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THE ORAL TALES OF INDIA

by Stith Thompson  
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xxvi, 448

CENTRAL INDIA. 169 Chittanah; 170 Elwin, Dragonish, 171 *ibid.* Myths; 172 *ibid.* JAOS LXII No. 4, 339f; 173 Russell; 174 Sorabji; 175 Taylor; 176 Twente; 177 Venkataswami, *Ind. Antiq.* XXIV 244; 178 *ibid.* XXV 48ff., 109; 179 *ibid.* XXVI 54, 104, 133, 136, 195, 280; 180 *ibid.* XXVIII 193; 181 *ibid.* XXX 31, 110, 300; 182 *ibid.* XXXI 447; 183 *ibid.* XXXII 97ff.; 184 *ibid.* XXXIV 210ff.—Orissa: 185 Elwin, Tribal Myths; 186 Mitra, S., JBORS XIV 246-50; 187 Pedlow; 188 Roy, The Birhors.—Mahakoshal: 189 Elwin.—Chanda: 189a Wood.—Oraon: 190 Roy.—Maria: 191 Rao, R.; 192 Elwin, Murder and Suicide.—Gondi: 193 Trench.—Baiga: 194 Elwin.—S'ora or Savara: 195 Munro.—Chenchu: 196 Fürer-Haimendorf.—Kol: 197 Griffiths.—Kurukh: 198 Hahn.—Ho: 199 Deogam; 200 Haldar.—Kuwi-Kond: 201 Schulze.—Munda: 202 Mitra, K., Man in India XVIII 153-62.—Mandla: 203 Elwin, Man in India XXV 189-90.—Malto: 204 Archer, Man in India XXIV 210-23.—Santal: 205 Archer, Man in India XXIV 224-32; 206 Bodding JPAS Beng (n.s.) XXVII 241-263; 206a Bodding; 207 Bompas; 208 Campbell; 209 Cole; 210 Mitra, S., JBORS XIV 422-26; 211 *ibid.* XV 600-06; 212 *ibid.* XIII 145-57; 213 *ibid.* XII 140-46; 214 *ibid.* Man in India VIII 248-58; 215 *ibid.* VIII 209-18; 216 Mitra, K., JBORS XIV 139-43; 217 *ibid.* XII 560-84; 218 *ibid.* JPAS Beng. XXV 115-48; 219 Phillips.

MYSORE. 220 Frere, Deccan; 221 Lewin, Wild Races; 222 Kincaid, Nursery Tales; 223 Rao, Komati.

MADRAS. 224 Emeneau, JAOS LVIII 553-70; 225 *ibid.* LIX 503-05; 226 Natesa Sastri, Dravidian Nights; 227 *ibid.* Folklore; 228 *ibid.* Folk-Tales; 229 *ibid.* Tennalirama; 230 Robinson.—Tamil: 231 Kingscote; 232 Mitra, S. C., Man in India V 269-72.—Telugu: 233 Clough; 234 Emeneau, JAOS LXII 339-42; 235 Kuruthalvar; 236 Pantulu, Telugus; 237 *ibid.* *Ind. Antiq.* XXVI 25ff., 55, 109, 137, 167, 223, 252, 304; 238 *ibid.* XXXIV 87, 122; 239 Sivasankaram; 240 Venkataswami, *Ind. Antiq.* XXXIV 176.

NILGIRI. Toda: 241 Rivers.—Kota: 242 Emeneau, Texts; 243 *ibid.* *Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc.* LXXXIII 503-13; 244 *ibid.* JAOS LXIII 158-68.

CEYLON. Sinhalese: 245 Alwis; 246 Corea; 247 Goonetilleke, Jessie; 248 Goonetilleke, S. J.; 249 Goonetilleke, Wm.; 250 Neville; 251 Panabokke; 252 Parker, *Orientalist* II 26-27, 53-55; 253 *ibid.* Village Folk-Tales; 254 Pieris; 255 Pohath.—Tamil: 256 Mudaliyar; 257 Rosairo; 258 Raju, Tales.

NICOBAR IS. 259 Whitehead.

