

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, designed for 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, Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 398. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 94 corresponds to Litir 398.

A bheil sibh measail air luchan? Is toigh leam fhìn iad. Bha tè aig mo nighinn mar pheata nuair a bha i òg. Bha i snog is glan – an luch a tha mi a’ ciallachadh – ged a bha mo nighean snog is glan cuideachd – uill, a’ chuid a bu mhotha dhen ùine.

’S iomadh seanfhacal a th’ againn ann an Gàidhlig co-cheangailte ri luchan. Mar eisimpleir, *is bean-taighe an luchag na taigh fhèin* – *the little mouse is mistress in her own house*. Is bean-taighe an luchag na taigh fhèin. Agus *cha mhurtar an luchag fon chruaich-fhèir*. Ged a tha cruach-fhèir mòr is trom, agus luch a’ fuireach foidhpe, cha dèan cuideam na cruaiiche cron air an luch. Is dòcha gu bheil dòighean againn airson a bhith beò eadhon ged a tha gnothaichean an t-saoghail a’ bualadh oirnn gu trom. *Cha mhurtar an luchag fon chruaich-fhèir*.

Agus tha claisneachd mhath aig luchan. Canaidh daoine – *an rud a bhios sàmhach, cha chluinn na luchan e*. An rud a bhios sàmhach, cha chluinn na luchan e.

Bidh luchan a’ nochdadh ann an samhraidhean cuideachd. Mar eisimpleir, *cho umhal ri luch fo spòg a’ chait*. *As humble as a mouse beneath the cat’s paw*. Chì sibh nuair a bhiodh abairt mar sin feumail ann a bhith a’ bruidhinn air daoine. Cho umhal ri luch fo spòg a’ chait.

Cuideachd, thathar a’ dèanamh dheth gum bi an luch ri mèirle – gum bi i bradach. Uill, dh’fhaodadh sin a bhith fìor, ceart gu leòr. Agus tha an abairt seo ann: *tha thu cho breugach ’s a tha an luch cho bradach*. Tha thu cho breugach ’s a tha an luch cho bradach.

Agus seo agaibh rann do chloinn anns a bheil luch an sàs – agus cat a bhios a’ sealg nan luchan. Seo mar a tha an rann a’ dol:

*Thuir an luch bheag, ’s i san toll,
Dè am fonn a th’ air a’ chat ghlas?
Fonn math is deagh shao
Gum faodadh tusa tighinn a-mach.
Is mòr m’ eagal ron dubhan chrom
A th’ agad ann am bonn do chas,
Mharbh thu mo phiuthar an-dè
’S fhuair mi fhìn air èiginn às*

An do ghreimich sibh air na faclan gu lèir? Seo an rann a-rithist. Tha an luch bheag agus an cat glas a’ bruidhinn ri chèile.

*Thuir an luch bheag, ’s i san toll,
Dè am fonn a th’ air a’ chat ghlas?
Fonn math is deagh shao
Gum faodadh tusa tighinn a-mach.*

*Is mòr m' eagal ron dubhan chrom
A th' agad ann am bonn do chas,
Mharbh thu mo phiuthar an-dè
'S fhuair mi fhìn air èiginn às*

Uill, bha freagairt aig a' chat don ghearan sin. Mar a chanadh iad ann am Beurla Lunnainn, "it weren't me, gov!" Seo na thuirt an cat:

*Cha mhis' a bha sin ach cat Iain Ruaidh
A b' àbhaist a bhith a' ruagadh chearc,
Ghoid i an càis' a bha sa chliabh
'S dh'ith i 'n t-iasg a bha sa phreas.*

Seo an rann bheag sin a-rithist.

*Cha mhis' a bha sin ach cat Iain Ruaidh
A b' àbhaist a bhith a' ruagadh chearc,
Ghoid i an càis' a bha sa chliabh
'S dh'ith i 'n t-iasg a bha sa phreas.*

Saoil an do ghabh an luch ris na thuirt an cat? Canaidh daoine – **tha fios aig an luch nach eil an cat a-staigh**. Tha fios aig an luch nach eil an cat a-staigh. Ach a bheil fios aice nuair a tha cat ag innse breug? Chan eil mi cho cinnteach mu dheidhinn sin.

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Faclan na Litreach: claisneachd: *sense of hearing*; samhloidhean: *similes*.

Abairtean na Litreach: a' chuid a bu mhotha dhen ùine: *most of the time*; ged a tha cruach-fhèidh mòr is trom, agus luch a' fuireach foidhpe: *although a haystack is large and heavy, with a mouse living under it*; eadhon ged a tha gnothaichean an t-saoghail a' bualadh oirnn gu trom: *even though wordly matters are weighing heavily upon us*; chì sibh nuair a bhiodh abairt mar sin feumail: *you can [will] see when a phrase like that would be useful*; ri mèirle: *involved in stealing*; dè am fonn a th' air a' chat ghlas?: *what form is the grey cat in?*; fonn math is deagh shaod: *good form and good condition*; gum faodadh tusa tighinn a-mach: *that you might come out*; is mòr m' eagal ron dubhan chrom [the mouse is now speaking]: *great is my fear of the bent hook [claw]*; ann am bonn do chas: *at the bottom of your feet*; mharbh thu mo phiuthar an-dè: *you killed my sister yesterday*; fhuair mi fhìn air èiginn às: *I only just escaped myself*; ri chèile: *to each other*; cha mhis' a bha sin ach cat Iain Ruaidh: *that wasn't me but red-haired John's cat*; a b' àbhaist a bhith a' ruagadh chearc: *that used to be chasing hens*; ghoid i an càis' a bha sa chliabh: *she stole the cheese that was in the creel*; dh'ith i 'n t-iasg a bha sa phreas: *she ate the fish that was in the cupboard*; ag innse breug: *telling a lie*.

Seanfhaclan na Litreach: is bean-taighe an luchag na taigh fhèin: *the little mouse is mistress in her own house*; cha mhurtar an luchag fon chruach-fhèidh: *the mouse is not murdered (killed) under the hay-stack*; an rud a bhios sàmhach, cha chluinn na luchan e: *what is silent, the mice won't hear*; cho umhal ri luch fo spòg a' chait: *as humble as a mouse beneath the cat's paw*; tha thu cho breugach 's a tha an luch cho bradach: *you are as lying as the mouse is thieving*; tha fios aig an luch nach eil an cat a-staigh: *the mouse knows the cat's not in the house*.

* Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoinachadh le Seirbheis nam Meadhanan Gàidhlig.