

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Mì-mhodh ann an Gàidhlig (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 793. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 489 corresponds to Litir 793.

Cò am bàrd a bu chliùitiche a bh’ againn riamh ann an saoghal na Gàidhlig? Bidh cuid a’ cur Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair gu mullach a’ chlàir oir ’s e sàr-bhàrd a bh’ ann. Bha e gu math geur. Ach cha robh e cho geur ’s nach fhulaingeadh e cleas bho àm gu àm.

Tha stòiridh ann mu thuras a bha Alasdair agus ministear eaglaise a’ còmhradh ri chèile. ‘Tha glè bheag de naidheachd phoblach agam,’ thuirt am ministear, ‘ach dè naidheachd phrìobhaideach a th’ agad fhèin?’

‘Glè bheag, gu dearbh,’ fhreagair Alasdair.

‘Nach cuala tu dad anns a’ pharaiste as fhiach innse dhomh?’ thuirt am ministear?

‘Cha chuala.’

‘Uill,’ ars am ministear, ‘tha naidheachd agam dhut fhèin.’

‘Dè th’ ann?’ thuirt Alasdair.

‘Tha fear de na h-èildearan agam air an nurs aige a dhèanamh trom,’ thuirt am ministear. Chuir e iongnadh air Alasdair nach robh e air dad a chluinntinn mu dheidhinn sgainneal mar sin. Bha e a’ smaoinichadh gun robh fios aige air a h-uile rud a bha a’ dol. Nuair a chaidh e dhachaigh, dh’inns e an naidheachd do a bhean. Rinn i gàire. ’S e nurs a bh’ innte-se agus bha i trom le leanabh. B’ e Alasdair fhèin an t-èildear!

Chan e gun robh Alasdair faoin no ain-deònach dèiligeadh ri ceistean de a leithid. Gu dearbh, **’s ann air a’ chaochladh a bha e**. Sgrìobh e gu leòr de bhàrdachd a bhiodh mòran a’ tomhas mar ‘drabasta’, ged as e glè bheag dhith a fhuair ann an clò. Mar a sgrìobh Iain MacCoinnich anns a’ chruinneachadh ainmeil aige ‘Sàr-obair nam Bàrd Gàidhealach’, *‘while as a poet [Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair] merits the highest praise, he is not to be excused for his immoral pieces, which of course are excluded from [this publication].’*

Cha robh na Bhictòrianaich ro dhèidheil air sgrìobhadh a bha ‘mì-mhoralta’ ann an dòigh sam bith, co-dhiù nuair a thigeadh e gu feise. ’S dòcha gun robh sabaid is marbhadh is droch-dhiol ceart gu leòr, ach cha bhiodh e idir fallain a bhith a’ foillseachadh gu robh fir is boireannaich ana-miannach, co-dhiù bha sin anns an t-seòmar-chadail no air an taobh a-muigh dheth. Ann an saoghal na Gàidhlig, bha an casg sin a cheart cho làidir ’s a bha e ann an saoghal na Beurla. Chun an latha an-diugh, **cha mhòr nach eil e do-dhèante** bàrdachd dhrabasta Mhic Mhaighstir Alasdair a lorg.

Ann an fhicheadamh linn, dh'atharraich cùisean ann an saoghal na Beurla gu mòr, ged a thug e ùine. Chaidh *Lady Chatterley's Lover* le D H Lawrence fhoillseachadh san Eadailt ann an naoi ceud deug, fichead 's a h-ochd (1928) ach 's ann an naoi ceud deug is seasgad (1960) a chaidh an dreach slàn a chur an clò anns an Rìoghachd Aonaichte. Agus, ann an Gàidhlig, uill ... tha sinn a' feitheamh fhathast airson a leithid de nobhail!

Ach – cleas gach sluagh eile san t-saoghal – bhitheadh na Gàidheil a' beachdachadh air cuspairean mar sin – gaol, nòisean, miann, sannt. Agus bithidh fhathast! Ach, bhon litreachas againn, cha mhòr gum biodh fios agad.

Uill, chan eil sin fìor tuilleadh. O chionn ghoirid thàinig leabhar beag a-mach air a bheil *The Naughty Little Book of Gaelic*. Bheir sinn sùil air an-ath-sheachdain. Uill, air na pìosan a tha ceadaichte...!

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Faclan na Litreach: sàr-bhàrd: *a top-class poet*; gàire: *smile*; mì-mhoralta: *immoral*; ana-miannach: *lustful*; ceadaichte: *permitted*.

Abairtean na Litreach: am bàrd a bu chliùitiche a bh' againn riamh: *the most renowned poet we've ever had*; cho geur 's nach fhulaingeadh e cleas: *so sharp that he couldn't have a trick played upon him*; dè naidheachd phrìobhaideach a th' agad fhèin?: *what private news do you have yourself?*; nach cuala tu dad anns a' pharaiste as fhiach innse dhomh?: *haven't you heard anything in the parish that is worth telling me?*; tha fear de na h-èildearan agam air an nurs aige a dhèanamh trom: *one of my elders has caused his nurse to become pregnant*; nach robh e air dad a chluinntinn mu dheidhinn sgainneal mar sin: *that he hadn't heard anything about a scandal like that*; gun robh fios aige air a h-uile rud a bha a' dol: *that he knew everything that was happening*; chan e gun robh Alasdair faoin no ain-deònach dèiligeadh ri ceistean de a leithid: *not that Alasdair was naïve or unwilling to consider questions like that*; ged as e glè bheag dhith a fhuair ann an clò: *although little of it has been published*; co-dhiù nuair a thigeadh e gu feise: *at least when it came to sex*; gun robh sabaid is marbhadh is droch-dhìol ceart gu leòr: *that fighting and killing and abuse were okay*; co-dhiù bha sin anns an t-seòmair-chadail no air an taobh a-muigh dheth: *whether that were in the bedroom or outside it*; a chaidh an dreach slàn a chur ann an clò anns an Rìoghachd Aonaichte: *that the unabridged version was published in the United Kingdom*; tha sinn a' feitheamh fhathast airson a leithid de nobhail: *we're still waiting for that type of novel*; cleas gach sluagh eile san t-saoghal: *like every other people in the world*; gaol, nòisean, miann, sannt: *love, fancy, desire, lust*; bhon litreachas againn, cha mhòr gum biodh fios agad: *from our literature you'd hardly know*; nach bi sinn eadhon ri droch chainnt: *that we don't even swear*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Chun an latha an-diugh, **cha mhòr nach eil e do-dhèante** bàrdachd dhrabasta Mhic Mhaighstir Alasdair a lorg: *to this day, it's almost impossible to find Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair's erotic (some would say 'obscene') poetry*. Cha mhòr nach eil e 'it's almost'. Cha mhòr nach eil mi deiseil 'I'm almost ready'. A bheil an dinnear deiseil? Cha mhòr nach eil. 'Is dinner ready? Almost.'

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: 's ann air a' chaochladh a bha e: *on the contrary, it was quite the opposite*.

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