

# 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 at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk) \* This is Litir 315. Note that Roddy also broadcasts a simplified version – An Litir Bheag – on Monday evenings at 7.00 pm. This is also available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 11 corresponds to Litir 315.*

Tha sinn a’ dol a chur crìoch, an t-seachdain seo, air an t-seann sgeulachd *Èirig Fhinn* no *Fionn’s Reparation*. Nuair a dh’fhàg sinn am fear beag ìosal lapanach an t-seachdain sa chaidh, bha e fhathast ann an Rìoghachd nam Fear Mòra. Bha marcaiche steud dhuibh air tighinn a-mach às an adhar airson ionnsaigh gharbh a thoirt air.

Bha Fionn fhèin air a dhol dhachaigh o chionn fhada. Bha na co-dhaltan aige air a dhol dhachaigh cuideachd leis a’ bhoireannach mhòr agus an cù beag aice. Bha iadsan a’ smaoinichadh – aig an toiseach co-dhiù – gu robh èirig Fhinn aca. Ach an robh...? Leanaidh mi orm leis an sgeulachd ...

Tharraing am fear beag a chladheamh. Mharbh e am marcaiche. Bha e airson faighinn a-mach dè bha am marcaiche a’ giùlan. Rinn e rannsachadh air a’ chorp is am measg a chuid aodaich. Cha do lorg e, ge-tà, ach dà chìr agus sporan seang sìoda. Dh’fhosgail e an sporan. Na bhroinn bha sia fiaclan. Sia fiaclan Fhinn ’ic Cumhail. Thill am fear beag dhachaigh leotha.

Dh’fhaighnich fear de na bràithrean dheth, “Dè chunnaic thu an-diugh air do chuairt?”

“Thàinig dubharadh froise às an àird an iar-thuath,” thuirt am fear beag. “Às a sin thàinig marcaiche steud dhuibh orm. Thug e ionnsaigh orm. Ach tharraing mi mo chladheamh agus mharbh mi e.”

“Dè fhuair thu na lùib?” dh’fhaighnich na bràithrean.

“Cha d’ fhuair,” ars’ am fear beag, “ach dà chìr agus sporan seang sìoda, anns an robh sia fiaclan.”

“Och och,” thuirt am bràthair as àirde. “Mharbh thu an t-aon bhràthair a bh’ aig m’ athair.”

Thuirt am fear beag riutha, “Mura h-eil an gnìomh a rinn mi taitneach dhuibh, nì mi a’ cheart rud oirbh fhèin.”

An uair sin thuirt fear eile de na bràithrean, “’S fhada bho na bhathar ag ràdh gur e am fear a thigeadh is a thogadh èirig Fhinn ’ic Cumhail a bheireadh saorsa dhuinn bho gach cath is cogadh.”

Thuirt am fear beag ìosal lapanach an uair sin gu robh èirig Fhinn aige agus mar sin gum biodh e a’ falbh. Thuirt na bràithrean ris gum faigheadh e bhuapa steud dubh a mharcaicheadh an cuan glas mar gur e machair geal sgiamhach a bh’ ann.

“Ma bheir thu ar naidheachd-ne do ar piuthar, bidh i agad fhèin mar bhean,” thuirt na bràithrean ris.

Dh’fhalbh am fear beag air an steud. Aig beul na h-oidhche bha e air ais còmhla ri Fionn Mac Cumhail. Dh’fhaighnich e de Fhionn ’s de cho-dhaltan an d’ fhuair iad an èirig. Fhreagair iadsan, “Cha d’ fhuair.”

Thug am fear beag an sporan seang sìoda a-mach. Dh'fhosgail e e, is thug e na sia fiaclan a-mach. Thuirt e ri Fionn, “Tha d’ èirig an sin dhut, ’s cha d’ fhuair do chodhaltan e.”

Uill, sin agaibh Èirig Fhinn. Tha mi air a dhèanamh sìmplidh dhuibh. Ma tha sibh airson an sgeulachd air fad a leughadh, ann an Gàidhlig agus Beurla, tha i ann an *Transactions Chomunn Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis*, iris còig-deug (XV). Mar sin leibh an-dràsta.

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**Faclan na seachdaine:** mu-thràth: *already*; lapanach: *feeble*; cron: *damage*.

**Abairtean na seachdaine:** tha sinn a’ dol a chuir crìoch air X: *we are going to finish X*; bha marcaiche steud dhuibh air tighinn a-mach às an adhar: *a rider of a black steed had come [upon him suddenly] out of the sky*; bha na co-dhaltan aige air a dhol dhachaigh: *his foster-brothers had gone home*; gu robh èirig Fhinn aca: *that they had Fionn’s reparation*; rinn e rannsachadh am measg a chuid aodaich: *he searched among his clothes*; dà chìr agus spòran seang sìoda: *two combs and a thin silk purse*; na bhroinn bha sia fiaclan: *inside it were six teeth*; dubharadh froise: *a darkening of the sky indicating a shower*; dè fhuair thu na lùib?: *what did you get attached to him [ie on his person]?*; cha do rinn thu math riamh dhuinn: *you never did any good to us*; mharbh thu an t-aon bhràthair a bh’ aig m’ athair: *you killed my father’s only brother*; thigeadh e a thoirt dhuinn eachdraidh air gach nì: *he would come to give us an account of everything*; nì mi a’ cheart rud oirbh fhèin: *I will do the same to you*; ’s fhada bho na bhathar ag ràdh: *it is a long time since it was said*; gur e am fear a thigeadh is thogadh èirig Fhinn ’ic Cumhail: *that it was the man who would come and would retrieve [lift] Fionn’s reparation*; a bheireadh saorsa dhuinn bho gach cath is cogadh: *who would give us freedom from every fight and war*; gum faigheadh e bhuapa steud dubh: *that he would get from them a black steed*; a mharcaicheadh an cuan glas: *who would ride the grey ocean*; machair geal sgiamhach: *a beautiful fair plain*; beul na h-oidhche: *dusk*; tha d’ èirig an sin dhut: *there is your reparation for you*.

**Puing-chànain na seachdaine:** Ma bheir thu ar naidheachd-ne do ar piuthar, bidh i agad fhèin mar bhean: *if you give our news to our sister, you will have her as a wife*. I want to make a point about emphatic suffixes which we last looked at in *Litir 216 (08.08.03)*. Here is a good example of one in the first person plural. We can say “our news” in two ways: ar naidheachd or an naidheachd againn. If we want to make it emphatic we have to say either ar naidheachd-ne or an naidheachd againne (where the –ne suffix is fused to againn). It is in emphatic form in the story because ar naidheachd might mean “the news we have” (not necessarily about “us”) whereas ar naidheachd-ne implies that it is news “about us”. It is worth making a point here about a useful idiom: innis dha gu robh mi a’ gabhail a naidheachd means “tell him I was asking after him”. Stick that one in your book of useful phrases!

**Gnàths-cainnt na seachdaine:** mura h-eil an gnìomh a rinn mi taitneach dhuibh: *if the thing I did is not agreeable to you*.

\* Tha “*Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh*” air a maoineachadh le Seirbheis nam Meadhanan Gàidhlig