A Chicken's Story

Humorous monologue by Samuel Stokes

Hi.

I'm a chicken.

Yes, *that* chicken.

The one that crossed the road in that really, really old joke.

You know - why did the chicken cross the road?

Answer – to get to the other side.

Not really much of a joke is it? It sort of sounds like it's going to be a joke. I mean, you have a chicken, which for some reason people find to be the funniest of animals. I suppose I should be offended by that fact, but really what good would it do? Anyway, a chicken crossing the road – who knows what might happen next? There's an air of mystery in the question, I suppose. And then they hit you with the answer – to get to the other side. Is that really a punchline? Is that really supposed to be funny?

It's not so much a joke, but more like anti-humor. That's when you ask a question that sounds like a joke, but then you thwart it by just stating something obvious and mundane rather than actually having an amusing punchline.

People often ask me what I was so interested in finding on the other side of the road. This is also getting very old. I mean, you probably cross roads all the time. Do people constantly bug you about why you are crossing the road? Do you go around asking, "why did that human being cross the road?" No, you probably don't. And why is that? Because you probably are used to minding your own business. So why do people ask this about me all the time? I suppose it's because people find chickens inherently funny.

Why they find us so funny is anyone's guess. In my opinion, we are a vital part of the farming industry worldwide, and should be well-respected for this. The fact that people constantly laugh at chickens for amusement is, frankly, a bit hurtful.

So, in the future, rather than asking us why we cross roads, perhaps ask things more like:

How are you today, Chicken? Did you know you are a very smart and hard-working chicken? Could I give you this ten-pound bag of chicken feed for being a good chicken?

Yeah, ask questions like that. No punchline necessary, thank you.