Works indicated with an asterisk are excerpted from P. Goswami's unpublished Ph.D. thesis, *Studies in the Folklore of Assam: the Ballads and the Märchen*. University of Gauhati, 1953. Works referred to without page numbers are arranged according to the present system and have the same motif numbers.

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Inpromising hero must live in hut.—CENT. INDIA. Kurukh: Hahn 67 No. 35.

The unpromising surpasses the promising.

Pupil surpasses master.—CEYLON. Raju Tales 25.

Pupil surpasses magician. (Cf. D615.2, D1711.0.1)—PUNJAB. Swynnerton Upper nos 239.—U.P. Mirzapur: NQ II No. 578; Ghazipur: NQ V No. 70.—ASSAM HILLS. shai: Parry 554.—CENT. INDIA. Santal: Mitra, S. Man in India IX 174f.—MA-AS. Natesa Sastri Dravidian Nights 17.—CEYLON. Parker III 405, 407.

Son surpasses father in skill.—MADRAS. Natesa Sastri Folk-Tales 370.

Poor girl chosen as wife in preference to rich.—ASSAM HILLS. Ao Naga: Mills

Success of the unpromising hero (heroine).—CENT. INDIA. Elwin (1949).

Lowly hero marries princess. (Cf. P41, T91.6.4, T121.)—INDO-TIBETAN. O'Connor: No. 12.—KASHMIR. Burushaski: Lorimer 119; Dhar 14; Steel Ind. Antiq. XI 287. HIMALAYA. Simla: Dracott 86.—GANGES VALLEY. Hindustani: Chill 12 No. 2. PUNJAB. King Folk-Lore XXXV 89.—U.P. Grierson Survey VI 115; Mirzapur: NQ Nos 450, 704; III Nos. 15, 413; IV Nos. 154, 252, 253, 270; V Nos. 331, 539, 543.—NGAL. Devi, S. 71, 78, 116; Banerji 139f.; Neogi 126.—ASSAM HILLS. Lushai: win 89; Meithei: Hodson 133.—INDO-BURMESE. Shan: St. John 308 No. 1.—BOM-NT. INDIA. Grierson Survey IX (2) 408; Venkataswami Ind. Antiq. XXV 51; Ho: (dar JBORS II 300; Elwin (1939) 488; Bastar: Elwin (1944) 16f., 453-5; Raipur: win (1944) 163f., 164-70, 171, 174; Mandla: Elwin (1944) 338; Santal: Phillips Ori-ent II 24f.—CEYLON. Raju Tales 114; Parker III 255, 405.

Marriage of poor boy and rich girl. (Cf. T121.3.1.)—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.

Fool wins beautiful woman as wife.—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.

Lowly heroine marries prince (king). (Cf. T121.8.)—KASHMIR. Dhar 30.—HIMA-YA. Lepcha: Stocks 447 No. 33.—U.P. Mirzapur: NQ III No. 373; IV No. 104.—NGAL. McCulloch 222f.—BOMBAY. Salsette: D'Penha Ind. Antiq. XX 145.—NT. INDIA. Elwin (1939) 176, 495; Korba Zamindari: Elwin (1944) 194.—MYSORE. ere Deccan 263.—CEYLON. Parker II 197; Raju Tales 34.

Lowly boy becomes king.—BENGAL. Mukharji 126.—CENT. INDIA. Bastar: El- (1944) 16f.

Lowly successful hero invites king and humbles him.—ASSAM HILLS. Rengma ga: Mills 277.

#### L200—L299. MODESTY BRINGS REWARD

Modest choice best.

Modest choice: three caskets type. (Cf. H511.1.)—BENGAL. Damant Ind. Antiq. III —CEYLON. Parker I 365f.

Choice among several gifts.—U.P. Oudh: Crooke Ind. Antiq. XXIII 80.—BOMBAY. Grierson Survey VII 90.—CENT. INDIA. Grierson Survey IX (2) 108.

Modest choice proves good (simple unique privilege). Girl offered reward of five lages chooses rather to be only one on certain night to be allowed to have light in house and to keep all animals who enter as hers. All kinds of livestock come.—NT. INDIA. Kurukh: Hahn 6f. No. 3.

