

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Clann an Oistir

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 757. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 453 corresponds to Litir 757.

Tha mi cinnteach gu bheil sibh gu math eòlach air an fhacal Ghàidhlig *clann*. 'S e sin tùs an fhacail Bheurla *clan*. A bharrachd air **clann bheaga is clann mhòra** is a leithid, canaidh sinn Clann Mhuirich, Clann an Tòisich, Clann Dòmhnail is mar sin.

Ach an cuala sibh riamh mu *Chlann an Oistir*? 'S e fine bheag a bh' annta a bha a' fuireach ann an Eilean Ì. Clann an Oistir. Chan e ainm duine a th' ann an Oistir, ge-tà. B' e *ostuarii* a bh' annta ann an Laidinn – an fheadhainn a bha a' cumail faire aig doras.

Ma rinn sibh bith-eòlas aig àrd-ìre, bidh sibh eòlach air an fhacal Laidinn *ostium*. Tha e diofraichte bhon fhacal *osteon* ann an Seann Ghreugais, a tha a' ciallachadh 'cnàimh', agus a tha a' toirt dhuinn fhaclan Beurla mar *osteoblast* agus *osteoporosis*. Tha *ostium* a' ciallachadh 'doras, fosgladh, beul'. Ann am bith-eòlas, thathar a' cleachdadh an fhacail airson nam pòraichean ann an spongan far am bi uisge a' faighinn a-mach 's a-steach, agus airson nam fosglaidhean ann an cridheachan mheanbh-chreutairean.

Tha *ostium* cuideachd a' ciallachadh beul aibhne. Nise, tha am facal *òs* againn ann an Gàidhlig airson beul aibhne. Ged a thathar a' smaoinichadh gun tàinig *òs* bhon t-Seann Lochlannais, 's **iongantach mura h-eil** ceangal ann eadar *òs* agus *ostium*.

Buinidh Clann an Oistir do bheul-aithris mu Eilean Ì. Thathar ag ràdh gum b' e dorsairean don mhanachainn anns an eilean sin a bh' annta. Thàinig tùsaire na fine a-nall à Èirinn cuide ri Calum Cille fhèin agus chùm e faire air doras na manachainn don naomh ainmeil. Ach rinn e rudeigin airson an naomh a mhì-thoileachadh. Rinn Calum Cille mallachd air, ag ràdh nach bu chòir barrachd na còignear de a sheòrsa a bhith beò aig an aon àm.

Leis a sin, nuair a rugadh siathamh duine don teaghlach sin, bha aig fear no tè dhen chòignear eile ri bàs fhaighinn. Chan eilear ag ràdh ciamar a thachair sin. Mu dheireadh thall, thàinig an fhine gu ceann. Thathar ag ràdh gun robh an tè mu dheireadh le buntanas teaghlaich do Chlann an Oistir beò anns an ochdamh linn deug – fhathast ann an Eilean Ì.

'S iomadh stòiridh a th' ann mu Chalum Cille agus dorsan. Bha comas thar chàich aige ann a bhith a' fosgladh dhorsan a bha glaiste na aghaidh. Thathar ag innse mun turas ainmeil a rinn e a dh'Inbhir Nis airson tadhal air Brùid, Rìgh nan Cruithneach anns a' cheann a tuath. Ràinig Calum Cille agus a chompanaich lùchairt

an Rìgh. Bha Brùid àrdanach, ge-tà (oir 's e rìgh cumhachdach a bh' ann) agus chan fhosgladh e doras a lùchairt don fhear naomh.

Nuair a chunnaic Calum Cille seo, rinn e comharra de chrois an Tighearna. An uair sin, ghnog e an doras mòr agus chuir e a làmh air. Gu h-obann dh'fhuasgladh na glasan le neart agus dh'fhosgail an doras air a' chlab mar gun robh làmh mhòr air a phutadh gu cruaidh. Chaidh Calum Cille agus a chompanaich tron doras fhosgailte. Nuair a chuala e mar a thachair, thàinig Brùid gu h-iriosal a choinneachadh ris an naomh. Bhon latha sin a-mach ghabh Brùid ri Calum Cille mar fhear urramach, ionnsaichte, beannaichte.

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Faclan na Litreach: Clann Mhuirich: *the MacPherson clan*; Clann an Tòisich: *the Mackintosh clan*; Clann Dòmhnail: *Clan Donald, the MacDonald clan*; Clann an Oistir: *the clan of the ostuarii*; bith-eòlas: *biology*; Seann Ghreugais: *Ancient Greek*; cnàimh: *bone*; beul aibhne, òs: *river mouth*; Seann Lochlannais: *Old Norse*; Eilean Ì: *Iona*; mallachd: *curse*; Rìgh nan Cruithneach: *King of the Picts*; àrdanach: *haughty*; gu h-iriosal: *humbly*.

Abairtean na Litreach: tùs an fhacail Bheurla: *the origin of the English word*; is a leithid: *and the like*; a' cumail faire aig doras: *keeping watch at the door*; pòraichean ann an spongan: *pores in sponges*; fosglaidhean ann an cridheachan mheanbh-chreutairean: *openings in the hearts of small creatures*; dorsairean don mhanachainn: *doormen for the monastery*; thàinig tùsaire na fine a-nall à Èirinn cuide ri X: *the progenitor of the clan came over from Ireland with X*; rinn e rudeigin airson an naomh a mhì-thoileachadh: *he did something to upset the saint*; nach bu chòir barrachd na còignear de a sheòrsa a bhith beò aig an aon àm: *that no more than five people of his sort should be alive at the one time*; nuair a rugadh siathamh duine: *when a sixth person was born*; bha aig fear no tè dhen chòignear eile ri bàs fhaighinn: *one of the five others would have to die*; bha comas thar chàich aige: *he was more able than anybody else*; a bha glaiste na aghaidh: *that was locked to him*; chan fhosgladh e doras a lùchairt: *he wouldn't open the door of his palace*; rinn e comharra de chrois an Tighearna: *he made the sign of the cross of the Lord*; dh'fhuasgladh na glasan le neart: *the locking bolts flew open*; dh'fhosgail an doras air a' chlab: *the door opened wide*; mar gun robh làmh mhòr air a phutadh gu cruaidh: *as if a large hand had pushed it hard*; ghabh Brùid ri Calum Cille mar fhear urramach, ionnsaichte, beannaichte: *Brude accepted St Columba as an honourable, learned, blessed man*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: **clann bheaga is clann mhòra: big children and little children.** Clann is a feminine singular word with a plural meaning. When in the nominative case, it takes an adjective as if it were a plural word, but lenited because of its gender. Thus bheaga and mhòra. Note, however, that in some dialects it is usual not to include the terminal 'a' – thus they would say clann bheag and clann mhòr.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: 's iongantach mura h-eil ceangal ann eadar X agus Y: *it's likely that there is ('it's unlikely there isn't) a link between X and Y.*

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