

# 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 [rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk). This is Litir 402. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 98 corresponds to Litir 402.*

Tha sinn a’ ruigsinn na h-earrainn mu dheireadh dhen t-seann sgeulachd *Fionn ann an Taigh a’ Bhlàir Bhuidhe* an t-seachdain seo. Chaidh a chlàradh bho Alasdair Camshron ann an Àird nam Murchan aig deireadh an naoidheamh linn deug. Bidh sibh a’ cuimhneachadh, ’s dòcha, mar a dh’fhalbh Fionn is càch cuide ri gille fuadain agus mar a chaidh an glacadh ann an Taigh a’ Bhlàir Bhuidhe gun chomas èirigh, agus iad a’ leantainn ri ballachan is ùrlar an taighe.

Cha robh nì air bith a dh’fhuasgladh iad ach fuil triùir chloinne Rìgh Innis Tìle air a sìoladh tro amalan airgid ann an cupaichean òir. Nuair a thàinig ciaradh an fheasgair, thuirt Fionn ri Oscar, “Biodh d’ amalan agus do chupaichean leat a-nochd.” Dh’fhalbh an dà laoch gu beul-atha na h-abhainn airson a bhith deiseil aig àm dol fodha na grèine.

Cha robh iad ach goirid a’ feitheamh nuair a thàinig sluagh mòr. Bha triùir chloinne Rìgh Innis Tìle air an làimh dheis, agus deiseachan uain’ orra. Thuirt Laoghaire, “Bheir mise an aghaidh air mic Rìgh Innis Tìle agus bheir thu fhèin an aghaidh air an t-sluagh mhòr.”

Nuair a thàinig iad dlùth, ghlaodh an sluagh mòr, “Cò iad **an dà luidealach mhòr mhì-sgiamhach** a tha nan seasamh anns an anmoch? Tha an t-àm dhaibh teicheadh.” “Trì trian dur n-eagal a bhith oirbh fhèin,” ars’ Oscar, “’s gun dad idir dheth oirnne.” Thug e an aghaidh air an t-sluagh mhòr agus thug Laoghaire an aghaidh air triùir mhac an Rìgh.

Bha buaidh aig Oscar is cha do dh’fhàg e aon duine beò. Chaidh e le cabhaig far an robh Laoghaire. Bha mic an Rìgh air an dà ghlùn aig Laoghaire agus bha Laoghaire air a leth-ghlùn acasan. Chunnaic Oscar gun robh làmh-an-uachdair aig Laoghaire. Mar sin, bha aire aige air an fhuil, oir bha i a’ taomadh gu bras air an lòn. Thòisich e air a sìoladh tro na h-amalan airgid anns na cupaichean òir, ach mun robh na cupaichean làn dh’fhàs na cuirp cho rag agus nach sileadh tuilleadh asta.

Dh’fhalbh an dà laoch leis na bh’ aca de dh’fhuil a dh’ionnsaigh an taigh san robh Fionn agus a dhaoine. Thuirt Fionn, “Suathaibh an fhuil ris a h-uile mìr dhibh a bheanas don taigh, o mhullach ur cinn gu buinn ur cas.” Rinn iad sin agus chaidh iad a-staigh. Thòisich iad air na daoine fhuasgladh le bhith a’ suathadh fuil ri gach mìr dhiubh a bha a’ leantainn ris na h-àiteachan-suidhe, no ris a’ bhalla, no ris an ùrlar. Dh’fhuasgail iad mar sin gach duine a bha a-staigh ach Conan. Cha robh fuil gu leòr air fhàgail air a shon-san. Bha cùl a chinn ceangailte ri leac an teine. Cha robh dòigh aca ach fhàgail far an robh e.

Dh’fhalbh Fionn agus a dhaoine dhachaigh ro thoilichte gun d’ fhuair iad às. Cha deach iad ro fhada nuair a sheall iad nan dèidh. Chunnaic iad Conan a’ tighinn. Sheas iad far an robh iad. Thàinig Cònan. Bha e gun fhalt no craiceann eadar mullach a chinn agus cùl amhaich.