Accustomed rags preferred to new garments. A Brahmin returns home to find a ace instead of a cottage; he recognizes his wife only after she throws off her jew- and ornaments to stand before him in her old rags.—GANGES VALLEY. Shyama-ankar 32.

Former poverty chosen over new riches. Weaver laments loss of water vessel. lered many new, but prefers old and modest life. (Cf. J300.)—U.P. Oudh: Crooke l. Antiq. XXXV 148 No. 12.

Modest request best.

Modest request: present from the journey.—U.P. Mirzapur: NQ II No. 633.

L222.2. Modest parting gift best—meat or bones. Bones thrown to pursuing dogs delay them and allow escape; not so with meat.—ASSAM HILLS. Rengma Naga: Mills 278.

L250. Modest business plans best.

L291. Prosperity forever or for a day? King asks prince whether he has secret of pros- perity forever or a day. Prince says "Forever" and is captured. Later his wife, asked same question, says "For a day" and is honored.—CENT. INDIA. Santal: Bompas 115 No. 28.

#### L300—L399. TRIUMPH OF THE WEAK

L310. Weak overcomes strong in conflict.

L311. Weak (small) hero overcomes large fighter.

L311.2. Poorly-armed hero overcomes well-armed by strategy.—CENT. INDIA. Santal: Bompas 285 No. 94.

L311.3. Poor prince overcomes king.—CEYLON. Parker II 51f.

L311.4. Little innocent girl is able to drive giant out of land. (Cf. G500.)—CEYLON. Ra-ju Tales 33.

L315. Small animal overcomes large.

L315.5. Lark causes elephant to fall over precipice.—CEYLON. Parker II 445ff.

L315.5.1. Elephant killed by mouse who runs up open end of trunk to head and there smears poison all over his brain.—INDO-TIBETAN. O'Connor No. 12.

L315.8. Fish pricks monster with fins and defeats him.—ASSAM VALLEY. Barooah 109 No. 14.

L315.10. Mice overcome camel.—U.P. Oudh: Crooke-Rouse 209 No. 27.

L315.11. Lizard defeats leopard.—CEYLON. Parker I 356.

L315.12. Rabbit slays rhinoceros.—U.P. Oudh: Crooke-Rouse 10 No. 2.

L315.13. Hedgehog defeats tiger by jumping into tiger's mouth and tormenting him.—CENT. INDIA. Kurukh: Hahn 50 No. 26.

L316. Offended rats gnaw girths of king's horses so that he is defeated in battle.—PUN- JAB. Swynnerton Upper Indus 270.

L318. Mice win war with woodcutters.—U.P. Oudh: Crooke-Rouse 209 No. 27.

L350. Mildness triumphs over violence.

L351.1. Contest between wind and sun. Rain also tries unsuccessfully like wind. (Cf. H1562.14.)—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.

L351.2. Sun cursed by man for its burning rays, wind for its hot breath, but moon is blessed for its soft, cool, and beautiful light.—MYSORE. Frere Deccan 195.

L363. Goldsmith gives money to one who addressed him as friend (the goldsmith had no friends because he has cheated everybody). (Cf. Q41.)—KASHMIR. Knowles Tales 52.

L390. Triumph of the weak—miscellaneous.

L392. Mouse stronger than wall, wind, mountain. (Cf. Z42.)—INDIA. Hertel 58.

L393. Only love to offer. Bride asks suitors what they have to offer her. Poor youth who has nothing but love to offer gets her. (Cf. H310.)—CEYLON. Raju Tales 21.

L394. Slow flying swan lasts longer than speedy crow in flying.—MADRAS. Telugu: Pan- tulu Ind. Antiq. 112 No. 21.

L395. Frog, tortoise, fish each tell of how long they expect to live. Frog alone does not expect to live to a hundred and ten years and alone escapes the fisherman's net.—CENT. INDIA. Chenchu: Fürer-Haimendorf 229.

