

# SAINT MARTIN'S FOUR WISHES

(13th century)

trans. Ned Dubin

IN NORMANDY THERE LIVED A PEASANT  
OF WHOM IS TOLD SO QUIANT AND PLEASANT  
A FABLIAU THAT I'VE A NOTION  
TO TELL YOU. SUCH WAS HIS DEVOTION  
TO SAINT MARTIN THAT HE'D INVOKE  
HIM IN ALL THINGS HE UNDERTOOK;  
WHETHER ELATED OR DEPRESSED,  
IT WAS SAINT MARTIN HE ADDRESSED;  
EVERY DAY HE CALLED ON SAINT MARTIN.  
THE PEASANT SET OUT ON A CERTAIN  
MORNING, AS WAS HIS WONT, TO PLOW.  
HE'LL NOT FORGET SAINT MARTIN NOW.  
"SAINT MARTIN!" HE CRIED OUT, "GIYYUP!"  
AND THAT'S WHEN SAINT MARTIN SHOWED UP.  
"PEASANT," HE SAID, "YOU HAVE BEEN LOYAL  
TO ME, AND NEVER START TO TOIL,  
NO MATTER WHAT YOUR TASK MAY BE,  
WITHOUT FIRST CALLING UPON ME.  
YOU HAVE WELL EARNED MY SPECIAL FAVOR.  
NOW LEAVE YOUR HARROW, DROP YOUR LABOR,  
AND GET YOU HOME WITH A LIGHT HEART,  
FOR I WILL TRULY DO MY PART  
AND HEREWITH PROMISE I WILL GRANT  
BUT USE YOUR WISHES WISELY, FOR  
ONCE THEY'VE BEEN USED YOU'LL GET NO  
MORE."  
THE PEASANT BOWED LOW TO THE GROUND  
IN REVERENCE, THEN TURNED AROUND  
AND HURRIED HOME WALKING ON AIR.  
THERE'S TROUBLE WAITING FOR HIM THERE.  
HIS WIFE, THE ONE WHO WEARS THE PANTS,  
LIT INTO HIM: "WHAT EVIL CHANCE  
BRINGS YOU HOME NOW, OAF? DID YOU QUIT  
WORK 'CAUSE IT'S CLOUDED UP A BIT?  
YOU'VE HOURS OF DAYLIGHT LEFT FOR TILLING.  
OR IS YOUR PAUNCH IN NEED OF FILLING?  
ARE YOU AFRAID YOU'LL MISS YOUR CHOW?  
YOU'VE NEVER TAKEN TO THE PLOW,  
NO-LIFE FOR YOU IS ONE BIG LARK!  
WE MAY AS WELL SELL OFF THE STOCK  
SINCE YOU WON'T WORK THEM ANYWAY!  
SEE WHAT YOU CALL A WORKING DAY-  
YOU'RE BACK WHEN YOU HAVE SCARCELY GONE!"  
"DON'T BE UPSET, MY LOVE, KEEP CALM,"  
THE PEASANT SAID. "OUR FORTUNE'S MADE!  
HENCEFORTH OUR BURDENS MAY BE LAID  
ASIDE, OF THAT MUCH I AM CERTAIN,  
BECAUSE I MET UP WITH SAINT MARTIN.  
HE GAVE ME FOUR WISHES TO USE  
AS I THOUGHT BEST. I'VE YET TO CHOOSE;  
I MEANT FIRST TO CONSULT WITH YOU,  
AND AS YOU ADVISE ME TO DO

