

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 * This is Litir 264*

Bha mi ag innse sgeulachd dhuibh an t-seachdain sa chaidh – A’ Chaora Bhiorach Ghlas – agus tha mi a’ dol a chur crìoch oirre an t-seachdain seo, ged a tha a’ chaora bho chd a-mach às a’ ghnòthach a-nise. An t-seachdain sa chaidh bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun Bhànrighe olc agus mar a bha i a’ dèanamh droch-dhìol air nighean na ciad Bhànrighe. Bha a’ Bhànrighe air an nighean aice fhèin a chur a-mach a bhuachailleachd nan caorach airson ’s gun tachradh i ris a’ phrionnsa. Agus bha nighean na ciad Bhànrighe ag obair san lùchairt mar shearbchant dhi.

Ach là a bha seo, bha nighean na ciad Bhànrighe a’ gabhail sgrìob a-muigh nuair a chunnaic am prionnsa i. Cha robh fios aige cò bh’ innte, ged a bha fios aige gu robh i air a bhith a’ buachailleachd nan caorach uaireigin. Bha e ann an gaol leatha, agus thug e dhi paidhir bhrògan òir. Goirid às dèidh sin, chunnaic am prionnsa i aig searmon anns an eaglais. Dh’èirich i airson falbh mus robh an searmon deiseil oir cha robh cead aice a bhith ann, agus bha i airson faighinn dhachaigh mus fhaiceadh a’ Bhànrighe i. Chunnaic am prionnsa i, ge-tà, is dh’fhalbh e às a dèidh.

Bha i a’ ruith dhachaigh na deann, agus chaill i tè de na brògan òir aice sa pholl. Agus lorg am prionnsa a’ bhròg. Leis nach robh fios aige cò bh’ innte, thuirt e gum pòsadh e an tè aig an robh cas a fhreagradh a cas a’ bhròg.

Bha a’ Bhànrighe airson ’s gum freagradh a’ bhròg a nighean fhèin agus chuir i nighean na ciad Bhànrighe am falach. Thàinig am prionnsa, ach bha cas nighean na Bànrigh tuilleadh is mòr airson na bròige. Dh’fhalbh am prionnsa. Thug a’ Bhànrighe an nighean aice gu cailleach nan cearc, agus gheàrr cailleach nan cearc bàrr òrdagan na caileige dhith gus am freagradh a cas a’ bhròg. An ath-thuras, nuair a thàinig am prionnsa a-rithist, bha a’ bhròg dìreach ceart airson nighean na Bànrigh. Chuir am prionnsa roimhe a pòsadh.

Nuair a thàinig là na bainnse, chaidh nighean na ciad Bhànrighe a chur am falach ann an cùil aig cùl an teine. Nuair a bha an sluagh cruinn aig a’ bhanaid, thàinig eun beag chun na h-uinneig agus ghlaodh e, “Tha an fhuil sa bhròg agus tha cas bhòidheach sa chùil aig cùl an teine.”

Thuirt fear de na daoine, “Dè tha am beathach ud ag ràdh?” Agus fhreagair a’ Bhànrighe, “Is coma dè tha am beathach ud ag ràdh. Chan eil ann ach beathach mosach, gobach, breugach.”

Ach thill an t-eun dà thuras eile don uinneig. Agus gach turas thuirt e, “Tha an fhuil sa bhròg agus tha cas bhòidheach sa chùil aig cùl an teine.” Agus às dèidh an treas turais, thuirt am prionnsa, “Thèid sinn a-mach agus chì sinn dè tha an t-eun seo ag ràdh.” Chaidh e a-mach agus chuala e an aon rud bho ghob an eòin – “Tha an fhuil sa bhròg agus tha cas bhòidheach sa chùil aig cùl an teine.”