Nuair a dh'fhairich e gun do dh'fhalbh càch agus gun do dh'fhàg iad e nan dèidh, thug e slaodadh mòr air a cheann. Dh'fhàg e fhalt is a chraiceann ceangailte ri leac an teine. On latha sin a-mach, b' e a theireadh daoine ris, "Conan Maol gun Fhalt".

Ràinig Fionn agus a dhaoine an dachaigh. **Thug Fionn bòid** nach cuireadh e muinntireas air gille fuadain tuilleadh.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** cabhag: *haste*; làmh-an-uachdair: *the upper hand*; dh'fhairich: *sensed*; slaodadh: *pull*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** mar a dh'fhalbh Fionn is càch cuide ri gille fuadain: *how Fionn and the others left along with a wandering lad*; mar a chaidh an glacadh: *how they were caught*; a' leantainn ri ballachan is ùrlar an taighe: *stuck to the walls and floor of the house*; cha robh nì air bith a dh'fhuasgladh iad: *there was nothing that would free them*; fuil trìuir chloinne Rìgh Innis Tìle: *the blood of the three children of the King of Iceland*; air a sìoladh tro amalan airgid ann an cupaichean òir: *filtered through silver rings into golden cups*; gu beul-atha na h-abhainn: *to the ford-mouth of the river*; cha robh iad ach goirid a' feitheamh: *they were only waiting a short time*; bheir mise an aghaidh air X: *I'll attack X*; tha an t-àm dhaibh teicheadh: *it is time for them to flee*; trì trian dur n-eagal a bhith oirbh fhèin: *may three thirds of your fear be upon yourselves*; gun dad idir dheth oirne: *without any of it on us*; bha X air an dà ghlùn aig Y agus bha Y air a leth-ghlùn acasan: *Y had X on their two knees and X had Y on one knee (see last week's Puing-chànain)*; tha an t-àm dhaibh a bhith a' gabhail an eagal: *it's time for them to get scared*; dà thrian d' ur n-eagal a bhith oirbh fhèin: *two thirds of your fear be on yourselves*; bha aire aige air an fhuil: *he was paying attention to the blood*; bha i a' taomadh gu bras air an lòn: *it was pouring out rapidly on the meadow*; dh'fhàs na cuirp cho rag agus nach sileadh tuilleadh asta: *the bodies grew so stiff that no more would flow from them*; suathaibh an fhuil ris a h-uile mìr dhibh a bheanas don taigh: *wipe the blood on every part of you which will touch the house*; dh'fhuasgail iad: *they freed*; air a shon-san: *for him*; nan dèidh: *behind them*; gun fhalt no craiceann eadar mullach a chinn agus cùl amhaich: *without hair or skin between the top of his head and the back of his neck*; b' e a theireadh daoine ris, "Conan Maol gun Fhalt": *people would call him Bald Conan without Hair*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** Cò iad an dà luidealach mhòr mhì-sgiamhach a tha nan seasamh anns an anmoch?: *who are the two big uncomely slobs who are standing in the evening? I dealt with this in the gnàths-cainnt last week but can you explain a grammatical point – why the two adjectives are lenited even though luidealach is a masculine noun? If you read Litir 362 last year (09.06.06) you might recall why. It is because luidealach follows dà and is actually in an old dual case which is equivalent to the dative singular in form. Similarly, we would say iasg beag geal (a small white fish) but dà iasg bheag bhàn (two small white fish[es]), with the adjectives lenited (iasg obviously cannot lenite).*

**Gnàths-cainnt na Litreach:** **Thug Fionn bòid** nach cuireadh e muinntireas air gille fuadain tuilleadh: **Fionn vowed** that he would never again engage a wandering lad in service. **Thug mi bòid:** *I vowed, took an oath.*

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