#### L400—L499. PRIDE BROUGHT LOW

L410. Proud ruler (deity) humbled

- 2.1. Tortoise jumps from tree and breaks rhinoceros' back. (Cf. N331.2.1.)—ASSAM HILLS. Kachari: Anderson 32.
4. Man falls into well and accidentally kills cobra: rewarded.—INDO-BURMESE. Shan: Barnes-Griggs 25.
7. Destructive elephant eats poison man has prepared for himself. (Cf. K527.1.)—KASHMIR. Steel Ind. Antiq. XI 284.—PUNJAB. Steel-Temple 92.—ASSAM VALLEY. Barooah 112 No. 15.
0. Accidental acquisition of treasure or money. (Cf. K335.1.1.)
0. Accidental healing.—CENT. INDIA. Elwin (1949).
- 1.2. Frog removed from queen's nose by telling such interesting story that she gives quick breath and dislodges him.—CEYLON. Parker II 382ff.
- 2.1. Blind and deaf cure each other by blow on head.—MYSORE. Frere Deccan 48f.
3. Stinging of buttocks as cure for cough. Patient applies stinging medicine and makes himself sore. He represses his cough to keep from hurting his hindquarters and is finally cured.—CENT. INDIA. Santal: Bodding II 191ff. No. 50.
6. Man thinks to end life by drinking poisonous water, but it cures him.—KASHMIR. Jammu: Brown Tawi MS No. 9.
7. Thorn accidentally removed from cobra's throat by woman's finger. Grateful cobra. (Cf. B388.)—MYSORE. Frere Deccan 29.
8. King is accidentally cured by doctor's ruse and so excuses his faked incompetence—U.P. Lucknow: NQ V No. 422.
0. Life saved by accident.
6. Angry man strikes king just in time to save his life.—KASHMIR. Jammu: Brown Tawi MS No. 24.—HIMALAYA. Upreti Proverbs 96.—PUNJAB. Stokes 205.—BENGAL. McCulloch 20f.—MADRAS. Natesa Sastri Folk-Tales 271f.
- 9.1. Poisoned cakes intended for man by his wife eaten by thieves: booty left to man.—U.P. Mirzapur: NQ IV No. 55.
0. Lucky accidents—miscellaneous.
- 0.1. Lucky fool. (Cf. J1700.)—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.
- 0.2. Series of lucky successes.—U.P. Mirzapur: NQ IV No. 467.
1. Husband (lover) arrives home just as wife (mistress) is to marry another. (Cf. N730.)—KASHMIR. Knowles Proverbs 152; Burushaski: Lorimer 31.—GANGES VALLEY. Hindustani: Chilli 52 No. 5.—PUNJAB. King Folk-Lore XXXIII 123; XXXVII 83f.—U.P. Mirzapur: NQ V No. 206; Oudh: Crooke Ind. Antiq. XXI 188.—BENGAL. Chatterji 49; Damant Ind. Antiq. III 59.—ASSAM HILLS. Lushai: Houghton Ind. Antiq. XXII 80.—BALUCHISTAN. Dames Folk-Lore VIII 81.—SIND. Grierson Survey VIII (1) 494.—CENT. INDIA. Balaghat: Elwin (1944) 93; Mandla: Elwin (1944) 182; Bastar: Elwin (1944) 22f., 26, 454.—CEYLON. Parker I 77.
- 31.3. Incest accidentally averted.
- 31.3.1. Man about to consummate marriage with own mother; accidentally prevented.—INDIA. Thornhill 152.—MADRAS. Natesa Sastri Dravidian Nights 51.—CEYLON. Parker III 196.
- 31.4. Son returns on day his mother is to be married to another (though her husband still lives).—INDO-TIBETAN. O'Connor No. 21.
33. Stranger accidentally chosen king. Picked up by sacred elephant. (Cf. H171.1. P17.1, T63.)—KASHMIR. Knowles Tales 159, 170, 309.—HIMALAYA. Simla: Dracott 63.—U.P. Mirzapur: NQ II No. 334.—BENGAL. Damant Ind. Antiq. III 11; IV 261.—ASSAM VALLEY. Burhabhakat 158.—BALUCHISTAN. Balochi: Dames Folk-Lore IV 198.—BOMBAY. New Goa: Davidson-Phelps 23.—MYSORE. Kincaid Nursery Tales 29, 101f.—MADRAS. Natesa Sastri Folk-Tales 489, Dravidian Nights 127.—CEYLON. Parker I 65, 81; II 48f., 52f., 59, 155, 225, 329; III 381.
38. What is in the dish: "Poor Crab."—KASHMIR. Jammu: Brown Tawi MS No. 24.—U.P. NQ V No. 427.—ASSAM VALLEY. Bezbarua (1948) 70-78.—MADRAS.

