

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 539. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 235 corresponds to Litir 539.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh an t-seachdain sa chaidh mun bheachd a bh' aig na seann Ghàidheil air gobhair. 'S e sin gum biodh gobhair a' marbhadh is ag ithe nathraichean. Uill, tha e inntinneach cho tric 's a nochdas gobhair ann an seanfhaclan Gàidhlig. Seo fear agaibh: **An nì a chùm an eidheann o na gobhair.** *The thing that kept the ivy from the goats.* An nì a chùm an eidheann o na gobhair. Saoil dè tha sin a' ciallachadh?

Uill tha e a-mach air creag no balla a tha air leth àrd no càs. Gu dearbh, tha e cho àrd no càs 's nach urrainn gobhar a shreap airson grèim a ghabhail air an eidheann a tha a' fàs ann. A rèir choltais, tha gobhair gu math dèidheil air eidheann. Tha seanfhacal eile ann a tha a-mach air sin: **'S e galar a bheireadh air na gobhair nach itheadh iad an eidheann.** *Sickness [alone] would keep goats from eating ivy.* 'S e galar a bheireadh air na gobhair nach itheadh iad an eidheann.

Saoilidh mi gum biodh a' chiad sheanfhacal glè fheumail ann a bhith a' bruidhinn air daoine. Chuala mi mu dheidhinn fear as t-samhradh a bha a' feuchainn ri sgrùd a smocadh. Ghlais e e fhèin air eilean beag anns na h-Eileanan a-Muigh. Bha an t-eilean gun sluagh is gun bhùth – is, gu dearbh, gun tombaca. An canamaid gur e an aonranachd a bh' aige an nì a chumadh an eidheann o na gobhair?

Tha grunn seanfhaclan againn air cho math 's a tha bainne nan gobhar do shlàinte dhaoine – agus eadhon do bhòidhchead dhaoine. Seo fear: **Dail chuach am bainne ghobhar, suath ri d' aghaidh, 's chan eil mac rìgh air an domhan nach bi nad dhèidh.** *With violets and goats' milk anoint your face, and every king's son in the world will be after you.* Dail chuach am bainne ghobhar, suath ri d' aghaidh, 's chan eil mac rìgh air an domhan nach bi nad dhèidh. Faodaidh na boireannaich anns an èisteachd innse dhomh a bheil sin ag obair!

Agus 's dòcha gun cuala sibh moladh nan Gàidheal air an neart a thig à bainne ghobhar: **Bainne nan gobhar fo chobhar 's e blàth, 's e chuireadh an spionnadh sna daoine a bha.** *Tis the milk of the goat foaming and warm that gave the strength to the past generations of people.* Bainne nan gobhar fo chobhar 's e blàth, 's e chuireadh an spionnadh sna daoine a bha.

Agus seo an t-àm ceàrr dhen bhliadhna, ach cuimhnichibh am fear seo nuair a thig an Cèitean. **Is leigheas air gach tinneas creamh is ìm a' Mhàigh; òl am fochair siud bainne ghobhar bàn.** *To heal all disease, take garlic and May butter; drink along with that white*

goat's milk. Is leigheas air gach tinneas creamh is ìm a' Mhàigh; òl am fochair siud bainne ghobhar bàn. Bha na seann daoine dhen bheachd gun robh bainne ghobhar math dhut.

Ach, airson crìoch a chur air an Litir seo, 's dòcha gum bu chòir dhomh abairt a thoirt dhuibh a tha buntainn ris a' gheamhradh seach toiseach an t-samhraidh. Seo abairt a bhios feumail 's dòcha nuair a thig sìde stoirmeil a' gheamhraidh. **Sheideadh e na h-adharcan de ghobhar.** *It would blow the horns off a goat.* Sheideadh e na h-adharcan de ghobhar. Tha mi an dòchas nach sèid i mar sin airson greis fhathast!

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Faclan na Litreach: gobhar, gobhair: *goat, goats*; tombaca: *tobacco*.

Abairtean na Litreach: gum biodh gobhair a' marbhadh is ag ithe nathraichean: *that goats would kill and eat snakes*; creag no balla a tha air leth àrd no càs: *a rock or wall that is tremendously high or steep*; 's nach urrainn gobhar a shreap airson grèim a ghabhail air an eidheann a tha a' fàs ann: *that a goat cannot climb it to take a bit of the ivy that grows there*; gu math dèidheil air: *very keen on*; chuala mi mu dheidhinn fear as t-samhradh: *I heard about a man in the summer*; a bha a' feuchainn ri sgur a smocadh: *who was trying to stop smoking*; ghlais e e fhèin air eilean beag anns na h-Eileanan a-Muigh: *he placed himself without outside assistance on a small island in the Outer Isles*; gun sluagh is gun bhùth: *without a population and without a shop*; an canamaid gur e an aonranachd a bh' aige an nì a chumadh an eidheann o na gobhair?: *might we say that it his isolation is the thing that would keep the ivy from the goats?*; na boireannaich anns an èisteachd: *the women in the listening audience*; mar a thigeadh o bhò ruadh: *as would come from a red cow*; a tha buntainn ris a' gheamhradh: *which concerns the winter*; seach toiseach an t-samhraidh: *rather than the start of the summer*; sìde stoirmeil: *stormy weather*.

Seanfhaclan is abairtean na Litreach: An nì a chùm an eidheann o na gobhair. *The thing that kept the ivy from the goats*; 'S e galar a bheireadh air na gobhair nach itheadh iad an eidheann. *Sickness [alone] would keep goats from eating ivy*; Dail chuach am bainne ghobhar, suath ri d' aghaidh, 's chan eil mac rìgh air an domhan nach bi nad dhèidh. *With violets and goats' milk anoint your face, and every king's son in the world will be after you*; Bainne nan gobhar fo chobhar 's e blàth, 's e chuireadh an spionnadh sna daoine a bha. *Tis the milk of the goat foaming and warm that gave the strength to the past generations of people*; Is leigheas air gach tinneas creamh is ìm a' Mhàigh; òl am fochair siud bainne ghobhar bàn. *To heal all disease, take garlic and May butter; drink along with that white goats' milk*; **Sheideadh e na h-adharcan de ghobhar.** *It would blow the horns off a goat.*

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