

## **Half a Blanket**

*Adapted by Mistress Dervila ni Leanon*

*Based on Favorite Folktales from Around the World, page 63*

*Irish*

*Time: About 1:44*

The husband was more than tired of his wife's old father. He sat by the fire all day, doing nothing. Annoying. And when he ate, he dribbled his food and spilled his drink. Disgusting. And when he slept, his snoring shook the house. Maddening! So finally the husband said to his father-in-law

"I'm sending you out of the house. It's the road for you, father." The wife was horrified.

"What? Send my poor old father out on the road?"

"He does nothing, he dribbles his food, and he snores!"

"But he's worked hard almost all his life - surely he can rest now!"

"No! I want him out of this house!"

*[Pause. Start crying]* "But - but - at least give him a blanket!"

"What! A waste a whole blanket on that old man!"

Then their child spoke up and said

"No, give him half a blanket, father, so I have half a blanket for you when I turn you out on the road."

*[open-mouthed]* The husband looked at his child *[pause, then speak more gently]* "No, there'll be no one turned out on the road from this house." And so the old man stayed until he died.

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