



Abusive fathers and royal incest in *Lo Cunto de li cunti* by Giambattista Basile

A journey between a marvellous tale and hagiography

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Abstract: This article investigates a social theme – incest in the nuclear family – at the crossroads between the religious and the literary history, starting from tales of Giambattista Basile and the devotion to Saint Dymphne de Geel. In both cases, a narrative is developed around the abuse. Moreover, the fact that these stories are set in the space of the court makes it possible to reconnect with a strong archetypal dimension, as well as to question the tyrannical abuses of royal power.

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