

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Tormod an t-Seòladair (2)

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. This is Litir 752. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 448 corresponds to Litir 752.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Thormod MacIlleMhoire, Tormod an t-Seòladair, à Siabost ann an Leòdhas – ‘fear nan nathraichean’. Ann an ochd ceud deug, naochad ’s a trì (1893), thill e do a dhreuchd mar phoileas, ach ann an Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain an turas seo. Bha e an sin beagan bhliadhnaichean mus deach a chur a dh’Ìle. **Chòrd muinntir Ìle ris gu mòr.** Bha e cuideachd na phoileas ann an Ceann Loch Lìobhann, san Òban agus ann an àiteachan eile.

Innsidh mi dhuibh tuilleadh mu dheidhinn a dhreuchd mar phoileas fhathast, ach tha mi airson innse dhuibh an-dràsta mu obair le nathraichean. Bha Tormod dhen bheachd gun robh daoine mì-reusanta mu na creutairean sin. Tha iad meata nan nàdar, thuirt e. Cha bhìd iad duine ach a-mhàin nuair a tha an t-eagal orra. Airson an làimhseachadh gu sàbhailte, feumaidh tu a bhith socrach, sèimh.

Bha Tormod cho cofhurtail le nathraichean ’s gun cumadh e feadhainn ann an cèidse na sheòmar-cadail. Oidhche a bha seo, fhuair tè a-mach às a’ chèidse. An-ath-mhadainn, rannsaich Tormod air feadh an t-seòmair, ach cha robh sgeul air an nathair. Bha i anns an t-seòmair ann am badeigin, ach **cha b’ urrainnear** a lorg. Chaidh deich latha seachad mus do lorg Tormod i, agus i ann an cuairteig air cùl leabhraichean. Bha Tormod toilichte a bhith a’ cadal anns an t-seòmair sin, agus fios aige gun robh nathair ann. Chan eil e ag ràdh, ge-tà, an robh e pòsta aig an àm, agus ma bha, dè shaoil a bhean dhen ghnòthach!

Bhiodh Tormod ri cleasachd aig amannan. Oidhche a bha seo, nuair a bha e ag obair mar shàirdseant na h-oidhche ann an Earra-Ghàidheal, chuir e tè de na nathraichean aige ann an drathair san deasg aige. Mu uair sa mhadainn, thàinig fear de na constabalan a-steach; bha e a’ dèanamh deiseil airson a dhol a-mach a choiseachd nan sràidean.

‘Thig a-steach, a Sheumais,’ thuirt Tormod ris. ‘Dèan do gharadh aig an teine.’ Shuidh an constabal air beulaibh an teine ghuail. Chaidh Tormod don deasg aige, agus chuir e an nathair air an ùrlar air cùlaibh an oifigeir. Dh’iarr e air an oifigeir tuilleadh guail a chur air an teine. Bha soitheach a’ ghuail air a chùlaibh. Thionndaidh e agus chunnaic e an nathair. Leum e far an t-sèitheir le eagal agus dh’èigh e, ‘An ainm an Àigh, leig mi air falbh bhon chreutair chunnartach sin!’ Rinn Tormod gàire mhòr, thog e an nathair, agus chuir e air ais san drathair i.

Bha na nathraichean taiceil dha na obair mar phoileas. Fhuair an naidheachd timcheall gum biodh Tormod a’ cumail nathraichean na phòcaid nuair a bha e a’ coiseachd nan sràidean mar phoileas. Nam biodh òigridh a’ bhaile buairesach, cha

robh aig Tormod ach coiseachd ann agus bhiodh an fheadhainn òga a' teicheadh. Dàna 's ged a bha iad, bha eagal orra ro nathraichean.

Às dèidh do Thormod na poilis fhàgail, fhuair e obair mar oifigear do dh'ùghdarras foghlaim Earra-Ghàidheal; bha e a' sgrùdadh na bh' ann de chloinn a bha a' seachnadh na sgoile. Latha a bha seo, bha e ann an oifis ceannard sgoile, le nathair na phòcaid, nuair a sheinneadh clag airson innse do na sgoilearan gun robh an leasan seachad. Innsidh mi dhuibh dè thachair an uair sin anns an ath Litir.

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Faclan na Litreach: Tormod MacIlleMhoire: *Norman Morrison*; Siabost: *Shawbost*; Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain: *Campbeltown*; Ceann Loch Lìobhann: *Kinlochleven*; ùghdarras : *authority*.

Abairtean na Litreach: fear nan nathraichean: *the adder man*; thill e do a dhreuchd mar phoileas: *he returned to his career as a policeman*; gun robh daoine mì-reusanta mu na creutairean sin: *that people were unreasonable about those creatures*; meata nan nàdar: *timid in their nature*; airson an làimhseachadh gu sàbhailte, feumaidh tu a bhith socrach, sèimh; *to handle them safely, you have to be sedate and calm*; gun cumadh e feadhainn ann an cèidse na sheòmar-cadail: *that he would keep some in a cage in his bedroom*; oidhche a bha seo: *one particular night*; rannsaich Tormod air feadh an t-seòmair: *Norman searched throughout the room*; ann an cuairteig air cùl leabhraichean: *curled up behind books*; an robh e pòsta aig an àm: *if he was married at the time*; dè shaoil a bhean dhen ghnòthach: *what his wife thought of the matter*; mar shàirdseant na h-oidhche ann an Earra-Ghàidheal: *as night-sergeant in Argyll*; dèan do gharadh aig an teine: *warm yourself at the fire*; air beulaibh an teine ghuail: *in front of the coal fire*; bha soitheach a' ghuail air a chùlaibh: *the coal scuttle was behind him*; leum e far an t-sèitheir le eagal agus dh'èigh e: *he leapt from the chair in fear and shouted*; an ainm an Àigh: *for goodness' sake*; a' cumail nathraichean na phòcaid: *keeping snakes in his pocket*; nam biodh òigridh a' bhaile buaireasach: *if the young folk of the town were troublesome*; dàna 's ged a bha iad, bha eagal orra ro nathraichean: *bold as they were, they were scared of snakes*; latha a bha seo, bha e ann an oifis ceannard sgoile, le nathair na phòcaid: *one day he was in a headmaster's office, with a snake in his pocket*; a bha a' seachnadh na sgoile: *who were playing truant*; nuair a sheinneadh clag: *when a bell was rung*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: cha b' urrainnear a lorg: it (she) couldn't be found. *B' urrainnear* is a past passive form of *is urrainn*. *B' urrainnear fhaicinn* 'it could be seen'. *Cha b' urrainnear a ruigsinn* 'it couldn't be reached'. *Cha b' urrainnear am ceannsachadh* 'they couldn't be subdued'.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Chòrd muinntir Ìle ris gu mòr: *he really liked the people of Islay*.

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