

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## **Tormod an t-Seòladair (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.maclea@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk). This is Litir 751. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 447 corresponds to Litir 751.*

Thairis air a’ cheala-deug a dh’fhalbh, bha mi ag innse dhuibh stòiridhean à taobh siar Leòdhais. Tha mi airson innse dhuibh mu fhear a bhuineadh don sgìre sin, agus a dh’fhàg cunntasan againn dhen bheul-aithris a bha beò aig an àm. Bha am fear seo ainmeil, cho ainmeil, gu dearbh, ’s gun deach dàn a sgrìobhadh dha fhad ’s a bha e fhathast beò. Seo agaibh rann a-mach às an dàn.

*Thug Freastal toirteil nàdair  
Luchd a’ ghràidh cho pailt nad chom  
’S gun tuig thu brìodal nathrach  
Bhios a’ sporthalaich na tom,  
Ga togail suas nad bhroilleach  
Is ga filleadh mu do cheann,  
’S ga tàladh le ceòl-mara,  
Nuair as pailte bhios an rann.*

Chaidh sin a sgrìobhadh le Caitriona F Urchadan. Agus cò e cuspair an dàin? An t-Ollamh Tormod MacIlleMhoire. Tha muinntir Shiaboist eòlach air mar Tormod an t-Seòladair.

Tuigidh sibh bhon rann shuas nach e duine àbhaisteach a bh’ ann an Tormod. Tha a’ chuid as motha againn rudeigin eagallach ro nathraichean. Tha an nathair-nimhe a bhuineas do dh’Alba .. uill... nimhe no puinnseanta.

Bha Tormod an t-Seòladair, ge-tà, cianail fhèin measail air nathraichean. Agus, mar a tha an dàn ag ràdh, bhiodh e gan togail suas na bhroilleach agus gam filleadh mu a cheann. Tha dealbhan-camara ann de Thormod agus nathraichean-nimhe na làmhnan agus timcheall a chinn. Dh’fhàs e ainmeil airson a chuid eòlais air nathraichean.

A bharrachd air sin, bha e ainmeil cuideachd airson Caidreachas nam Poileas a chur air chois, oir ’s e poileas a bh’ ann fad bhliadhnaichean mòra. Tha mi airson innse dhuibh mu bheatha a’ Ghàidheil iongantach seo.

Rugadh Tormod ann an Siabost anns an Dàmhair ochd ceud deug, seasgad ’s a naoi (1869). B’ esan an neach a bu shine de naoinear cloinne. Bha athair na iasgair agus na chroitear. Tha Tormod ag innse dhuinn anns an fhèin-eachdraidh aige ‘My Story’ nach robh a mhàthair air foghlam Beurla fhaighinn ach gur e sgoilear Gàidhlig a bh’ innte. Bha seo, cuimhnicheamaid, mus do rinn Achd an Fhoghlaim sgrios air suidheachadh a’ chànain.

Fhuair Tormod foghlam anns an sgoil anns a' bhaile. Chòrd an sgoil ris, ach bha e anabarrach toilichte nuair a fhuair e obair air a' bhàt'-iasgaich aig **uncail dha** aig aois còig-deug. Bha iad ag iasgach leis na lìn-mhòra. Chòrd e ris ach a-mhàin gun do dh'fhuiling e gu mòr le cur-na-mara. Cha d' fhuair e thairis air sin riamh agus thug sin air gun a bhith a' leantainn le obair mar iasgair. Chuir e roimhe, aig aois naoi-deug, a dhol a Ghlaschu airson a bhith na phoileas.

Bha Glaschu gu math eadar-dhealaichte bho Shiabost. Agus chuir e iongnadh air Tormod mar a bha cuid de mhuintir a' bhaile gan giùlan fhèin air oidhche Shathairne, agus an daorach orra. Dh'fhuiling e sàthadh le sgian nuair a thug gràisg ionnsaigh air, agus bha e fortanach faighinn às le a bheatha. Dh'fhàg e na poilis goirid às dèidh sin ach, mar a chì sinn, cha robh a cheanglaichean ri obair dhen t-seòrsa sin **buileach seachad**. Agus cha robh e air tòiseachadh leis na nathraichean fhathast...

\* \* \* \* \*

**Faclan na Litreach:** beul-aithris: *oral tradition*; Siabost: *Shawbost*; An t-Ollamh Tormod MacIlleMhoire: *Dr Norman Morrison*; nathair-nimhe: *adder*; mac-meanmna: *imagination*; Caidreachas nam Poileas: *The Police Federation*; cuimhnicheamaid: *let's remember*; lìn-mhòra: *long lines*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** Thairis air a' cheala-deug a dh'fhalbh: *over the last fortnight*; à taobh siar Leòdhais: *from the west side of Lewis*; gun deach dàn a sgrìobhadh dha fhad 's a bha e fhathast beò: *that a poem was written for him while he was still alive*; thug Freastal toirteil nàdair luchd a' ghràidh cho pailt nad chom; *the generous Providence of nature gave you an abundance of love*; 's gun tuig thu briodal nathrach bhios a' sporthalaich na tom: *that you can understand the gentle body language of the snake that rustles in its knoll*; ga togail suas nad bhroilleach: *lifting it to your breast*; ga filleadh mu do cheann: *letting it wrap itself around your head*; eagallach ro nathraichean: *afraid of snakes*; cianail fhèin measail air: *extremely fond of*; ach a-mhàin gun do dh'fhuiling e gu mòr le cur-na-mara: *except that he suffered terribly from sea-sickness*; cha d' fhuair e thairis air sin riamh: *he never got over that*; chuir e roimhe: *he decided*; a dhol a Ghlaschu airson a bhith na phoileas: *to go to Glasgow to be a policeman*; gan giùlan fhèin air oidhche Shathairne, agus an daorach orra: *disporting themselves on Saturday nights, under the influence of drink*; sàthadh le sgian: *a stabbing with a knife*; bha e fortanach faighinn às le a bheatha: *he was fortunate to escape with his life*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** nuair a fhuair e obair air a' bhàt'-iasgaich aig **uncail dha**: *when he got work on the fishing boat of an uncle of his*. Note that we can use the preposition 'do' sometimes instead of 'aig' in constructions of this nature, although this may be more likely to happen in some dialects than in others. 'S e caraid dhomh a bh' ann 'he was a friend of mine'; cò a bu leannan dha? (instead of cò an leannan a bh' aige?) 'who was his sweetheart?'

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** cha robh a cheanglaichean ri obair dhen t-seòrsa sin **buileach seachad**: *his links to work of that nature were not entirely over*.

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