I NOW INTEND TO MAKE MY WISHES  
FOR GOLD AND SILVER, LAND AND RICHES."  
WHEN SHE HEARD THIS, THE WOMAN REACHED  
TO HUG HIM AND TONED DOWN HER SPEECH.  
"HUSBAND," SHE SAID, "CAN THIS BE SO?"  
"INDEED YES, AS YOU SOON WILL KNOW."  
"MY DEAREST, SWEETEST LOVE," SAID SHE,  
"MY HEART IS YOURS ETERNALLY  
TO LOVE AND SERVE YOU HAND AND FOOT.  
YOU SHOULD REPAY ME GOOD FOR GOOD.  
I ASK YOU, PLEASE, TO LET ME HAVE  
ONE OF THE WISHES THE SAINT GAVE.  
YOU STILL WILL HAVE THE OTHER THREE,  
AND YOU WILL HAVE DONE RIGHT BY ME."  
"HUSH," HE REPLIED, "MY DARLING WIFE!  
I WOULDN'T, NO, NOT ON MY LIFE,  
FOR WOMEN ALL HAVE ADDLED BRAINS.  
WHY, YOU MIGHT ASK TO HAVE THREE SKEINS  
OF HEMP OR WOOL OR LINEN THREAD!  
I REMEMBER SAINT MARTIN SAID  
THAT I SHOULD WISELY USE MY WISHES  
AND ONLY WISH FOR SOMETHING SUCH AS  
WILL BENEFIT US EVERMORE,  
SO I INTEND TO USE ALL FOUR.  
KNOW THAT I'M MORTALLY AFRAID,  
IF I GAVE YOU ONE, THAT INSTEAD  
YOU'D WISH FOR SOMETHING THAT MIGHT DO  
UNTOLD HARM TO BOTH ME AND YOU.  
~~OK, I'LL ASSURE YOU, I'LL MAKE~~  
I WOULD BECOME ONE ON THE SPOT.  
I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE ME: NOT.  
THAT'S WHY I FEAR TO LET YOU SHARE  
MY WISHES." "SIR," SHE SAID, "I SWEAR  
IN GOOD FAITH WITH BOTH HANDS RAISED HIGH,  
YOU'LL STAY A PEASANT TILL YOU DIE.  
I'LL NEVER WISH YOU OTHER THAN  
YOU ARE, DEARER THAN ANY MAN."  
"MY DEAR," HE SAID, "LET IT BE YOURS.  
BY GOD, WHEN YOU WISH, MAKE A CHOICE  
BY WHICH YOU AND I STAND TO GAIN!"  
"I WISH," SHE SAID, "THAT, IN GOD'S NAME,  
THERE SPRING UP PENISES GALORE  
OVER YOUR BODY, AFT AND FORE!  
ON FACE, ARMS, SIDES, FROM HEAD TO FOOT,  
MAY COUNTLESS PENISES TAKE ROOT,  
AND LET THEM NOT BE LIMP OR SLACK:  
LET EACH BE FURNISHED WITH ITS SACK,  
AND LET THEM STAND STIFF AND UPRIGHT!  
NOW, WON'T YOU BE A HORNY SIGHT!"  
THEN, AS SOON AS THE WOMAN SPOKE,  
HUNDREDS OF PRICKS BEGAN TO POKE  
OUT ALL OVER. PENISES GREW  
AROUND HIS NOSE AND HIS MOUTH, TOO.  
SOME PRICKS WERE THICK, SOME OVERSIZED,  
SOME LONG, SOME SHORT, SOME CIRCUMCISED,  
CURVED PRICKS, STRAIGHT PRICKS, POINTED  
AND HARDY...

