# The Rooster and the Four-leafed Clover



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A long time ago a great fair was held in Dingle and people gathered from everywhere to attend. Among all the folk was a showman who let a rooster walk up the street and the rooster pulled behind him a heavy beam that was tied fast to his leg. At least the people thought it was a beam and they all ran up and down the street, and each paid a penny to be permitted to gaze in amazement at this wonder. There came an old, wee man into the city who carried on his back a bundle of rushes. He wondered why all the people were running after the showman and his rooster. All that he could see, after all, was a straw that the rooster was dragging behind him. He thought that the people had all gone mad and asked several of them, just to make sure, if he was quite right in the head. They answered: »Do you not see the great wonder? Don't you see the great, heavy beam that the rooster is dragging behind him?«

»I say«, said the old man gruffly, »he is only pulling a straw. What of it?«

A quarrel arose. The showman heard this and quickly went over to the old man. He took him aside and asked him how much he was asking for the bundle of rushes on his back.

The old man named his price. To be honest, I do not know high it was, but however high it might have been, the performer paid it, indeed, he paid twice the amount the old man had demanded.

As soon as the showman had taken the bundle from him, the old man began to doubt his senses once more, for now he saw as well, tightly fastened to the leg of the rooster, a heavy beam. He rubbed his hands across his eyes, but it remained a beam.

The old man ran out of the city and no longer understood the world. What he never learned was this. Attached to the bundle of rushes that he had carried on his back had been a four leafed clover; this allowed him to see the truth, as long as it belonged to him.

*from: Frederik Hetmann, Irische Märchen 2014*

**Rosemarie Monnerjahn**
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