

## **710 Our Lady's Child.**

A father (unwittingly) promises his daughter to a supernatural figure [S211, S240, S242]. The Virgin Mary (Christ, saint) or a black woman (wicked stepmother, witch, sorcerer) takes the child into heaven (church, castle) or away in a black coach [V271]. The girl looks into a forbidden room [C611], where she sees God (Christ, Virgin Mary), and her hair and finger become golden [C911]. Or, she sees enchanted men (black virgins, skeletons). The girl obstinately denies what she has seen, is struck dumb [J213, Q451.3, C944] and banished into the wilderness. She marries a king [N711.1] and gives birth to three children.

The Virgin Mary (foster-mother, stepmother, mother-in-law) takes away her children [G261] and the queen is accused of infanticide [K2116.1.1].

When she is to be burned to death on the stake, the queen finally acknowledges her guilt [H13.2, D2025.1, H215] (by keeping silence she delivers the black woman). She is rescued from death and from her dumbness and her children are given back to her.

Combinations: 894.

Remarks: Spread throughout Europe and in parts of America. Important version see Basile, Pentamerone (1,8).