



Sons of Norway
HERITAGE PROGRAMS



IdeaBank#29

THE TROLL AND THE LEPRECHAUN
TRADE TALES—SKIT

Prepared by: Barbara Kvigne Rostad
Ulabrand 6-024
San Pedro, California

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The Troll and the Leprechaun Trade Tales

(Script)

INTRODUCTION

This short skit involves two characters, a troll and a leprechaun. Prior to the start of the skit, the audience should receive printed copies of the words to the song "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." As the curtain opens, the Leprechaun is seated on a Blarney Stone twiddling and humming (or whistling) "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." Troll enters and approaches.

Troll: By the eye of Odin! I do believe that's a Leprechaun I see there. Just the sort of individual I was hoping to talk to!

Approaches Leprechaun, rubbing hands gleefully

God dag! God dag!

Extends hand

I'm Torvald, a Troll from the Hall of the Mountain Kings.

Optional to play briefly strains from Grieg's "Hall of the Mountain Kings" here

Leprechaun: Blimey! A troll, 'er ye?

Shakes hand

Welcome to the Emerald Isle! What brings you here, Laddie?

Troll: Well, you might call it a little Heritage Tour. I s'pose you've heard of the Vikings?

Leprechaun: Vikings! Sure'n begorrah! I've heard of those bearded invaders in the Long Ships. They were here once, but drove 'em out, we did!

Troll: *(Nods)* Akkurat! Akkurat! But not before they'd been around for quite awhile. For example, Limerick on the Shannon River was a Norwegian city.

Leprechaun: Limerick? I have a limerick for you.

There once was a visiting Troll
Whose smile was truly quite droll
As he sipped from his jug of Jim Beam;

Then what do you think? He fell in his drink,
And that's how we got Irish Cream!

Troll: You really know how to make a visitor feel welcome! I can't imagine why any self-respecting troll would drink Jim Beam anyhow when Aquavit is so much better! In any case, there's lots of evidence of Viking settlements throughout the British Isles and I'd like to see some of it. For instance, some of those ancient watchtowers that have survived the centuries. Those Vikings first came as far back as 800 A.D. Did you know Dublin was an old Norse name? It was founded by Vikings in 841.

Leprechaun: Can't say as I'd heard that one before! As for me, I pay more attention to when the Vikings LEFT than when they came. Ever hear of the Battle of Clontarf?

Troll: That one I learned in history class. Ja, shure, 1014, I believe. The leader was Boris . . . (*Gropes for name*) . . . or, or Berwin or something.

Leprechaun: Brian of Boruma! That was on Good Friday, April 23, 1014. You Norsemen lost 7,000 men that day. Now I call THAT a rout!

Troll: Say, are you telling the truth? I mean, that IS a Blarney Stone you're sitting on, isn't it? Those Vikings were tough to beat!

Leprechaun: Aye, Lad. But you've heard of the Fighting Irish?

Troll: Well, I guess we lost out on any permanent possession of Ireland but still, we left our mark. Vikings were there in many Irish cities for years after that conducting seafaring expeditions to trade goods with other countries for you Irish citizens. And don't forget, it was the Vikings who found Vinland—and a lot of Irish have sure wound up there.

Leprechaun: Aye, Lad! And a fair number from your country showed up as well.

Troll: Ja! Ja! Ireland and Norway both contributed large numbers of their folk to the United States. So we have that in common too.

Leprechaun: No other European country has sent as large a portion of their total population as Ireland. From 1840 to 1900, about 4 1/2 million of us Paddys and Patsys went on over to the U.S.

Troll: That potato famine started it all, didn't it? But Norway ranks right up there too. We're second in line after the Irish when counting countries who sent the biggest percentage of their population. Our first ship was in 1825.

Leprechaun: So you think any Trolls will be at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New

York March 17th? St. Pat, you know, he brought Christianity to Ireland in 400, way before your Vikings came along. He also brought Latin and the art of writing.

