

Sogbo

Comparison: Apulian folk tale

Once upon a time there were two brothers of whom the older was clever and intelligent, the younger idiot. While they were going along country roads (to find food), saw a band of brigands from the opposite direction. Full of fear the brothers entered into a wood and hide on a tree. By chance the brigands, entering into wood, stopped under the same plaint. They were seated counting robbed money, and the stupid felt to urinate and speaking lowly advised his brother, who demanded prudence. Band's boss, seeing some drops which fell from the tree, said: "Stop, bird, or I fire to you". Hearing so violent words, the two brothers became full of fear. But, just a few later, the stupid felt something bigger to do. His brother implored him to resist. But he did, although it, covering of dirty physiological thing the brigands. For this reason they escaped, leaving what they robbed. When the brothers were sure, went to wood, with the bag full of money on their shoulders. Walking, they saw a home seated far from other buildings. It was the house of the brigands, which was open. They entered, finding a large table rich of food, prepared for 13 persons. They ate a bit from every dish. So it seemed still perfect. Then they continue their trip. It was summer and the sun was burning. The older brother walked fast, the stupid, with the heavy bag, slowly. Full of fear, looking his shadow he thought a brigand was following him. He threw a coin on the ground, and a coin again. Then he asked to his brother help. The intelligent brother saw it was only a shadow and told to be quiet. The criminal band, in the meantime, divided itself to find the responsables. One of them saw a coin, thrown on the ground by the idiot, and thought brothers were on that direction. He finally found the stupid and tried to demand something. But the idiot brother put in his mouth a fork with a piece of breath. He was so violent to damage the unlucky brigand, who, full of blood, returned with the band, telling what happened. The chief of the brigands thought to punish by himself the brothers. He had some great knifes, to kill them. In the meantime the clever brother met a grinder and bought his trolley. When he saw the boss, told him he was ready to grind the knifes. The chief didn't know he was one of the brothers, and asked to him to grind the knifes. But the intelligent gave him wood knifes. The brigand understood later, and was furious. When he returned with his band, they asked him about his mission against the brothers. He at moment didn't know, he said. But he saw the false knifes. He came back to the previous place and found a different

grinder, who was killed by the chief. The brigand believed he was the previous grinder. Thinking to be satisfied with his revenge, he decided to go away. The two brothers went home, giving the money to their mother. And they lived with happiness for a long time.

Analysis

Both the fairy tales tell about two brothers and their mother. In the Italian fairy tale the mother is natural, in the African one the Earth, the Creator, a divinity. Both finish seeing the brothers ready to live the life. In both tales there's a clever brother and a stupid brother. The difference is structural and in the African fairy tale the brothers have strong discussions which then finish, while in the Italian one they are always together.