EVERY BONE IN THE PEASANT'S BODY WAS MIRACULOUSLY ENDOWED AND PRICKLED, FULLY-COCKED AND PROUD. YOU'VE NEVER HEARD WONDERS LIKE THESE! PRICKS GROW OUT OF HIS EARS, AND HE'S AMIDST HIS FOREHEAD, STANDING TALL, THE MOST ENORMOUS PRICK OF ALL, AND RIGHT DOWN TO HIS FEET HE'S COATED WITH PENISES ERECT AND BLOATED. FROM TOE TO CROWN HE WAS BEDECKED WITH ANTLERS, BLOATED AND ERECT. WEIGHED DOWN BY PENIS UPON PENIS, THE PEASANT SAID, "THIS WISH WAS HEINOUS! WHY GIVE ME ALL THIS FINERY? BETTER TO BE STILLBORN THAN BE WITH PRICKS SO OVERGROWN AND CLUTTERED! WAS EVER ANY MAN SO STUDDERED?" "HUSBAND," SHE SAID, "I'LL TELL YOU WHY. YOUR ONE PRICK COULDN'T SATISFY, JUST HANGING LIMPLY LIKE A FOX STOLE, BUT NOW I'VE A WEALTH OF COCKS! YOUR LOT IS LIKEWISE MUCH IMPROVED IN THAT, WHENEVER YOU ARE MOVED TO TRAVEL, YOU WON'T BE ASSESSED TARIFFS OR TOLLS. ALL FOR THE BEST I MADE MY WISH, SO DON'T RESENT IT. THERE'S NOT A CREATURE HALF SO SPLENDID!" THE PEASANT SAID, "I'M NOT AMUSED. THREE WISHES MORE ARE YET UNWISHED." THE FELLOW SAID AT ONCE, "THAT YOU HAD JUST AS MANY CUNTS ON YOU AS I HAVE PRICKS ON ME. MAY YOUR CUNTS POP OUT RAPIDLY!" AT ONCE THE CUNTS START TO ARISE. A PAIR APPEARS BEFORE HER EYES, FOUR ON HER FOREHEAD IN A ROW, AND CUNTS ABOVE, AND CUNTS BELOW, AND CUNTS BEHIND, AND CUNTS IN FRONT, EVERY VARIETY OF CUNT— BENT CUNTS, STRAIGHT CUNTS, CUNTS GRAY AND HOARY, CUNTS WITHOUT HAIR, CUNTS THICK AND FURRY, AND VIRGIN CUNTS, NARROW AND TIGHT, WIDE, GAPING CUNTS, AND CUNTS MADE RIGHT, CUNTS LARGE AND SMALL, OVAL AND ROUND, DEEP CUNTS, AND CUNTS RAISED ON A MOUND, CUNTS ON HER HEAD, CUNTS ON HER FEET... THE PEASANT'S JOY IS NOW COMPLETE. "HUSBAND, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?" SAID SHE. "WHY HAVE YOU WISHED THIS THING ON ME?" THE GOOD MAN SAID, "ONE CUNT WON'T DO FOR ALL THE PRICKS I GOT FROM YOU. DON'T BE ALARMED, FOR YOUR CONDITION WILL LEAD TO WIDESPREAD RECOGNITION: WHEN YOU GO WALKING, YOU'LL CONTINUE TO BE KNOWN FOR ALL THE CUNT IN YOU." "HUSBAND," SHE SAID, "WHAT CAN I SAY? THAT MAKES TWO WISHES THROWN AWAY,

AND NOW YOU MUST USE ONE TO FIX US AND REMOVE THESE CUNTS AND PRICKS. YOU'LL STILL HAVE ONE LEFT OUT OF FOUR, AND WE'LL BE RICH FOREVERMORE." THE PEASANT WISHES THEREUPON THAT ALL THEIR CUNTS AND PRICKS WERE GONE, BUT SHE WAS ANYTHING BUT CHEERED TO FIND HER CUNT HAD DISAPPEARED, AND HE, TOO, HAD AN AWFUL SHOCK TO FIND HIMSELF WITHOUT A COCK. BOTH OF THEM WERE EXTREMELY WROTH. "HUSBAND, IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE FOURTH WISH WE HAVE LEFT TO US," SAID SHE; "ONE PRICK FOR YOU, ONE CUNT FOR ME. WE'LL RETURN TO OUR FORMER STATE NO POORER OFF, AT ANY RATE." HE WISHED THE WISH THAT STILL REMAINED; AND THUS HE NEITHER LOST NOR GAINED: HE GOT HIS PRICK BACK AT THE COST OF THE FOUR WISHES, WHICH HE LOST.