

## II. Kleine Beiträge

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### A Chilean Ass-Tale\*

#### I

The following tale *El hombre que quiso volar*<sup>1</sup>, was recorded in 1911 at Santiago:

#### *The Man Who Wanted to Fly*

A married woman (señora) lived in the country with her two daughters, and once a man arrived from a nearby small-holding (chacra) to ask for lodging and they accommodated him.

It was about midnight when the man awoke, and hearing a noise in the nearby room, he got up and just as he was, barefooted and in his underwear, began to peep through the lock of the door which connected his room with that of the lady of the house, and he saw the woman and one of her daughters who were smearing all over their completely naked bodies black pitch/boot-polish (un betún negro), and when they were completely covered with it, he heard them saying:

“De villa en villa, de lugar en lugar”  
(from villa to villa, from place to place)

and he saw them go flying off through an open window which gave onto the courtyard. After a while, he entered the woman's room through the window, stripped, and smeared his entire body with the black pitch; then he said:

“De vida en vida, de lugar en lugar”  
(from life to life, from place to place)

and straightaway he flew as far as the roof and fell from this height, giving himself such a sharp blow that he stunned himself.

When, at dawn, mother and daughter returned to their room they found the inanimate body of the farm-worker, and, to punish him, the woman turned him into an ass, and they kept him busy from that moment onwards carrying firewood which they went to fetch from a nearby hill. Much time passed till, one night, the younger daughter said to the ass: “I'm going to change you into a man, but on condition that you go far away from here and never

\* Nachtrag zu Scobie, A.: Notes on Walter Anderson's “Märchen vom Eselsmenschen”. In: *Fabula* 15 (1974) 222—231.

<sup>1</sup> Laval, Ramón A.: *Cuentos populares en Chile* 2. Santiago 1923, 243—244, num. 23. — I would like to thank Professor Dr. Yolando Pino-Saavedra for sending me on request a copy of this tale.