

Litir do Luchd-Ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

*A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, written and compiled by Roddy Maclean, and specifically aimed at Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Roddy can be contacted by e-mail at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk**

Chan eil mi buileach cinnteach cuin’ a tha Pontius Pilat a’ nochdadh airson a’ chiad turais anns a’ Bhìoball, ach tha e ri lorg tràth anns an Tiomnadh Nuadh ann an Leabhar Mhata, Caibideil seachd ar fhichead, Earrann a dhà. Sin nuair a tha ceannardan nan sagart agus an t-sluaigh air greim fhaighinn air Iosa.

Seo mar a tha an earrann sin anns an t-seann Bhìoball Ghàidhlig: “Agus air dhaibh [Iosa] a cheangal, thug iad leotha e, agus thug iad thairis e do Phontius Pilat an t-uachdaran.” Tha e inntinneach gur e *uachdaran* a th’ air mar thiotal. Tha sinn eòlach air an fhacal an-diugh mar a’ Ghàidhlig air *landlord*. Ach, o shean, bha e a’ ciallachadh “duine a bh’ air an uachdar” – duine a bha os cionn daoine eile. *Governor; ruler; chief, agus landlord*. Ann an Eirinn, ’s e sin am facal a th’ aca airson an cinn-suidhe – *Uachtarán na h-Eireann*.

Tha diofar bheachdan air Pontius Pilat am measg Chrìosdaidhean agus Iudhaich an-diugh. Tha cuid a’ cur sìos air airson mar a leig e le Iosa a bhith air a sgiùrsadh ’s air a cheusadh. Ach tha cuid eile ga mholadh airson mar a sheas e an aghaidh a’ phobaill an toiseach. Ann an Etiopia, tha mòran de na Crìosdaidhean a’ coimhead air mar naomh.

Ann am *Bìoball na Cloinne*, leabhar de dh’earrannan às a’ Bhìoball ann an Gàidhlig shìmplidh, seo am pìos mu dheidhinn mar a sheas Pilat, airson greis, an aghaidh an t-sluaigh a bha ag iarraidh Iosa a cheusadh:

*Dh’fhuirich Iosa sàmhach. Cheasnaich Pilat e, ach chan fhaigheadh e coire dha.
“Leigidh sinn air falbh e!” ars’ esan, oir bha e na chleachdadh aon duine a leigeil saor às a’ phrìosan aig àm na Càisge.
“Leig às Barabas!” dh’èigh an sluagh, “agus ceus Iosa!”
Bha fios aig Pilat gu robh cunnart ann gun dèanadh iad buaireadh mòr nan deigheadh esan nan aghaidh. Thuirt e, ged nach b’ e sin a roghainn fhèin, gum faodadh Iosa a bhith air a sgiùrsadh mus deigheadh e chun a’ chrainn-cheusaidh.*

Bidh beachd agaibh fhèin air Pilat agus na rinn e. Ach bu mhath leam sùil aithghearr a thoirt air eachdraidh an duine fhèin. Agus gu h-àraidh air toiseach a bheatha air sgàth ’s gu bheil cuid ann an Alba dhen bheachd gun do rugadh e an seo.

A rèir beul-aithris à Gleann Lìomhann rugadh Pilat ann an àite ris an canar an Dùn Geal faisg air Fartairchill. Bha athair air a chur a dh'ionnsaigh Alba le Iompaire na Ròimhe, *Caesar Augustus*. Dh'iarr an t-Iompaire air athair Phontius rèite a dhèanamh le Rìgh nan Albannach. Agus fhad 's a bha e ann an Alba, rugadh leanabh-gille dha. Agus b' e sin Pontius.

Chan eil fhios a'm a bheil susbaint sam bith ann a sin, agus chan eil fhios a'm a bheil muinntir Ghlinn Lìomhainn ga chreidsinn an-diugh. Gu dearbh, tha e coltach nach robh cus eòlais aca air a' sgeul tràth anns an fhicheadamh linn, co-dhiù a rèir stòiridh èibhinn a tha an sgrìobhadair Seton Gordon ag innse anns an leabhar aige *Highways and Byways in the Central Highlands*.

