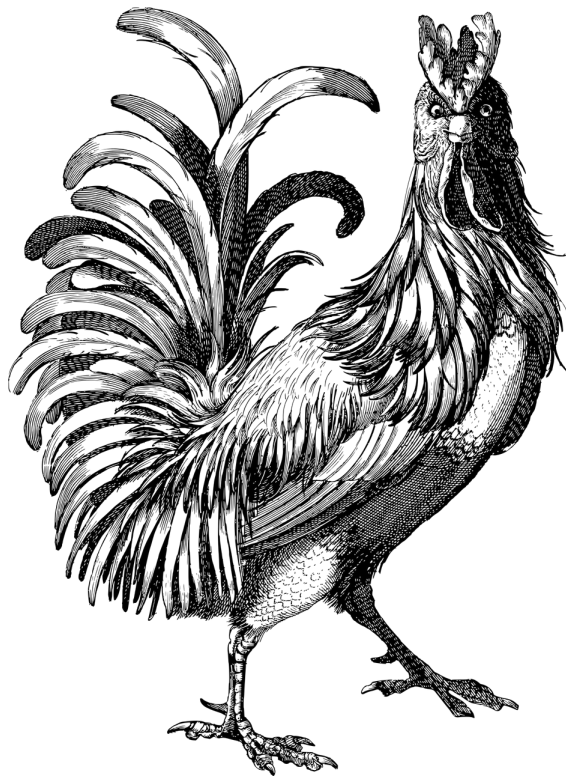


# Cock



by mason arsenault

*(a person is stood at a bus stop with a live chicken in hand. another person wanders in and stands next to them.)*

***another person***

how odd  
an urban fowl?  
peculiar for sure  
a seeing eye chicken perhaps?  
why own a cock that you're not eating?

***a person***

i'll have you know that this bird is my friend  
his name is radagast the sixth  
where i go, he goes too  
even the bus  
okay?

***another person***

nice cock  
a cock perchance  
how much for such a fowl?  
a great companion he would make  
a lonely soul might pay plenty for him

***a person***

concede to your sorrowed cry i will not  
loneliness is a dreaded curse  
but for my feathered friend  
i think instead  
no sale

***another person***

hear me  
alone i live  
so a friend i require  
that chicken is just the right one  
i see this transaction as one most dire

*a person*

now listen here you cretinous creature  
it's rude to take stranger's poultry  
this hen is mine alone  
fed up i am  
move on

*another person*

come now  
unfair you are  
everything has a price  
even the rooster in your hands  
my glorious treasures will speak for me

*(another person reaches in their pocket and pulls out a rock)*

*another person*

behold the igneous earth in my grasp  
surely this stone is worth a bird  
a boulder so perfect  
pretty pebble  
accept?

*a person*

will i?  
so nice it is  
yet what use of a rock?  
no feathers and it will not cluck  
for my capon i seek out something more

*another person*

more than the earth? nothing holds more value  
but i will not choose to yield yet  
for i hold more prizes  
i will offer  
a blaze

*(another person reaches in their pocket and pulls out a lighter)*

*another person*

for you  
i add a flare  
heat and light in dark cold  
for the pullet sat in your grip  
gravel and flame is now what i offer

*a person*

enticing it would be to possess both  
to have such stone and inferno  
that is still not enough  
what i want is  
a throne

*another person*

a seat?  
to hold power?  
i cannot give you that  
when one wishes to hold control  
they cannot clutch anything of true worth

*a person*

the excuse of a fool who plays with rocks  
what do you know of valuation?  
i must have something more  
for my large cock  
what else?

*another person*

i see  
more than good ore  
more than summoning fire  
a challenging bargain you drive  
to appease your wish for something richer

*(another person pulls out a water bottle)*

*another person*

the wettest moistest of my offers now  
added to mineral and sparks  
a bottle of water  
fresh clean aqua  
how now?

*a person*

oh wow  
for radagast?  
solid, liquid, plasma?  
these three great gifts for me  
and yet even still its not quite enough

*another person*

when will your hunger finally settle?  
you still refute me even now  
life's greatest favors here  
still not enough  
greedy

*a person*

you twit  
did you forget?  
my chick is best of all  
for a bird this grand my price is  
mountains and valleys of golden doubloons

*another person*

gilded nuggets of gold won't bring you joy  
they're shiny but worth nothing more  
but i still won't cease now  
so hear again  
once more

*(another person pulls out a portable fan)*

*another person*

the wind  
control of air  
an honor of great gain  
that makes four elements in hand  
surely you exchange your fowl to me now?

*a person*

a very potent deal i will agree  
liquid, gas, solid, and plasma  
i'm certainly tempted  
but i say no  
still scarce

*another person*

gobbler  
i have no more  
all matter in the world  
cannot satisfy your hunger  
really what do you want most of all?

*a person*

to have gold and royalty would be nice  
but both have already been owned  
So how about instead  
a floobynewl  
to own?

*another person*

a what?  
have you gone mad?  
your tongue speaks balderdash  
no such thing as a floobynewl  
ask for something real i may provide

*a person*

i wish to own something no else does  
something so rare it doesn't exist  
whatever that may be  
a floobynewl  
or qasd

*another person*

no way  
you ask too much  
i will not gain favor  
your rooster will not be mine  
i must live a life of desolation

*a person*

communism might have me make a fair trade  
capitalism says i ask more  
sorry for your trouble  
but my hen stays  
no deal

*(the chicken lays an egg)*

*a person*

what's this?  
a bird baby?  
another mouth to feed?  
i can't care for this little tot  
what choice now but to eat sunny side up

*another person*

before you eat, may i try to appeal?  
i can't propose for your rooster  
but for the little one?  
my elements  
for him

*a person*

oh yes  
now there's a deal  
i oblige and approve  
your possessions for shelled ovum  
i keep my farm friend and you have one too

*(a person takes the items from another person and hands them the egg)*

*a person*

oh ecstatic day and great of moments  
we will be birds of a feather  
you have brought me such joy  
he'll be steven  
the first

END