

## Unknown

### "Devil And Feathery Wife"

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#### DEVIL AND FEATHERY WIFE

Now there was an old farmer lived over the hill  
and a poor old fellow they say  
He was plagued by a scolding wife  
the worst misfortune that day

And as he cut wood in the forest one day  
between dark mood and despair  
The Devil himself, he jumped out of the bushes  
and stood before his mare

"What's the matter," the Devil, he cried,  
"You look so discontent  
Haven't you got any money to buy your food  
Or to pay your landlord rent?"

"What would you give me," the Devil, he cried,  
If I were to end your debate  
And I gave you money and gear enough  
So you'd never more want for meat"

"But I've nothing to give you," the old man cried,  
"I've nothing right here to my hand  
But if you would do what you say for me  
I'll be at your command"

"Right and I'll make you a bargain," the Devil, he cried,  
"A bargain you just couldn't miss  
You bring me a beast at seven years end  
I'll try to say what it is

"But if that beast I name aright  
You mark what I do tell  
You've got to toddle along with me  
To view the ovens of Hell"

So the old man prospered and prospered well  
It was all gained and spent  
Till he came to the end of seven long years  
Sorely he did lament

"Oh, what is the matter?" his wife, she cried,  
"You look so discontent  
Sure you've gotten some silly young girl with child  
Making you sore lament"

"No, I've made a bargain with the Devil," he cried  
"It was a bargain I just couldn't miss  
I've got to bring him a beast at seven years end  
He's got to say what it is

"But if that beast he names aright  
You mark what I do tell  
I've got to toddle along with him  
To view the ovens of Hell"

"Oh, never you worry," his wife, she cried,  
"Be it happens, you'll pay for your deed  
For the wit of a woman, it comes in handy  
At times in an hour of need

"Go and fetch me the droppings from all of our  
chickens  
And spread them all over the floor  
Stark naked I will strip myself  
And I'll roll all over the floor

"And fetch me the barrel of feathers," she said  
Of the beasts we had for our tea  
And I'll roll and I'll roll all over in them  
Till never an inch be free"

So she rolled and she rolled in feathers and droppings  
from her head right down to her navel  
By Christ, what a terrible sight  
She looked far worse than the Devil

Then the Devil himself came in  
He began to steam and to hiss  
"By Christ," he said, "What an awful sight  
I'll be damned if I know what it is"

He started to shake and he started to quail  
Saying, "Have you got any more of these at home?"  
"Oh yes," he said, "I've got seven more  
That in my forest do roam"

"Well if you've got seven more of these beasts  
That in your forest do dwell  
I'll be as good as my bargain and I'll be gone  
She's worse than the demons in Hell"

@devil @myth @riddle @animal @marriage  
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