Thill am prionnsa a-steach agus dh'òrdaich e a' chùil a bha aig cùl an teine a rannsachadh. Lorg iad nighean na ciad Bhànrigh, agus i am falach ann. Agus bha bròg òir air a dàrna cois. Ghlan iad an fhuil às a' bhròig eile agus dh'fheuch iad oirre i, agus bha a lethbhreac air a cois eile. Dh'fhàg am prionnsa nighean na Bànrigh agus phòs e nighean na ciad Bhànrigh. Dh'fhalbh iad còmhla agus bha iad sona is saidhbhir fhad 's a bu bheò iad.

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Faclan na seachdainne: buachailleachd: *herding*; lùchairt: *palace*; searbhannt: *servant*; uaireigin: *at one time*; searmon: *sermon*; dh'èirich i: *she got up*; na deann: *in a hurry*; sa pholl: *in the mud*.

Abairtean na seachdainne: tha mi a' dol a chur crìoch oirre: *I am going to finish it [fem]*; tha a' chaora bhochd a-mach às a' ghnòthach: *the poor sheep is out of the affair*; a' gabhail sgrìob a-muigh: *taking a walk, trip outside*; cha robh fios aige cò bh' innte: *he didn't know who she was*; thug e dhi paidhir bhrògan òir: *he gave her a pair of golden shoes*; bha i airson faighinn dhachaigh mus fhaiceadh a' Bhànrigh i: *she wanted to get home before the queen saw her*; dh'fhalbh e às a dèidh: *he went after her*; aig an robh cas a fhreagradh a' bhròg: *who had a foot that suited the shoe*; gheàrr cailleach nan cearc bàrr òrdagan na h-ìghne dhith: *the hen-woman cut the ends of the girl's toes off*; chuir am prionnsa roimhe a pòsadh: *the prince decided to marry her*; là na bàinnse: *the wedding day*; thàinig eun chun na h-uinneig: *a bird came up to the window*; tha an fhùil sa bhròg: *the blood is in the shoe*; sa chùil aig cùl an teine: *in the nook at the back of the fire*; is coma dè tha e ag ràdh: *who cares what it says*; chan eil ann ach beathach mosach, gobach, breugach: *it's nothing but a nasty, interfering (and "beaked") lying animal*; bho ghob an eòin: *from the bird's beak*; dh'òrdaich e a' chùil a rannsachadh: *he ordered the nook to be searched*; bha a lethbhreac air a cois eile: *its duplicate was on her other foot*; fhad's a bu bheò iad: *as long as they lived*.

Puing-ghràmar na seachdainne: nighean na ciad Bhànrigh: *the daughter of the first queen. Are you a bit confused about how to use ciad and when to lenite it and the noun it describes? The first thing to say is that nowadays it always causes lenition in the following noun where lenition is possible, except with a d, t or s. For example, we say a' chiad bhròg but a' chiad seacaid or a' chiad duine. [In the old Gaelic bible the "first man, Adam" is referred to as an ceud dhuine, Adhamh, demonstrating how lenition rules have changed dramatically]. Even in the genitive it causes lenition ie nighean na ciad Bhànrigh, although we would say nighean na Bànrigh. Let us now look at the lenition of the word itself. Ciad is an adjective and historically it would always lenite, in the nominative singular, only with feminine nouns – ie an ciad fhear but a' chiad bhean. But, today, it is virtually universally lenited in the nominative regardless of gender, eg a' chiad fhear, a' chiad bhodach. In the genitive, however, we see it reflecting the gender rule. We would say nighean na Bànrigh (with the noun unlenited in the genitive), so we say nighean na ciad [Bhànrigh] with ciad unlenited. However, with a masculine noun, such as bàta we say sgiobair a' bhàta (with the noun lenited in the genitive) so we would say sgiobair a' chiad bhàta (with ciad likewise lenited).*

Gnàths-cainnt na seachdainne: Bha cas nighean na Bànrigh tuilleadh is mòr airson na bròige: *the queen's daughter's foot was too big for the shoe*. Tuilleadh is: *more than, too*.

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