

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 rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk * This is Litir 331. 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 27 corresponds to Litir 331.*

An t-seachdain sa chaidh bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu na Cuimrich a dh’fhàg a’ Chuimrigh is a chaidh a dh’fhuireach ann an Argentina, agus an uair sin a dh’fhàg Argentina agus a chaidh a dh’fhuireach ann an Saskatchewan. Uill, bha buidheann de Ghàidheil ann a rinn an dearbh sheòrsa rud, ach chaidh iad mòran na b’ fhaide. Chanadh iad na *Normanites* riutha oir b’ e an ceannard fear air an robh *Norman MacLeod* – an t-Urramach Tormod MacLeòid. Anns an Litir seo, agus anns an feadhainn a leanas oirre, tha mi airson innse dhuibh mu na daoine sin. Rugadh Tormod MacLeòid ann an Asainte ann an seachd ceud deug is ochdad (1780). Bha a phàrantan ri croitearachd is iasgach ach bha Tormod na sgoilear math agus aig aois fichead ’s a seachd, chaidh e a dh’Oilthigh Obair Dheathain. Dh’ionnsaich e Seann Ghreugais, Matamataig, Eòlas-nàdair, Feallsanachd Nàdarrach agus Feallsanachd Mhoralta. Nuair a cheumnaich e ann an ochd ceud deug ’s a dhà-dheug (1812), bhuannaich e am bonn òir airson Feallsanachd Mhoralta.

Chaidh e dhachaigh a dh’Asainte agus phòs e a leannan, Màiri NicLeòid. An uair sin, airson dreuchd fhaighinn mar mhinistear, b’ fheudar dha dhol a Dhùn Èideann airson cùrsa a dhèanamh ann an Diadhachd. Ach airson ùine mhòr bha Tormod air a bhith a’ fàs na bu theagmhaiche mun Eaglais mar a bha i agus gu seachd àraidh mu na ministearan innte. Bha iad ro dhìleas do na h-uachdarain agus do dh’ùghdarrasan na stàite. Bha cus ùidh aca, na bheachd, ann an gnothaichean saoghalta, seach gnothaichean spioradail. Rinn Tormod co-dhùnadh mòr. Leig e seachad a’ mhinistrealachd. “B fheàrr leam,” sgrìobh e, “a bhith ceangailte le sèine ri tràill nan Innsean an Iar, agus cogais shaor agam, seach a bhith ceangailte ri pearsaichean-eaglais na h-Alba mar a tha iad an-dràsta...”

Ged a bha an Eaglais a-nise dùinte dha, bha cothrom aige na dh’ionnsaich e ann am foghlam a chur gu feum mar fhear-teagaisg. Fhuair e obair mar thidsear sgoile ann an Ulapul. ’S iad an feadhainn a dh’fhastaich e buidheann air an robh *The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge*. A bharrachd air a bhith a’ teagasg tron t-seachdain, **bhathar an dùil gun leughadh e na Sgrìobtaran do mhuinntir an àite air an t-Sàbaid**. Cha robh am ministear, an t-Ollamh Ross, ann an Ulapul gu tric air an t-Sàbaid oir bha an sgìre aige ro mhòr. Agus nuair a bha e a’ searmonachadh ann an Ulapul, ged is e duine foghlamaichte a bh’ ann, cha do chòrd na thuirt e bhon chùbaid ri Tormod idir. Bha Tormod dhen bheachd gu robh na searmonan aige farsaing ach eu-domhain. Sguir e dhol don Eaglais nuair a bha an t-Oll. Ross anns a’ chùbaid. Cha robh e diùid ann a bhith ag innse do dhaoine carson nach robh e a’ frithealadh na h-eaglais air an t-Sàbaid.

Bha am ministear mì-thoilichte mu dheidhinn dol-a-mach Thormoid. **Sàbaid a bha seo**, bha e a' searmonachadh ann an Ulapul agus dh'fhàs e feargach. Thuir e ris a' choitheanal, nan robh duine aca a' toirt taic don tidsear, agus na beachdan a bha e a' cur an cèill, gum faodadh iad falbh sa bhad. Ach chaidh e na b' fhaide na sin. Dh'òrdaich e do mhuinntir a' bhaile an cuid cloinne a thoirt a-mach à sgoil Thormoid. Thug a' chuid a bu mhotha dhiubh an taic do Thormod, ge-tà.

Dh'iarr am ministear air an tidsear nochdadh mu choinneamh seisean na h-Eaglais. Agus chì sinn dè thachair ann an ath-sheachdain.

* * * * *

Faclan na Litreach: cheumnaich: *graduated*; bonn òir: *gold medal*; Diadhachd: *Theology*; sèine: *chain*; tràill: *slave*; pearsaichean-eaglais: *clergy*; Ulapul: *Ullapool*; diùid: *shy*.

Abairtean na Litreach: a dh'fhàg Argentina agus a chaidh a dh'fhuireach ann an Saskatchewan: *who left Argentina and went to live in Saskatchewan*; chaidh iad mòran na b' fhaide: *they went much further*; chanadh iad X riutha: *they called [would call] them X*; agus anns an feadhainn a leanas oirre: *and in the ones which follow it [on her]*; Seann Ghreugais, Matamataig, Eòlas-nàdair, Feallsanachd Nàdarrach agus Feallsanachd Mhoralta: *Ancient Greek, Mathematics, Natural History, Natural Philosophy and Moral Philosophy*; phòs e a leannan: *he married his sweetheart*; b' fheudar dha dhol a Dhùn Èideann: *he had to go to Edinburgh*; bha Tormod air a bhith a' fàs na bu theagmhaiche: *Norman had been growing more dubious*; ro dhìleas do na h-uachdarain: *to loyal to the landlords*; bha cus ùidh aca ann an gnothaichean saoghalta: *they were too interested in worldly matters*; seach gnothaichean spioradail: *rather than spiritual matters*; an fheadhainn a dh'fhastaich e: *the ones who hired him*; bha an sgìre aige ro mhòr: *his parish was too large*; ged is e duine foghlamaichte a bh' ann: *although he was an educated man*; gu robh na searmonan aige farsaing ach eu-domhain: *that his sermons were broad but shallow*; nuair a bha an t-Oll. Ross anns a' chùbaid: *when Dr. Ross was in the pulpit*; dh'fhàs e feargach: *he grew angry*; nan robh duine aca a' toirt taic don tidsear: *if any of them supported the teacher*; gum faodadh iad falbh sa bhad: *that they could leave immediately*; an cuid cloinne a thoirt a-mach à sgoil Thormoid: *to remove their children from Norman's school*; nochdadh mu choinneamh seisean na h-Eaglais: *to appear in front of the Kirk session*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **Sàbaid a bha seo:** *this particular Sunday/Sabbath. Do you notice that I have not used the common phrase Là/Latha na Sàbaid (Sabbath Day) here, but simply the noun Sàbaid (Sabbath). This is a common usage and not only for religious purposes; eg we might say bidh am prògram sin air an teilidh a h-uile Sàbaid (that programme is on the telly every Sunday). Sàbaid is a feminine noun (hence Là na Sàbaid); for "Sunday afternoon" we might say feasgar na Sàbaid. Note the alternative Didòmhnaich for Sunday.*

Gnàths-cainnt na Litreach: **bhathar an dùil gun leughadh e na Sgrìobtaran do mhuinntir an àite air an t-Sàbaid:** *it was expected that he would read the Scriptures to the local people on the Sabbath. Bhathar/bhathas an dùil: it was expected. Thathar/thathas an dùil: it is expected.*

* Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoineachadh le Seirbheis nam Meadhanan