

## **The Cluricaun**

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It would appear that the leprechaun is split into two distinct groups. There is much debate as to whether the cluricaun is actually a type of leprechaun or a degenerate close cousin. Certainly, there is a physical resemblance between the two fairy types, although each has quite a different temperament. The leprechaun is industrious but sullen, the cluricaun is lazy and cheery. While the leprechaun wears green with red breeches, the cluricaun likes to dress up and wear garish colors. In fact, he sometimes resembles a down-at-heel country gentleman out on a spree.

Unlike leprechauns, cluricauns never carry money nor do they have any knowledge of hidden hoards of gold, usually stealing what they want instead of buying it. Like their wealthier counterparts, they are partial to strong drink and will unashamedly raid the wine cellars and cocktail cabinets of the rich, draining all casks and bottles there. They will also enter a pantry at night and eat all they can before morning because they have immense appetites. For their own amusement, they will create mayhem in a house during the hours of darkness, overturning chairs, breaking plates, or hiding things so that they cannot be found.

Cluricauns will also harness sheep, goats, dogs, even domestic fowl and ride them throughout the country at night. They will break down fences and walls, and chase cattle all over the countryside, giving additional work to the poor farmer. Then, from under a hedge and with a jug of stolen poteen at their side, the cluricauns will laugh at foolish mortals as they try to repair the damage done.

Leprechauns formally disapprove of such improper behavior and disassociate themselves from the cluricaun's activities. There are some, however, who wonder if the cluricaun is not simply a leprechaun indulging in drunken festivities...