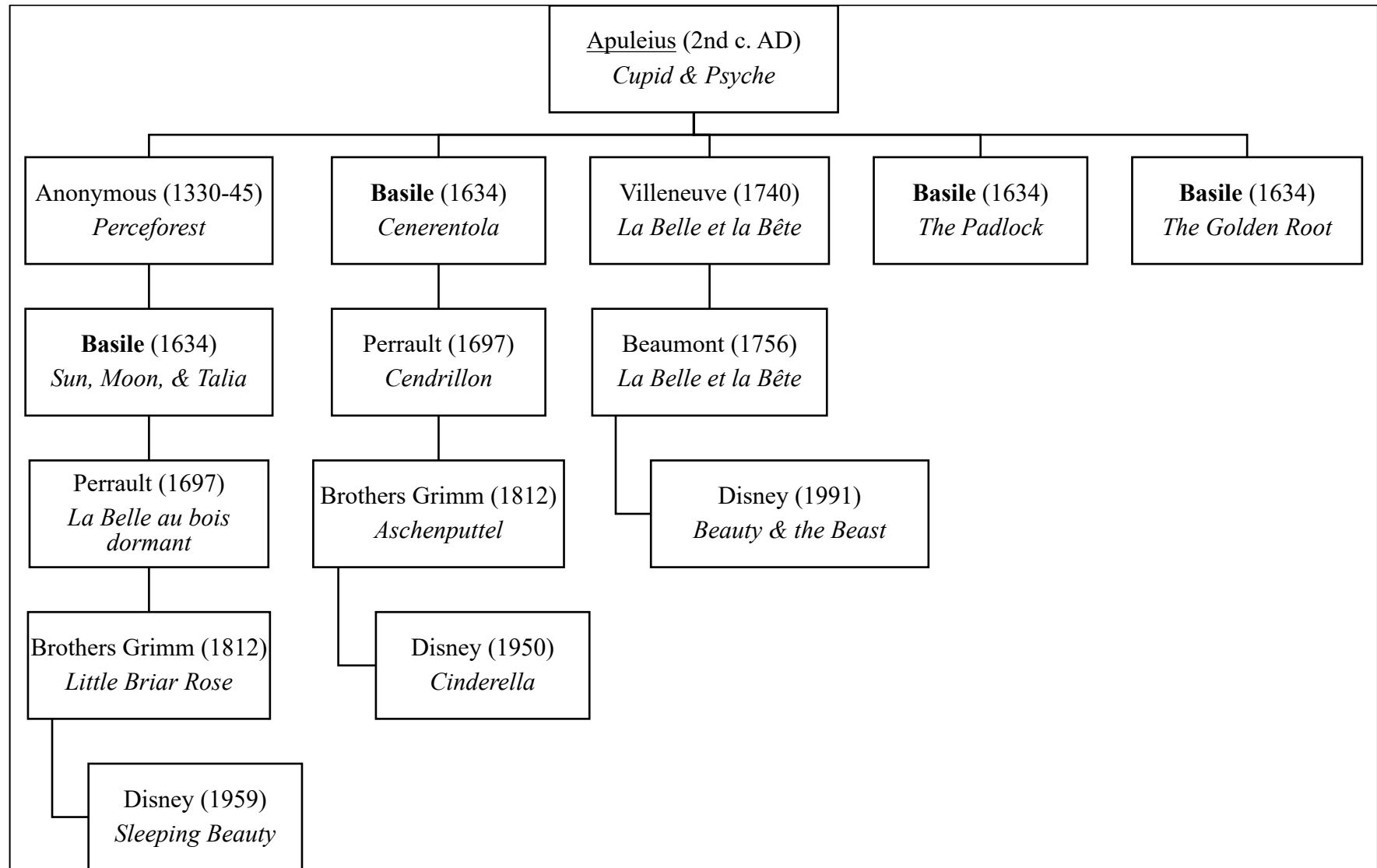


“The Golden Root”: Cupid, Psyche, and Basile's *Pentamerone*

1. Literary Genealogy of Cupid & Psyche



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2. Basile’s “The Padlock” Summary:

- Luciella, the youngest of three sisters, is led to a magnificent underground palace where she spends her nights with a young man of unknown identity.
- After following bad advice from her sisters, Luciella is banished from the palace.
- The girl then wanders around the world and undergoes a thousand torments, all the while “pregnant and big-bellied”.
- She eventually arrives at a royal palace and gives birth to a son.
- The son is visited at night by a handsome young man.
- The queen of the palace realizes that the man is her son, and she breaks a curse placed on him by an ogress.

3. Basile’s “The Golden Root” Summary:

- Parmetella, the youngest of three sisters, discovers a staircase underneath the golden roots of a tree that leads to a palace.
- The girl shares her bed with a man of unknown identity but is soon banished from the palace after ignoring his orders.
- A fairy gives the girl various items to aid her in future trials.
- An ogress gives her three impossible tasks, which she accomplishes with the help of Thunder-and-Lightning (the man with whom she shared her bed).
- Thunder-and-Lightning marries a different girl. He then murders his bride and goes to bed with Parmetella the next day.

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