

## 79. The Brave Bridegroom

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Once there was a youth who had a real small one, just a speck, but as he was a well-to-do youth they brought him a wife. She was a mischievous girl. They made a wedding, they did this and that, and went about the business, and that night they sent them off to sleep. The mother-in-law ran up and down, she was overjoyed. But he, he couldn't do anything with his bride; she took a shoe, and bam on the head!

"If you weren't capable, why did you get married?"

And he began to cry:

"Oh, ah, oh mother, there's blood, there's blood!"

And the mother from down below:

"Oh son, mother's darling, that's perfectly all right! Because of the blood, mother ~~can~~ gogoes around the village ~~tomorrow and kiss~~ kissing all the other mother women's husbands. ~~It's o.k.~~ OK!"

They came down, and the son's head is cut up. And she says:

"Hey daughter-in-law, what's this?"

"What's that? If you didn't have a capable man for marriage, why did you marry him off?"

Tomorrow you'll be expecting everything from me, but he didn't come to me, and that's why I bopped him on the head!"

\*There is a custom in the Kumanovo region: in the morning, the day after the "virgin" wedding, the mother of the groom goes around the village and kisses everyone she meets out of joy for the fact that her daughter-in-law was a virgin.