

{AT710} Our Lady's Child.

A girl comes into possession of her foster mother through an unwitting promise to her father. The girl falsely denies having looked into a forbidden room, and becomes dumb. She becomes the wife of the king - the Virgin Mary (a witch, the wicked stepmother) steals away the children. Finally the queen acknowledges her guilt.

Motifs:

[S240] Children unwittingly promised (sold).

[S242] Child unwittingly promised: »what you have at home.«

[V271] Virgin Mary as foster mother.

[C611] Forbidden chamber. Person allowed to enter all chambers of house except one.

[J213] Choice: loss of beauty or speech: latter chosen.

[Q451.3] Loss of speech as punishment.

[C944] Dumbness as punishment for breaking tabu.

[N711.1] King (prince) finds maiden in woods (tree) and marries her.

[G261] Witch steals children.

[K2116.1.1] Innocent woman accused of eating her new-born children.

[H13.2] Recognition by overheard conversation with objects.

[D2025.1] Speech magically recovered on execution stake.

[H215] Magic manifestation at execution proves innocence.

Bibliography :

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Finnish 5;

Finnish-Swedish 6;

Estonian 4;

Lithuanian 21;

Swedish 39 (Uppsala 9, Lund 1, Liungman 4, misc. 25); Norwegian 8, Solheim 1;

Danish 12, Grundtvig No. 45A;

Icelandic 1;

Irish 47;

French 4; Spanish 1;

Flemish 2;

German 21 (Archive 20, Meckl. No. 85);

Austrian: Haiding No. 7;

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