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Author: Jackie Drakeford

It came to pass in the days before the celebration of the birth of our Lord, that a man tilling the fields saw a multitude of rabbits thereon. And he summoned us on the mobile horn and spake thus: get thy hinder parts over here soon as thou likest and rid me of these pestilent beasts. And at the same time the women in the households of the village spake with anger and said gettest thou out from under my feet or else do something useful. And so we summoned the beasts of underground hunting, and the long-leggity hounds, and set forth unto the fields. And the children of the households begged to come also, and we said, only if thou art quiet and behave thyself or verily the wrath of JD will fall upon thee.

And we brought the nets of hemp and the nets of spun nylon and laid them over the places where the rabbits would bolt, and verily the holes were many so that we were forced to deploy also the cheapo nets of thin nylon that doth tangle if thou lookest at it. And even the children were set unto this task, and the clearing of the plants of the field that do sting and prickle, and they waxed indignant, and were glared at, for did our Lord not say that little children should suffer? And the largest son wailed and beat his breast and sayeth it was slave labour, and was told to get on with it sharpish.

And one of the dogs did produce an eye-watering amount of ordure, so that we saith among us good grief what do you feed that? And one of our number commenteth that it was enough to turn a tractor over.

And we let forth an army of ferrets such as would be sufficient to overcome the hordes, and among those was the ferret Bloody Norah, which hath great beauty but biteth like a fiend. And they did go under the ground, and sent forth thumpings and squealings, and we heard and were content. And the rabbits came out from under the ground and entangled themselves in the nets of hemp and of nylon, and the thin nylon

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nets were as much good as a teapot of chocolate. And the dogs raced across the land and caught the rabbits that slipped the nets, and some of us fell in the nettles and cried out aloud, and called upon the name of Gordon Bennett. And some of us fell among thorns and rent our raiment, and others of us became mired in foul ground which was nothing to do with the dog, but a passing fox. And one picked up Bloody Norah and said Ow. And the son that was the largest was told not to stand there like a bleedin' lemon but to get over here toot sweet and reset some nets.

And it came to pass that the ferrets came out when there were no more rabbits, and were placed in their chariots, and Bloody Norah bit someone else. And the dogs came up and fawned upon us as we paunched out a great multitude of rabbits, and some of the younger children said ooh except for the ones that said eurr yuk. And we paused for refreshment on the journey back, partaking of strong fluids, and there was much discourse on whose dog did what. And the mobile horn did sound with a voice of trumpets, and the man who tilled the fields said Oy, you've missed some, I've just seen three. And the mobile horns did sound yet again and again, from womenfolk desirous of knowing where the fornicating hades we had got to, for the kinsfolk were arriving even now.

And so we returned to our houses and fed our animals and cleansed our raiment and set our nets out to dry. And we were content, and the hell with the kinsfolk.