

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 525. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 221 corresponds to Litir 525.

Tuig thus’ an t-eathar agus tuigidh an t-eathar thu. ’S e seanfhacal glic a tha sin. An cuala sibh riamh e? Tha e a’ ciallachadh *understand the boat and the boat will understand you*. Tuig thus’ an t-eathar agus tuigidh an t-eathar thu.

Chunnaic mi an seanfhacal sin sgrìobhte air balla o chionn ghoirid. Gu mì-fhortanach, ’s ann air an latha mu dheireadh agam de bhith a’ seòladh ann an gheat a bha e. Bha e air a bhith na b’ fheàrr mar bhrosnachadh dhomh air a’ chiad latha! Co-dhiù, bha mi a’ feuchainn fad ceala-deug tuigse nas fheàrr a bhith agam air an eathar agus an tuigeadh ise mise. Ach ’s dòcha gu bheil pìos againn ri dhol fhathast airson an tuigse eadarainn a bhith cho math ’s a dh’fhaodadh.

Tha an seanfhacal sgrìobhte air balla taobh a-staigh Taigh-òsta Mhishnish ann an Tobar Mhoire ann am Muile. Chuir sinn seachad an oidhche mu dheireadh de ar cuairt-mhara ann an cala Thobair Mhoire. Agus ghabh sinn biadh ann an Taigh-òsta Mhishnish – a tha ainmeil mar àite far an cluinnear ceòl traidiseanta. Bha an taigh-òsta uaireigin leis an fhear-chiùil ainmeil, Bobby MacLeòid. ’S ann le a ghille, Raibeart, a tha e a-nise.

Tha tòrr sheanfhaclan sgrìobhte air na ballachan anns an taigh-òsta. ’S e “Caileagan” is “Balaich” a tha sgrìobhte air dorsan nan taighean-beaga, ged a tha cuideigin air “Ladies” agus “Gents” a sgrìobhadh ann am peansail fo na sanasan Gàidhlig. Agus os cionn aon àite teine, tha an seanfhacal **Clanna nan Gàidheal an guailibh a chèile!** Deagh smuain dha-rìribh! Ach, leis gun robh mi air a bhith air gheat airson ceala-deug, ’s e an seanfhacal mu sheòladh a b’ fheàrr leam – tuig thus’ an t-eathar agus tuigidh an t-eathar thu.

Cha chreid mi gu bheil dòigh nas tarraingiche a bhith a’ coimhead air beanntan taobh an iar na Gàidhealtachd na bhith aig muir. Chuir sinn seachad latha eadar Ceann Loch Biorbhaidh agus Loch Thùrnaig, faisg air Poll Iù. Agus anns an aon sealladh, **chitheamaid** na beanntan eadar Foinne Bheinn anns a’ cheann a tuath agus beanntan Thoirbheartain anns a’ cheann a deas. Mar as trice, nuair a thathar air tìr, chan fhaicear a h-uile gin dhiubh sin anns an aon sealladh. Ach, aig muir, tha iad uile air an taisbeanadh air do bheulaibh mar gun deach am peantadh air canabhas fada. Air latha brèagha samhraidh, co dh’iarradh a dhol a sheòladh ann an àite sam bith eile? Nuair a tha a’ ghrian a’ deàrrsadh, cha dèanar beatadh air Gàidhealtachd na h-Alba airson bòidhchead.

Agus ’s iomadh rud a chithear aig muir cuideachd, a bharrachd air seallaidhean tìre. Chunnaic sinn leumadairean, peileagan agus aon mhuc-mhara (faisg air Eilean nam Muc). Agus chunnaic sinn eòin-mhara gu leòr cuideachd, ged nach robh iad cho pailt ’s

a bhiodh dùil, 's dòcha. Bha buthaidean ann, agus sùlairean, fulmairean, coltraichean, eòin dubha sgadain, calltagan agus fasgaidin. Agus timcheall nan Eilean Beaga, bha fachaich gu leòr ann. Tha iadsan a' neadachadh ann an Rùm.

Agus chuala sinn aon eun nach tàinig nar sealladh idir. Bha sinn faisg air an Rubha Rèidh, gu tuath air a' Gheàrr Loch. Bha fuaim eagallach ann mar gun robh boireannach a' sgreuchail airson a beatha. B' e sin an learga mhòr – no *red-throated diver*. Bhiodh na seann daoine ag ràdh nuair a bhios an learga a' seinn nach fhada gum bi an t-uisge ann. Agus air an latha sin, bha iad ceart. Bha smugraich ann an ceann ùine ghoirid. Nuair a tha thu a' seòladh chan e a-mhàin tuigse air an eathar a tha feumail.

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Faclan na Litreach: glic: *wise*; eadarainn: *between us*; Ceann Loch Biorbhaidh: *Kinlochbervie*; Poll Iù: *Poolewe*; fachaich: *Manx shearwaters*; learga mhòr: *red-throated diver*; smugraich: *drizzle*.

Abairtean na Litreach: a' seòladh ann an gheat: *sailing in a yacht*; na b' fheàrr mar bhrosnachadh dhomh: *better as an encouragement to me*; bha mi a' feuchainn fad ceala-deug: *I was trying for a fortnight*; far an cluinnear X: *where X is (can be) heard*; cha chreid mi gu bheil dòigh nas tarraingiche: *I don't reckon there is a more attractive way*; chan fhaicear a h-uile gin dhiubh: *not all of them can be seen*; air an taisbeanadh air do bheulaibh: *displayed in front of you*; cha dèanar beatadh air X: *X can't be beaten*; 's iomadh rud a chithear aig muir: *many things are (can be) seen at sea*; leumadairean, peileagan agus aon mhuc-mhara (faisg air Eilean nam Muc): *dolphins, porpoises and one whale (near Muck)*; buthaidean, sùlairean, fulmairean, coltraichean, eòin dubha sgadain, calltagan agus fasgaidin: *puffins, gannets, fulmars, razorbills, common guillemots, black guillemots and bonxies*; fuaim eagallach mar gun robh boireannach a' sgreuchail airson a beatha: *a frightful sound as if a woman were screaming for her life*; nach fhada gum bi an t-uisge ann: *that it won't be long until it rains*; chan e a-mhàin tuigse air an eathar a tha feumail: *it's not only understanding of the boat that is useful*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **chitheamaid** na beanntan eadar Foinne Bheinn anns a' cheann a tuath agus beanntan Thoirbheartain anns a' cheann a deas: ***we could see the mountains between Foinaven in the north and the mountains of Torridon in the south.*** Chitheamaid is the first person plural conditional/past habitual form of the verb faic (to see). Chitheamaid can also mean “we would see” or “we used to (regularly) see”. But, with this verb, it also carries the meaning of “we could see”. You may know phrases like “chì mi na beanntan” which can mean “I can see the mountains” as well as “I will see the mountains” and “am faic thu na craobhan?” which can mean “can you see the trees?” as well as “will you see the trees?”. The context will make the exact meaning obvious. In some places you might meet dh'fhaiceamaid rather than chitheamaid.

Seanfhaclan na Litreach: **Tuig thus' an t-eathar agus tuigidh an t-eathar thu:** *understand the boat and the boat will understand you*; **Clanna nan Gàidheal an guailibh a chèile!:** *children of the Gael, shoulder to shoulder!*

Tha “Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh” air a maoinachadh le MG ALBA