Natesa Sastri Folk-Tales 484.

- N688.1. Doctor know-all accidentally saves raja. Roof caves in after he has dragged raja out with the intention of killing him and putting an end to all of his questions.—U.P. NQ V No. 427.
- N691. Objects accidentally picked up used to overawe ogres. (Cf. G570, K1710.)—ASSAM HILLS. Kachari: Anderson 46-8.
- N691.1. Numskull's outcry overawes tiger who is carrying him on his back. Tiger thinks that words are the name of the "demon" riding him. (Cf. N392.)—CENT. INDIA. Santal: Campbell 46.
- N691.1.2. Stupid man grabs tiger in the dark, ties it up, and saddles it, believing it to be a horse. It happens to be the tiger for whose capture a reward has been offered.—MADRAS. Emeneau JAOS LVIII 560-66 No. 4.
- N696. Fugitive in tree urinates from fright; pursuers think it rain and leave. (Cf. K335.1.1, N331.2.1.)—ASSAM HILLS. Rengma Naga: Mills 250f.
- N696.1. Man falls out of tree and frightens tiger away.—PUNJAB. Stokes 38.
- N696.2. Grinding stones carried by men seeking refuge in tree-top fall, killing their enemies below. (Cf. K335.1.1.)—HIMALAYA. Lepcha: Stocks 438 No. 29.
- N698. Hawk carries off necklace from bathing queen and drops it by lucky girl, who gets reward. (Cf. B522.2, N352.)—CENT. INDIA. Kurukh: Hahn 6 No. 3.
- N699.5. Boy while cutting trees comes to one which happens to be bound up with the life of an ogre. Ogre bribes him with large fortune not to cut tree. (Cf. E711.2.)—CENT. INDIA. Mandla: Elwin (1944) 252.
- N699.6. Overheard wish is realized. (Cf. N455.4.)—U.P. NQ V No. 399; Mirzapur: NQ II No. 574.—MADRAS. Benares: NQ II No. 306.

## N700—N799. ACCIDENTAL ENCOUNTERS

- N710. Accidental meeting of hero and heroine.
- N711. King (prince) accidentally finds maiden and marries her. (Cf. N455.4, T91.6.2.)—PUNJAB. Steel Punjab 178f.—BOMBAY. Salsette: D'Penha Ind. Antiq. XXII 311.—MYSORE. Frere Deccan 25f., 33f., 118.
- N711.1. King (prince) finds maiden in woods (tree) and marries her. (Cf. T91.6.3.1.)—INDIA. Venkataswami 5, 98, 166; Knight 124, 136.—KASHMIR. Jammu: Brown Tawi MS No. 75; Steel Ind. Antiq. XI 230 No. 1; Knowles Tales 30.—HIMALAYA. Simla: Dracott 163.—PUNJAB. Swynnerton Upper Indus 339; Steel Punjab 285f.; Steel-Temple 189, 300.—U.P. Mirzapur: NQ III No. 373.—BENGAL. Bradley-Birt 113 No. 3; 181; Neogi 164f.—CENT. INDIA. Kurukh: Hahn 58 No. 30; Venkataswami Ind. Antiq. XXV 49; Bastar: Elwin (1944) 387; Mandla: Elwin (1944) 203, 209; Elwin (1949), (1953).—MYSORE. Frere Deccan 176.—CEYLON. Parker II 377.
- N711.2. Hero finds maiden sleeping in (magic) castle.—U.P. NQ IV No. 106; Mirzapur: NQ IV No. 21.
- N711.3. Hero finds maiden in (magic) garden.—CENT. INDIA. Elwin (1949).
- N711.4.1. Lovers meet at temple.—U.P. Mirzapur: NQ II No. 741.—CENT. INDIA. Chanda: Wood 67.
- N711.5. Prince (king) finds girl floating on water in basket: marries her.—CEYLON. Tamil: Mudaliyār 146.
- N711.6. Prince sees heroine at ball and is enamored.—BOMBAY. New Goa: Davidson-Phelps 25.
- N712. Prince first sees heroine as she comes forth from her hiding-box. She has concealed herself until the favorable moment. (Cf. N831.1.)—CENT. INDIA. Twente 26.
- N712.1. Princess concealed in trunk and sent to beggar, who marries her.—CEYLON. Sinhalese: Alwis 232.
- N713.1. Princess catches raja's golden bird; he trails it to her palace.—CENT. INDIA. Mandla: Elwin (1944) 74.

