

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. This is Litir 439. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 135 corresponds to Litir 439.

Tha stòiridh eile agam dhuibh an t-seachdain seo air Boban Saor – agus am fear mu dheireadh dhiubh. ’S e ainm an stòiridh seo *Mar a Fhuair Mac Bhoban Saor a Bhean*. Chaidh a chruinneachadh an dà chuid ann an Alba agus ann an Alba Nuadh.

Bha Boban Saor ag iarraidh air a’ ghille aige pòsadh. Agus bha an gille aige deònach gu leòr. Latha a bha seo, chuir Boban Saor an gille aige don fhèill chaorach le dà chaora – airson an reic. “Nuair a chì thu duine,” thuirt athair ris, “can ris gu bheil thu a’ coimhead airson cuideigin a cheannaicheas na caoraich. Bidh e a’ pàigheadh air an son – no pàirt dhiubh – agus bheir e air ais dhut iad air an làrna-mhàireach.”

Dh’fhalbh an gille a dh’ionnsaigh na fèille. Fada no goirid an t-astar a shiubhail e, thàinig e don fhèill. Thàinig feadhainn far an robh e. Dh’fhaighnich iad, “A bheil thu a’ reic nan caorach?”

“Tha,” ars esan.

“Dè tha thu ag iarraidh orra?”

“Tha a leithid seo de phrìs,” thuirt e. “Feumaidh sibh pàirt dhiubh a cheannach ach na caoraich fhèin a thoirt air ais dhomh a-màireach.”

“Ciamar a cheannaicheas mi bhuit iad,” bha na daoine eile ag ràdh, “agus tu fhèin gam faighinn air ais a-rithist?” Cha robh iad deònach na caoraich a cheannach.

Dh’fheuch an gille fad an latha. “Dè tha thu ag iarraidh orra?” bha cuid a’ faighneachd dheth.

“Tha a leithid seo de phrìs,” thuirt e. “Feumaidh sibh pàirt dhiubh a cheannach ach na caoraich fhèin a thoirt air ais dhomh a-màireach.”

Tuigidh sibh nach robh an gille soirbheachail. Thàinig deireadh na fèille, agus bha na caoraich aige fhathast. Thòisich e air an rathad dhachaigh leis na caoraich. Bha e a’ dol seachad air taigh agus thàinig boireannach òg a-mach.

“Cha chreid mi,” ars ise, “gun do reic thu na caoraich agad.”

“Cha do reic,” thuirt an gille. “Bha mi a’ coimhead airson cuideigin a bhiodh a’ ceannach pàirt de na caoraich bhuam. Bhiodh iad a’ pàigheadh airson sin agus bheireadh iad na caoraich air ais dhomh a-màireach.”

“Ceannaichidh mise pàirt de na caoraich sin,” ars am boireannach. “Saodaich iad don chrò ud agus thig a-steach ’s gum faigh thu do bhiadh.”

“Glè mhath, ma-thà,” fhreagair an gille. Shaodaich e na caoraich don chrò agus dh’fhalbh e a-steach. Ghabh e a bhiadh agus cheannaich am boireannach pàirt de na caoraich bhuithe, is thug i an t-airgead dha. Thuirt i ris gum fuiricheadh e airson na h-

oidhche oir bha e ro sgèth airson tilleadh dhachaigh. Rinn e sin agus, fhad 's a bha e na chadal, chaidh ise a-mach don chrò agus rùisg i na caoraich. Anns a' mhadainn bha na caoraich deiseil airson a dhol dhachaigh leis. Bha e dìreach mar a thuirt athair. Phàigh i mu thràth airson na clòimhe – pàirt de na caoraich, ceart gu leòr.

Thill an gille dhachaigh leis na caoraich. Dh'fhaighnich Boban Saor dheth ciamar a chaidh dha, agus dh'innis e mar a thachair.

“Glè cheart,” ars am bodach. “**Falbhaidh** tu a-màireach agus **ruigidh** tu an taigh aig a' bhoireannach sin agus **bheir** thu tairgse pòsaidh dhi. Tha mi an dòchas,” ars esan, “gun aontaich i do phòsadh.”

Agus sin mar a bha. Dh'fhalbh mac Bhoban Saor agus ràinig e an t-àite far an robh am boireannach òg a bha seo. Thug e tairgse pòsaidh dhi agus bha i deònach gu leòr a ghabhail. Thàinig iad dhachaigh 's rinneadh banais. Agus sin mar a fhuair mac Bhoban Saor am boireannach seòlta.

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Faclan na Litreach: deònach: *willing*; bhuat: *from you*; soirbheachail: *successful*; bhuam: *from me*; rùisg: *sheared*.

Abairtean na Litreach: Mar a Fhuair Mac Bhoban Saor a Bhean: *how Boban Saor's son got his wife*; chaidh a chruinneachadh an dà chuid ann an Alba agus ann an Alba Nuadh: *it has been [was] collected in both Scotland and Nova Scotia*; ag iarraidh air a' ghille aige pòsadh: *wanting his son to marry*; don fhèill chaorach: *to the sheep sales*; can ris: *tell him*; cuideigin a cheannaicheas na caoraich: *somebody who will buy the sheep*; bheir e air ais dhut iad air an làrna-mhàireach: *he will give them back to you tomorrow/the next day*; fada no goirid an t-astar a shiubhail e: *long or short the distance he travelled*; a leithid seo de phrìs: *this particular price [the storyteller uses this device so he doesn't have to name an actual price – because it's not relevant to the story]*; gam faighinn air ais: *getting them back*; cha chreid mi gun do reic thu: *I don't think you sold*; bheireadh iad na caoraich air ais dhomh: *they would give me the sheep back*; ceannaichidh mise: *I'll buy*; thig a-steach 's gum faigh thu do bhiadh: *come in and get some [your] food*; shodaich e na caoraich don chrò: *he drove the sheep into the pen*; fhad 's a bha e na chadal: *while he was sleeping*; airson na clòimhe: *for the wool*; ciamar a chaidh dha: *how he got on*; dh'innis e mar a thachair: *he told what happened*; rinneadh banais: *they had a wedding [a wedding was made]*; am boireannach seòlta: *the clever woman*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **Falbhaidh** tu a-màireach agus **ruigidh** tu an taigh aig a' bhoireannach sin agus **bheir** thu tairgse pòsaidh dhi: *you'll leave tomorrow and you'll reach that woman's house and you'll make [give] her a proposal of marriage. You will have noticed that the verbs here are in the future tense and not, as you might have expected, in the imperative (eg thalla gu taigh a' bhoireannaich....) In this way, it is less abrupt and sounds less like an order, although Boban Saor is still making it clear that that is what his son is expected to do.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: **Dè tha thu ag iarraidh orra?:** *what do you want for them? A price or value is “on” an object in Gaelic, hence the use of a prepositional pronoun (orra) involving “air” – although in English the appropriate preposition is “for”.*

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