

## 720 The Juniper Tree

(previously My Mother Slew Me; My Father Ate Me).

A childless couple wishes for a child. A boy is born but his mother dies. The little boy is slain by his cruel stepmother who closes the lid of an apple chest on him [S121]. She cooks him and serves him to his father who eats him unwittingly [G61].

The boy's stepsister gathers up his bones and puts them under a juniper tree [E607.1]. A bird comes forth and sings about what happened. It brings presents to the father and the sister and drops a millstone to the stepmother, killing her [Q412]. The boy is resuscitated [E30, E610.1.1, E613.0.1]. Cf. Type 780.

Combinations: 780.

Remarks: Documented in the early 19th century. Single basic motifs are older ( classical origin).