Troll: I can't say about trolls. For sure the Viking Spirit will be on hand, though. And I bet lots of Norwegian-Americans will be eating Irish Stew that day, too. I've heard tell you can find them in the basement of the Catholic Church on St. Paddy's Day in some parts of the U.S. Let me share this little verse with you.

I lay no claim to Irish blood,
My ancestry is Viking,
But when it comes to "Irish Stew"
It's strictly to my liking!
Sure, Mike, we Scandinavians
St. Patrick's Day are seen
Enjoying stew to celebrate
The wearin' o' the green!

—B. Nelson

Leprechaun: *(Patriotically and enthusiastically)* Erin Go Bragh!

Troll: *(Excitedly)* Do you HEAR the Norse influence in what you just said? It's spelled differently, to be sure, but that slogan, "Ireland Forever" has words VERY NORWEGIAN IN NATURE. "Gà bra!" means "to go well" or "be well with." May it go well with Ireland.

Leprechaun: Well, I do thank you, kind sir. For a tourist, you've been most informative. That Hall of yours, the one belonging to the Mountain Kings—it's in Norway, right?

Grieg again here, if desired

Troll: Akkurat!

Leprechaun: Well, then, I don't know what you've heard about the Statue of Liberty, but I have a poem for you, too. It's about my fellow Irishmen and the statue.

Troll: You're talking about the statue in the New York Harbor, aren't you? The one that was 200 years old in 1986? I've heard of her. Some of that copper she's made of came from Norway.

Leprechaun: Exactly! She represents both our countries over there and a few more besides. Let me read you this now about the Irish Americans.

Paddy and the Lady

Aye, Lass, the Indians owned this isle
They now call Liberty
Then begorra! 'twas the Brits grabbed it,
A-takin' oysters from the sea.

A wee bit more 'n the U.S. Army
Built some barracks called Fort Wood,
'N then later 'twas a lighthouse
Once the Lady came for good.

Nearby 'pon Ellis Island
New arrivals by the score
Took heart at the Lady's offer
'Bout a lamp 'n a golden door.

Sure, she was built in France, Lass:
Her copper from Norway came,
So I s'pose ye be a 'wonderin'
How we Irish lay our claim?

Aye, sure'n she's American,
My Bonnie Colleen,
But don't ye e'r forget, Lass,
The Lady's wearin' green!

—B. Rostad

Troll: Takk skal du ha! Those were some fine words, friend.

Leprechaun: Couldn't agree with you more! I must be going now. You say if I turn left at the fork in the road I'll come to one of those Viking watchtowers?

Leprechaun: Aye...and Good Luck, Laddie. May your visit to Ireland be a fine one.

Troll: So far so good! But as the Vikings used to say, "Judge no day until evening, no wife until buried, and no ale until drunk!" Ha det!
(*Waves*)

Leprechaun: Here's a special blessing for the likes of ye:

May the winds of fortune speed you;
May you sail a gentle sea;
May it always be the other guy
Who says "The drink's on me!"

Anon

Trolls: Tusen takk! And Goodbye again!

(Exits, humming “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling.”)

Leprechaun: *(Sits back down on Blarney Stone after Troll exits, goes back to humming “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling,” stops abruptly)*

C’mon all ye lads ’n lassies! *(Gestures at group.)* Sing a chorus or two for me old mother’s sake!

(Pianist begins to play, Leprechaun leads a verse of “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling,” on last line, Leprechaun moves toward exit, bows slightly and leaps away)

SUGGESTED PROP LIST:

Copies for audience of “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling.” (words)

Blarney stone for Leprechaun to sit upon.

CLOTHING FOR LEPRECHAUN: leotards work well; any green top will do; can purchase a Leprechaun hat at card shop.

CLOTHING FOR TROLL: leotards OK here also; red vest helpful, as is stocking cap.

Scripts can be disguised as book Leprechaun is reading and a tour guide book for Troll.