

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Samson (1)

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 707. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 403 corresponds to Litir 707.

Tha mi a’ dol a leughadh earrann bhon Bhìoball dhuibh. Tha i às an t-Seann Tiomnadh. Tha i mu dheidhinn fear a tha gu math ainmeil. Bidh sibh uile eòlach air.

Gu h-iongantach, ’s dòcha, tha am fear sin ainmichte air tìr na h-Alba. Tha mi airson ’s gun dèan sibh tomhas air cò e an duine. Seo am pìos bhon Bhìoball, ma-thà. Tha mi an dòchas gun gabh sibh mo leisgeul, ach tha mi a’ dol a dh’atharrachadh na Gàidhlig dìreach rud beag airson ’s gum bi i nas fhasa a thuigsinn. ’S e na th’ agams’ ach fìor sheann Bhìoball, agus cànan ann a bhuineas do dheireadh an ochdamh linn deug.

Agus rinn clann Israeil olc a-rithist ann an sùilean an Tighearna; agus thug an Tighearna thairis iad do làimh nam Philisteach dà fhichead bliadhna. Agus bha duine àraidh do Shorah, do theaghlach nan Danach, dom b’ ainm Manoah; agus bha a bhean neo-thorrach, agus cha d’ rug i clann.

Agus dh’fhoillsich aingeal an Tighearn’ e fhèin don bhean, agus thuirt e rithe – fèach, tha thu a-nise neo-thorrach, agus cha d’ rug thu fhathast clann; ach ginidh tu, agus beiridh tu mac. A-nise, ma-thà, thoir an aire, guidheam ort, agus na òl fìon no deoch làidir, agus na ith nì sam bith neo-ghlan.

Oir, fèach, ginidh tu agus beiridh tu mac, agus cha tig ealtainn sam bith air a cheann; oir bidh an leanabh na Nasarach do Dhia on bhroinn; agus tòisichidh e air Israel a shaoradh à làimh nam Philisteach.

Tha am pìos sin a’ tighinn bho Leabhar nam Breitheamhna. An do dh’obraich sibh a-mach cò e am mac a bhiodh a’ saoradh nan Israelach? Mura h-eil sibh ro eòlach air a’ Bhìoball, bidh an seantans ‘cha tig ealtainn sam bith air a cheann’ ag innse dhuibh, nach bi? Samson! Agus tha Samson air ainmeachadh air tìr na h-Alba. Innsidh mi dhuibh càite nas fhaide air adhart.

Ann an Caibideil a ceithir-deug de Leabhar nam Breitheamhna, tha sinn a’ cluinntinn mun rud a rinn Samson ainmeil – a neart. Nuair a bha Samson faisg air fìon-lios, agus e a’ lorg bean am measg nam Philisteach, thug leòmhann ionnsaigh air. Ach reub Samson an leòmhann às a chèile mar a reubadh e meann. Uaireigin às dèidh sin, agus e air an rathad airson am boireannach a phòsadh, chaidh e seachad air closach an leòmhainn. Na bhroinn, bha **sgaoth sheilleanan** agus mil. Ghabh Samson **làn cròige** de mhil agus dh’ith e i fhad ’s a bha e a’ coiseachd.

Rinn Samson cuirm mar a bu dual do dh’fhir-bhainnse. Agus fhuair e trithead companach. Thug e tòimhseachan do na companaich. Seo na thuirt e: *Às an fhear a dh’itheas, thàinig a-mach biadh; agus às an fhear gharg thàinig a-mach milseachd.*

Canaidh mi sin a-rithist. Às an fhear a dh'itheas, thàinig a-mach biadh; agus às an fhear gharb thàinig a-mach milseachd.

Chaidh beagan làithean seachad mus do dh'fhuasgail iad an tòimhseachan. Mu dheireadh, thuirt iad ris, 'Ciod as milse na mil, ciod as gairge na leòmhann?' Thuig iad gun robh Samson a' bruidhinn mun leòmhann a mharbh e, às an d' fhuair e a' mhil.

Bha mi a' dol a dh'innse dhuibh cà' bheil Samson air ainmeachadh ann an ainm-àite ann an Alba. Ach feumaidh sin feitheamh chun na h-ath-sheachdain. Slàn leibh.

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Faclan na Litreach: An Seann Tiomnadh: *The Old Testament*; fèach!: *look!*; Nasarach: *Nazarite*; Leabhar nam Breitheamhna: *The Book of Judges*; fìon-lios: *vineyard*; closach: *carcass*.

Abairtean na Litreach: ainmichte air tìr na h-Alba: *named on the Scottish landscape*; gun dèan sibh tomhas air cò e an duine: *that you'll work out who the man is*; nas fhasa a thuigsinn: *easier to understand*; 's e na th' agams' ach fìor sheann Bhioball: *what I have is a really old Bible*; rinn clann Israeil olc ann an sùilean an Tighearna: *the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord*; thug an Tighearna thairis iad do làimh nam Philisteach dà fhichead bliadhna: *the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years*; duine àraidh do Shorah ... dom b' ainm Manoah: *a certain man of Zorah ... named Manoah*; bha a bhean neo-thorrach, agus cha d' rug i clann: *his wife was infertile, and was childless*; dh'fhoillsich aingeal an Tighearn' e fhèin don bhean: *the angel of the Lord appeared to her*; ginidh tu, agus beiridh tu mac: *you will conceive and bear a son*; thoir an aire, guidheam ort: *be careful, I beseech you*; na ith nì sam bith neo-ghlan: *don't eat anything unclean*; cha tig ealtainn sam bith air a cheann: *no razor will come on [be used on] his head*; tòisichidh e air Israel a shaoradh: *he will start to free Israel*; reub Samson an leòmhann às a chèile mar a reubadh e meann: *Samson ripped the lion apart as he would a kid goat*; thug e tòimhseachan do na companaich: *he told the companions a riddle*; às an fhear a dh'itheas, thàinig a-mach biadh: *out of the eater came something to eat*; às an fhear gharb thàinig a-mach milseachd: *from the fierce one came sweetness*; ciod as milse na mil, ciod as gairge na leòmhann?: *what is sweeter than honey or fiercer than a lion?*

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Na bhroinn, bha **sgaoth sheilleanan** agus mil: *inside it were a swarm of bees and honey. I used seillean for 'bee' as the word will be easily recognised by Gaelic learners, but the original Gaelic Bible uses beach, a word perhaps not so common today. From beach we get beach-lann, one of the Gaelic words for a beehive; also beach-mòr 'hornet'. Dwelly gives us the nice phrase dranndan bheachan an aonaich 'the murmur of the mountain bees'. Conas-beach 'a wrangling or dog bee' has given us connspeach, commonly shortened today to speach 'a wasp'.*

Gnàthas -cainnt na Litreach: Ghabh Samson làn cròige de mhil: *Samson took a fistful of honey.*

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