

Ammazzacento (The Murderer of 100)

Once upon a time there was a lazy and feeble young man who lived with his widowed mother.

The mother couldn't eat because they were poor, they couldn't buy food and the son didn't want to work.

One day the mother said to Giovanni, her son: "Listen, you don't want to work? Then go into the kitchen, there is a little ricotta should you wish to eat it, but if you don't work, you'll eat nothing more".

The son, starving, went into the kitchen but the ricotta was covered in flies, he administered a slap and the ricotta splattered all over. Then he lifted his hand and counted how many flies he'd killed; there were 100, so he baptised himself Ammazzacento - The Murderer of 100.

He travelled around seeking work but, frightened by his name, people said that there wasn't any.

One day, starving, he came upon a house with an open door; he entered, he called, but there was no one there. There were however four plates on the table and he, tired, fell asleep.

When he woke up he saw four men who called to him "Who are you?" and he replied:

"My name is Ammazzacento and who are you?"

"We are the owners of the house, what are you doing here?"

"I am hungry, give me something to eat".

After he had eaten, he fell asleep and in a dream heard "Throw what?". Believing that they were throwing food to him, he responded: "Go on, throw it...". The exchange continued:

"Throw what?"

"Just throw it over..."

"Throw what?"

"Just throw it over..."

When he awoke there were four large cats in the room instead of the four men who had spoken to him earlier: "Come and play cards" they commanded.

They played and the cats won, but he said to them: "Cut your nails because you, with your long nails, cheat!"

He took a hatchet and instead of cutting their nails, he cut off their hands. So he arrived home filthy rich: the village had loaded him up with gifts because he had saved them from a witch's spell, and mother and son were able to eat and lived happily ever after.

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