78. A Rider On A Goat

:

On Halloween night, the narrator is running down a bright, moonlit road to catch up with friends for an evening of dancing and sports.

Rounding a sudden bend, the narrator startles a strapping boy riding a goat, causing a mutual fright.

The goat executes a massive, supernatural jump completely over an adjacent river without unseating its rider.

The narrator is fully convinced the rider is a leprechaun, right up until the mysterious figure curses at him out loud, saying, “May the devil cut you.”

Themes:

Halloween as a thin, supernatural transition night.

Mistaking eccentric local encounters for encounters with the fairy world.

The subversion of traditional fairy lore with crude human realities.