Lutz Rohrich: Folktales and Reality, 1956

NOTE:

„KHM“ refers to Grimm collection (*Kinder und Hausmärchen*);

„Type“ refers to Aarne-Thompson Tale Type Index

Chapter „Magic“

Various **ancients concepts of magic** globally distributed in fairytales:

* „similia similibus“/ **like produces like** *(The Magic Flight* + Russian fairytale example?)
* „pars pro toto“/**part represents the whole** (motif of animal´s help, motif of hair and its power)
* **contagious magic** (motif of hair, saliva, blood, bones (Juniper Tree – bones; *The Two Brothers* – motif of the knife +  **Czech fairytale example?...)**
* idea of **external soul** (example…)
* magic **formulas** – power of a spoken word, motif of naming a person (an example?....)
* other magic (power of music/sounds, magic leading to sleep, belief about the „evil eye“
* remnants of **hunting magic** (*The Two Brothers* example)
* **fertility magic** (example…)

Chapter: „Manners and Customs“

1.**Engagement and marriage** motifs in fairy tales

Practical reasons rather than love story

**Ancient ways of contracting a marriage:**

* promising a child in marriage (any example?...)
* **marriage as reward** **(Czech fairytale examples?...)**

Ancient methods of realization of a marriage (buying, stealing, abduction)

Marriage as **initiation proces** (attainment of maturity of both men and women – *Iron Hans,* *Rapunzel* + **Czech fairytale example?...)**

**Testing the grooms**: difficult tasks (examples + **Czech fairytale example?...**), riddlings, hiding contests

**2. Ancient** **wedding customs** to deceive the demonic powers and protect the bride and groom (explain why?...)

- ritual refusal

- **picking out the correct bride (Czech fairytale example?...)**

- substitute bride/later bridesmaids (explain why?) – fairytale motif of false bride

- ritual abstinence (symbolic of a sword in bed in *The Two Brothers*) + other taboos

- purifying the bride, ritual bath - magic of a kiss

**3. Birth of the fairytale hero**

- motif complex of **hero being promised** to a demonic figure at birth (**Grimm´s fairytales *Rapunzel, Rumpelstiltskin* + Czech fairytale example?...**),diferrent reasons for that (knowingly, unknowingly…)

- motif of substitute sacrifice (Czech fairytale example?...)

- belief in the child-stealing demon

- motif of **„untouchable“ child** (no razor, no washing…) - *Old Testament references* + *Rapunzel* + **Czech fairytale example** again?...)

Vladimir Propp: Theory and History of Folklore, 1946

Chapter „Historical Roots of the Wondertale“

1. Wondertale as a typical type of folktale (structure resembling a heroic myth)
2. Social institutions of the past recognizable in wondertale – interpretation of the **motif of hero going in quest for a bride and occupying a throne**
3. **Rituals reflected in wondertales – 3 types of relation between the wondertale and ritual:**
4. direct correlation (example: bones are burried)
5. reinterpretation of ritual in the wondertale (example: sewing dead corpses into animal skins/hero sews himself to get somewhere else)
6. **inversion of the ritual** – a motif of the maiden rescued from the monster by the hero = real historical phenomenon (ritual sacrifices of virgins) reinterpeted in folklore (hero is rescuing the maiden)
7. Wondertale and myth – the two genres differ in their function but are connected as for their themes
8. Wondertale and „primitive thought“ – **what we find in fairytales doesn´t have to be the reality of actual life, but just the reality of actual thought**
9. Which kind of worldview (which, in this case, means ideology) is this study influenced by? (should be discovered by the presenters)

INSTRUCTIONS TO PRESENTERS (= How to speak abou this study – because NOT everything is important here):

1. As four the first four subchapters, just notice/explain **briefly** what is the wondertale and why it should be defined and studied separately.

**THE FOLLOWING TWO ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS OF THE STUDY (in bold):**

1. *As for Wondertale and the social institutions of the past –* **notice + mention how the author interprets the motif of hero going in quest for a bride and occupying a throne**
2. As for *The* *Wondertale and Ritual* and the following 3 subchapters **– explain the three types of relation/connection between the wondertale and ritual, give examples and explain them**
3. As for *TheWondertale and Myth* – just notice/mention **briefly** how both the genres differ in their function but are connected as for their themes
4. As for *The Wondertale and Primitive Thought* – just explain **briefly** the main idea (see a bove)
5. As for *Method and material*, *The Wondertale and Later formations, Prospects* – just find/mention the most interesting idea(s) (up to you) – **very briefly**

Question to this study:

Can you guess which kind of worldview (which, in this case, means ideology) is this study influenced by? Where (in the study) can you see it?