Bha fear a bha seo a' tadhal air an sgìre, agus e a' coimhead airson an làraich far an do rugadh an t-uachdaran Ròmanach. Dh'fhaighnich e de dh'fhear a bha ag obair an rathad, agus a bhuineadh don sgìre, càit' an do rugadh Pontius Pilat.

“Cha chuala mi guth air an duine sin a-riamh,” fhreagair fear an rathaid.

“Ach feumaidh,” thuirt am fear-turais, “feumaidh gum bi thu a' dol don Eaglais.”

“O bithidh,” fhreagair an duine eile. “Bithidh, ach chan eil esan anns a' choithional agamsa!”

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Faclan na seachdaine: an Tiomnadh Nuadh: *the New Testament*; Caibideil: *Chapter*; Earrann: *Verse*; sagart: *priest*; Crìosdaidhean: *Christians*; Iùdhaich: *Jews*; a' sgiùrsadh: *lashing*; a' ceusadh: *crucifying*; Etiopia: *Ethiopia*; naomh: *saint*; roghainn: *choice*; Gleann Lìomhainn: *Glen Lyon*; Fartairchill: *Fortingall*; susbaint: *substance*;

Abairtean na seachdaine: nuair a tha X air greim fhaighinn air Iosa: *when X has taken hold of Jesus*; air dhaibh Iosa a cheangal: *after tying Jesus*; thug iad leotha e: *they took him with them*; thug iad thairis e do Phontius Pilat: *they gave him to Pontius Pilate*; tha cuid eile ga mholadh airson mar a sheas e an aghaidh a' phobaill: *others commend him for standing against the people*; chan fhaigheadh e coire dha: *he could not find fault with him*; bha e na chleachdadh aon duine a leigeil saor às a' phrìosan aig àm na Càisge: *it was the custom to release one prisoner at Easter*; bha cunnart ann gun dèanadh iad buaireadh nan deigheadh esan nan aghaidh: *there was danger that they would cause a riot if he went against them*; bha athair air a chur a dh'ionnsaigh Alba le Iompaire na Ròimhe: *his father was sent to Scotland by the Emperor of Rome*; dh'iarr X air Y rèite a dhèanamh le Z: *X asked Y to make a (peace) deal with Z*; rugadh leanabh-gille dha: *a baby boy was born to him*; a bhuineadh don sgìre: *who belonged to the area*; cha chuala mi guth air X a-riamh: *I never heard of X*; ach feumaidh gum bi thu a' dol don Eaglais: *but you (surely) must go to Church*.

Puing ghràmair na seachdaine: Bithidh, ach chan eil esan anns a' choithional agamsa: *o yes, but he is not in my congregation. Are you familiar with the spelling conventions regarding bidh, bithidh and bi? They are all forms of the Future Tense of the Indicative Mood of the verb “to be”. The Independent Form, used in making a straightforward statement, is bidh. eg Bidh mi còmhla riut ann am mionaid (I will be with you in a minute). The Dependent Interrogative Form, “dependent” because it depends on a preceding word in the sentence, and “interrogative” because it is part of a question, is bi eg am bi thu aig an taigh a-nochd? (will you be at the house tonight?); nach bi thu an seo? (will you not be here?). But the form used in the Litir, bithidh is an alternative to bidh, used when the word is being stressed eg Q: nach bi thu aig a' bhùth Disathairne? (won't you be at the shop on Saturday?) A: Bithidh! Bidh mi ann a h-uile Disathairne.*

Gnàths-cainnt na seachdaine: tha cuid a' cur sìos air airson 's mar a leig e le Iosa a bhith air a sgiùrsadh 's air a cheusadh: *some (people) condemn him for letting Jesus be lashed and crucified.* A' cur sìos air: *censuring, denouncing.*

* *“Litir do Luchd-Ionnsachaidh” is funded by Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig*

** *“Bìoball na Cloinne” (pub. 1992) is still available in some bookshops. It is very suitable for adult learners. If you have trouble finding it, contact the publisher, Acair, on acair@sol.co.uk (ph: 01851 703020)*