

{AT720} My Mother Slew Me; My Father Ate Me.

The Juniper Tree. The boy's bones transformed into a bird. The bird lets the millstone fall on the mother. Becomes boy again.

#### I. The Murder.

(a) The little boy is slain by his cruel stepmother, who closes the lid of a chest on him. (b) She cooks him and serves him to his

father who eats him unwittingly.

#### II. The Transformation.

(a) His little stepsister gathers up his bones and puts them under the juniper tree,

(b) From the grave a bird comes forth.

#### III. The Revenge.

(a) The bird sings of his murder,

(b) He brings presents to his father and sister and the millstone for the mother.

#### IV. The Second Transformation. At her death he becomes a boy.

Motifs:

I.

[Z65.1] Red as blood, white as snow.

[S31] Cruel stepmother.

[S121] Murder by slamming down chest lid.

[G61] Relative's flesh eaten unwittingly.

[E30] Resuscitation by arrangement of members. Parts of a dismembered corpse are brought together and resuscitation follows.

[E607.1] Bones of dead collected and buried. Return in another form directly from grave.

[V63] Bones of dismembered person assembled and buried.

[E610.1.1] Reincarnation: boy to bird to boy. Boy returns as bird who later becomes the boy.

[E613.0.1] Reincarnation of murdered child as bird.

III.

[N271] Murder will out.

[Q211.4] Murder punished.

[Q412] Punishment: millstone dropped on guilty person.

IV.

[E610.1.1] Reincarnation: boy to bird to boy.

Bibliography :

\*BP 1412 (Grimm No. 47);

Coffin 10.

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Estonian 53;

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Swedish 15 (Uppsala 6, Goteborg 2, Lund 2, Liungman 1, misc. 4 );

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Danish 23, Grundtvig No. 41;

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French 62;

Spanish 1;

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Flemish 21, Witteryck p. 302: 24;

Walloon 7, (720B) 1;

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Austrian: Haiding p. 470;

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Hungarian 3;

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Slovenian 1;

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Polish 2;

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Greek 1;

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American Negro (Michigan): \*Dorson No. 162.

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