Abduction by animal. (Cf. C986, F420.5.2.1.1.)

1. Rhinoceros carries off man.—CENT. INDIA. Santal: Bompas 98 No. 23.  
 1.1. Tiger abducts man.—ASSAM HILLS. Sema Naga: Hutton 360f. No. 22.  
 1.2. Abduction of woman by tiger.—HIMALAYA. Simla: Dracott 76.—CENT. INDIA. Twente 20.—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.

1.2.1. Tigers abduct princess to be wife of their human ward.—CENT. INDIA. Santal: Bompas 473 No. 16; Pandaria Zamindari: Elwin (1944) 425.

1. Girl abducted by bear and made his wife.—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.

1.1. Girl carried off by monkeys.—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.

1. Abduction by rabbit.—HIMALAYA. Simla: Dracott 60.

1. Abduction by leopard.—CEYLON. Parker II 389.

0. Abduction by elephant.—MADRAS. Natesa Sastri Dravidian Nights 210.

1. Abduction by fox.—CENT. INDIA. Elwin (1939) 485-7.

1.1. Abduction by goddess' cat.—BENGAL. Neogi 148.

Person carried off by bird.—ASSAM VALLEY. Barooah 118 No. 16.—ASSAM VALLEY. Kuki: Shaw 117.—MYSORE. Frere Deccan 113.

1. Abduction by snake.—KASHMIR. Jammu: Brown Tawi MS No. 68.—CENT. INDIA. Mandla: Elwin (1944) 447.—CEYLON. Parker I 59.

1.1. Demigod abducts person.—ASSAM HILLS. Angami Naga: Howell 87.—CENT. INDIA. Elwin (1939) 366.—MADRAS. Thurston II 34, 42.

Abduction by transformed person.

Abduction by tiger-man.—ASSAM HILLS. Lushai: Houghton Ind. Antiq. XXII 78.

Abduction by elephant-man.—CENT. INDIA. Mandla: Elwin (1944) 76.

Abductor in disguise.—CENT. INDIA. Taylor Folk-Lore VI 86.

Prince disguised as holy man abducts princess.—PUNJAB. Swynnerton Upper Indus 174.

Princely suitor, in minstrel disguise, carries princess away.—CENT. INDIA. Chatterji 16f.

Abduction by magician.—BENGAL. Devi, S. 121.

Abduction by old woman.—BENGAL. Chatterji 43.

Places and conditions of captivity.

Captivity in castle.—KASHMIR. Burushaski: Lorimer 10ff.—CEYLON. Parker II 7.

Captivity in subterranean palace.—BOMBAY. Salsette: D'Penha Ind. Antiq. XVII 1.

Captivity in tower.—PUNJAB. Steel-Temple 64.—MYSORE. Frere Deccan 37.

1. Captivity in well.—CENT. INDIA. Santal: Bompas 45 No. 10.

Captivity on island.—HIMALAYA. Simla: Dracott 227.—PUNJAB. Temple Legends II 88.

Captivity in mound (cave, hollow hill). (Cf. G334.1, R112.)—CENT. INDIA. Chenchu: Fürer-Haimendorf 221.—CEYLON. Parker I 59; II 389; III 108, 266, 311.

1. Bear keeps human wife captive in cave with stone at entrance.—BENGAL. McCulloch 273f.—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.

