

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.macleane@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 599. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 295 corresponds to Litir 599.

Dè cho eòlach 's a tha sibh air a' Bhìoball? Tha mi a' dol a leughadh earrann às an Tiomnadh Nuadh. Saoil am bi sibh ga h-aithneachadh? Seo i: *Anns an toiseach bha am Facal, agus bha am Facal còmhla ri Dia, agus b' e am Facal Dia.*

Ma tha sibh cleachdte ris an t-seann Bhìoball, bidh sibh eòlach air an earrainn mar seo: *Anns an toiseach bha am Focal, agus bha am Focal maille ri Dia, agus b' e am Focal Dia.*

Tha iad coltach ri chèile, nach eil? Ach chan eil iad buileach co-ionann ri chèile. Carson? Uill, 's e eadar-theangachadh ùr a th' anns an dreach a leugh mi an toiseach. Agus dè an earrann a th' ann? Tha i às an t-Soisgeul a rèir Eòin, Caibideil 1, Earrann 1.

Tha a' Ghàidhlig mar a tha gach cànan beò. Bidh i ag atharrachadh tro thìm. Ma tha am Bìoball gu bhith air a thuigsinn leis a h-uile duine, feumar an teacs ùrachadh bho àm gu àm. Sin mura h-eil dà sheòrsa de Ghàidhlig gu bhith ann – Gàidhlig na coimhearsnachd air an dàrna làimh, agus Gàidhlig a' Bhìobaill air an làimh eile.

Tha fhios nach eil a h-uile duine riarachta le dreach ùr de theacs a' Bhìobaill. Tha an aon rud fìor ann am Beurla, far a bheil feadhainn dhen bheachd nach eil dreach nas fheàrr na iris Rìgh Sheumais a chuireadh ri chèile o chionn ceithir cheud bliadhna. Leanaidh cuid le bhith a' cleachdadh seann dreach dhen Bhìoball – ann am Beurla agus Gàidhlig.

Ach tha Comunn Bhìobaill na h-Alba air dreach ur a thoirt a-mach de Leabhar Eòin ann an nua-Ghàidhlig. 'S e sin cainnt a tha faisg air ma a tha daoine a' bruidhinn is a' sgrìobhadh a' chànan anns an aonamh linn air fhichead. Tha e nas fhasa do luchd-ionnsachaidh.

Tha mi a' dol a dhèanamh coimeas eadar earrannan às a' chiad chaibideil de Leabhar Eòin anns an t-seann Bhìoball, agus an iris ùr. Seo agaibh earrannan 9 gu 12, a' tòiseachadh leis an t-seann iris: *B' e so an solus fìor a tha 'soillseachadh gach uile dhuine 'tha 'teachd chum an t-saoghal. Bha e anns an t-saoghal, agus rinneadh an saoghal leis, agus cha d'aithnich an saoghal e. Thàinig e a dh'ionnsuidh a dhùthcha féin, agus cha do ghabh a mhuinntir féin ris. Ach a mheud as a ghabh ris, thug e dhoibh cumhachd a bhi 'n an cloinn do Dhia, eadhon dhoibhsan a tha 'creidsinn 'n a ainm.*

Seo agaibh a-nise an aon sreath earrannan anns an iris ùir: *Bha an solas fìor, a tha a' soillseachadh a h-uile neach, a' tighinn dhan t-saoghal. Bha e anns an t-saoghal, agus ged a chaidh an saoghal a dhèanamh troimhe, cha do dh'aithnich an saoghal e. Thàinig e gu a chuid fhèin, ach cha do ghabh a chuid fhèin ris. Ach dhan fheadhainn a ghabh ris, dhan fheadhainn a chreid na ainm, thug e dhaibh còir a bhith nan cloinn do Dhia.*

Ma nì sibh sgrùdadh air an dreach sgrìobhte dhen Litir, chì sibh na diofair a th' ann eadar an dà dhreach de Leabhar Eòin. Chaidh na h-eadar-theangairean ùra air ais don dreach ann an Seann Ghreugais. Agus chleachd iad faclan is abairtean a tha nas fhasa do dhaoine thuigsinn san latha an-diugh. Saoilidh mi gun do rinn iad obair mhath.

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Faclan na Litreach: Am Bìoball: *The Bible*; an Tiomnadh Nuadh: *the New Testament*; eadar-theangachadh: *translation*; diofair: *differences*; eadar-theangairean: *translators*; Seann Ghreugais: *Ancient Greek*.

Abairtean na Litreach: saoil am bi sibh ga h-aithneachadh?: *I wonder if you'll recognise it*; buileach co-ionann ri chèile: *identical to each other*; às an t-Soisgeul a rèir Eòin, Caibideil 1, Earrann 1: *from the Gospel according to John, Chapter 1, Verse 1*; air a thuigsinn: *understood*; feumar an teacs ùrachadh: *the text must be renewed*; X air an dàrna làimh, agus Y air an làimh eile: *X on the one hand, and Y on the other hand*; iris Rìgh Sheumais a chuireadh ri chèile o chionn ceithir cheud bliadhna: *the King James version that was put together 400 years ago*; Comunn Bhìobaill na h-Alba: *The Scottish Bible Society*; anns an aonamh linn air fhichead: *in the 21st Century*; Bha an solas fìor, a tha a' soillseachadh a h-uile neach, a' tighinn dhan t-saoghal: *The true light, that lights every man, was coming to the world*; ged a chaidh an saoghal a dhèanamh troimhe: *although the world was made through him*; Thàinig e gu a chuid fhèin, ach cha do ghabh a chuid fhèin ris: *He came to his own but his own did not accept him (the older translation says "He came to his own country and his own people did not accept him")*; dhan fheadhainn a chreid na ainm: *to those who believed in his name*; còir a bhith nan cloinn do Dhia: *[the] right to become children of God*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **cha d'aithnich** an saoghal e / **cha do dh'aithnich** an saoghal e: *these are older and newer ways of saying "the world knew him not". In "standard" modern usage, at least with regular verbs, we tend to teach learners that the past tense forms of verbs which start with a vowel, or with "f" which becomes silenced by lenition, involve the following structures: cha do dh'X, an do dh'X? There are two riders on that. In some dialects the interrogative form an do dh'X? is replaced by na eg an do dh'fhàg e càil? becomes na dh'fhàg e càil? And in older texts we often see d' instead of do dh'. Here are two other examples from the Book of John, with the old version first and the new Gaelic translation, along with English translation, in brackets: gun d' fhalbh a dheisciobuil 'n an aonar (gun do dh' fhalbh a dheisciobail nan aonar, that his disciples went away by themselves); gu'n d' ith sibh de na buillionnaibh (gun do dh' ith sibh dhe na lofaichean, that you ate of the loaves).*

Gnathas-cainnt na Litreach: **rinneadh an saoghal leis:** *the world was made by him.*

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