

## THE MAGIC ITEM PRESENTED BY FAIRIES IN ENGLISH FAIRY TALES



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### Abstract:

The involvement of magic objects in fairy tales plays an important role in determining the nature of fairy tales. The article discusses the image of magic wand in English folk tales and its specific features.

### Key words:

Folklore, fairy tales, magic items, magic wand, religious legends, fairy, witch, transformation, fairy tale hero.

Fairy tales form a special kind of folk tales. In particular, the involvement of magical objects plays an important role in determining the nature of such tales.

Examples of magical objects include a magic ring, a tablecloth, a pot, a hammer, a flying carpet, a hat or cloak that makes you invisible, and an apple, that can rejuvenate or heal or even kill you, a magic sword, a magic wand, etc.. A magic wand is a magical object found mainly in Western fairy tales, especially in English folk tales, and we do not find such an image in Uzbek folklore.

According to folklorists Ernest and Johanna Leiner, the motif for the use of magic wands traces back to religious legends in the Bible.

It is said that, in the past, professional magicians used the rod in the symbol of Aaron's staff as a symbol of magical power. This rod was believed to help people by turning it into a magic wand at the right time and in the right conditions.

Legends about Moses say that it was the basis of a magic wand with miraculous powers. It is narrated that Moses divided the Red Sea in two and crossed it easily, rescuing his people from the invading enemy and drawing water from the rock.

It is said that, Aaron also had a magic wand, which turned into a snake when he threw it, and that snake swallowed other snakes gathered around him. It is said that this mighty rod, which later caused the plagues in Egypt, was kept safe in the Ark of the Covenant.

The image of the magic wand is also found in the Iliad and the Odyssey by the ancient Greek writer Homer. In doing so, Homer used the word "rabdos," meaning a rod, but the word did not refer to a stick that was understood in a smaller size, but to a stick of a larger and thicker size.

Homer writes, that magic wands were used by three gods: Hermes, Athena, and Circe. For example, in the *Iliad*, Hermes uses a magic wand to put people to sleep or wake them up. In *The Odyssey*, Athena uses a magic wand to age Odysseus and then rejuvenate him. Circe uses a magic wand to turn the Odyssey's people into pigs. Apparently, Homer used the image of a magic wand to exaggerate the power of the gods. In this case, the magic wand is shown as a magical object with "transformation" properties.

In English fairy tales the image of the magic wand is interpreted in the function of helping the protagonist in various situations, leading him to his goals, dreams and aspirations. For example, in the English fairy tale "Red Ettin" there is an image of a magic wand. It is narrated that the main hero of the fairy tale meets an old woman during his journey and the woman asks him to give her some bread. The young man agrees, and the woman presents him with a magic wand for his favour.

This old woman is actually a good fairy and gives the guy the necessary advice about what will happen to him in the future and what to do. The fairy disappears telling that, if he uses the magic wand correctly, it can serve him for a long time. When the young man arrives at the place where the horrible animals live, he defeats them with the help of a magic wand and continues on his way.

In the fairy tale *Kate Crackernuts*, Kate's sister's head turns into a sheep's head due to enchantment. One day, when Kate encounters a fairy child playing with his magic wand and finds out that the wand may help her sister. After that, Kate distracts the fairy child with a nut game, takes the magic wand he dropped, and hides it in her apron. When she gets home, she hits her sister Anna three times with a wand and the magic loses its power. With that, her sister returns to her normal state.

In the fairy tale "Three heads of the well", the princess, tired of the oppression of her stepmother, goes on a journey to seek her fortune. On the way, he meets an old man and the old man asks her for food. The girl gives him food. The old man thanks the girl and gives a magic wand to her. The old magician tells the girl that a thick thorny hedge will appear in front of her and if she hits it three times with this magic wand, it will open and she will continue on her way. As mentioned, the girl encounters a large thorny hedge and crosses it with the help of a magic wand.

In "Saint George of Merry England", a magic wand is given by the witch as a bribe to the protagonist George to stay with her. The protagonist of the fairy tale gains the power of the enchanted territory with the help of this magic wand. When he hits a powerful rock with a stick, the rock opens up and the bodies of all the newborn babies killed by the witch are seen inside. When George learns that the witch is a murderer, he uses the power of his wand to lead her there. He then locks her in a rock, closes her forever by hitting her with a magic wand, and leaves the witch there forever.

Magic wands commonly feature in works of fantasy fiction as spell-casting tools. Few other common denominators exist, so the capabilities of wands vary wildly. In Joanne K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, the first book of which was published in 1997, personal wands are common, as necessary tools to channel out each character's magic, and they are used as weapons in magical duels, and it is the wand that chooses its owner.

In fairy tales, a magic wand is mainly presented to the hero by a magician old man or fairy, serving to make a hard work easy, easily overcome various obstacles, and solve problems quickly.

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