Captivity under water. (Cf. F420.5.2.1.1, F420.5.2.2.)—KASHMIR. Jammu: Brown Tawi MS No. 68.—CENT. INDIA. Mandla: Elwin (1944) 447.

Captivity in lower world. (Cf. F80, R111.2.1.)—ASSAM HILLS. Lushai: Houghton Ind. Antiq. XXII 79.

Captivity in tree.—MYSORE. Frere Deccan 113.

R70. Behavior of captives.

R82. Captive sends secret message outside (in orange or on handkerchief).—KASHMIR. Jammu: Brown Tawi MS No. 44.—BALUCHISTAN. Balochi: Dames Folk-Lore IV 204.—CEYLON. Parker I 95; Raju Tales 184.

R83. Baker, disguised as old woman, substitutes for princess in cell when he brings bread to her.—KASHMIR. Dhar 61.

#### R100—R199. RESCUES

R100. Rescues.—CENT. INDIA. Elwin (1949); (1953).

R110. Rescue of captive.

R110.1. Deliverance and restitution of goods of man thrown into jail by goddess.—BENGAL. Neogi 61.

R111. Rescue of captive maiden.—KASHMIR. Dhar 17f.—U.P. NQ I No. 762.—BENGAL. Devi, S. 82f.—CENT. INDIA. Chenchu: Fürer-Haimendorf 222.

R111.0.1. All man's property offered to rescuer of stolen daughter.—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.

R111.1. Princess rescued from captor.—HIMALAYA. Simla: Dracott 102.—CENT. INDIA. Elwin (1939); Bastar: Elwin (1944) 25, 31, 341.

R111.1.1. Rescue of princess from ogre.—ASSAM HILLS. Lushai: Lewin 85.—CENT. INDIA. Chenchu: Fürer-Haimendorf 221.—CEYLON. Parker II 357.

R111.1.2. Princess rescued from robbers.—KASHMIR. Jammu: Brown Tawi MS No. 79.—CENT. INDIA. Grierson Survey IX (2) 435.

R111.1.3. Rescue of princess (maiden) from dragon.—KASHMIR. Jammu: Brown Tawi MS No. 73.—CEYLON. Parker I 143.

R111.1.4. Rescue of princess (maiden) from giant.—GANGES VALLEY. Hindustani: Chilli 45 No. 5.

R111.1.6. Princess ransomed from slavery.—CEYLON. Parker II 131.

R111.1.11. Maiden rescued from rakshasa.—INDIA. Venkataswami 162.—CEYLON. Parker I 303; II 242, 256, 259, 260.

R111.1.12. Princess rescued from captivity of elephant.—MADRAS. Natesa Sastri Dravidian Nights 212.

R111.1.13.1. Captive woman rescued from bear's cave.—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.

R111.2. Princess rescued from place of captivity.—SIND. Kincaid Folk-Tales 33.

R111.2.1. Princess(es) rescued from lower world. (Cf. F80, R47.)—MADRAS. Natesa Sastri Dravidian Nights 220.

R111.2.1.1. Stolen woman rescued from lower world.—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.

R111.3.1. Girl rescued by traveling through air.—PUNJAB. Swynnerton Upper Indus 11.—BENGAL. Bradley-Birt 122-24.—CEYLON. Parker II 20.

R111.7. Joint rescuers quarrel over rescued princess.—CEYLON. Parker I 379; II 39.

R111.8. Rescued person stolen from rescuer.

R111.8.1. Rescued woman stolen from rescuer by demon.—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.

R111.8.2. Rescued woman stolen from rescuer by other men.—NILGIRI. Kota: Emeneau.

R112. Magic rescue of prisoner from mound. (Cf. R45.)—ASSAM HILLS. Lushai: Lewin 87f.

R115.1. Husband transformed into mouse so he can enter cave-prison of his wife.—CENT. INDIA. Chenchu: Fürer-Haimendorf 221.

R116. Rescue from robbers' den.—KASHMIR. Knowles Tales 216.—CEYLON. Parker III 312, 379.

R121. Means of rescue from prison.