing back the magic objects. The attention of the king is drawn to the children and the magic objects [H151.1]. The bird of truth reveals the whole story [B131.2, K1911.3.1]. The children and their mother are restored; the sisters are punished [Q261, S451].

Combinations: This type is usually combined with episodes of one or more other types, esp. 451, 706, 709, and also 303, 313, 400, 425, 510A, 550, 551, and 981.

Remarks: Documented in 1550 by Straparola, *Piacevoli notti* (IV,3) and in an Arab version in the 1001 Nights.