

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Mì-mhodh ann an Gàidhlig (3)

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 795. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 491 corresponds to Litir 795.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu leabhar a thàinig a-mach am-bliadhna ann an Alba Nuaidh – *The Naughty Little Book of Gaelic: All the Scottish Gaelic You Need to Curse, Swear, Drink, Smoke and Fool Around*. Tuigidh sibh nach eil an Litir idir a’ brosnachadh dhaoine a dh’ionnsaigh droch ghiùlan no droch chainnt. ’S ann air briathrachas a tha sinn a’ coimhead. Briathrachas a tha cudromach ann an cànan a tha beò is beòthail, agus a th’ air a cleachdadh le daoine òga.

Bidh sibh eòlach air *deoch an dorais*, tha mi cinnteach – nuair a bhiodh daoine a’ faighinn deoch air an rathad a-mach à taigh. Leis gum bi daoine a’ dràibheadh an-diugh, chan eil e cho cumanta. Seo rann a tha ga chomharrachadh:

*Deoch an dorais, deoch an t-sonais,
Deoch an deagh thurais, nì dona, chan eil againn,
Nì math, bu mhath leinn;
Air ghaol sìthe, is air eagal conais,
Thoiribh deoch an dorais dhuinn.*

Agus tha deoch làidir cudromach uaireannan airson càirdeas a dhèanamh no a dhaingneachadh. Tha *deoch-eòlais* a’ ciallachadh deoch a ghabhas daoine airson eòlas fhaighinn air a chèile.

Ach bha daoine riamh mothachail gu bheil cunnart an cois na dibhe cuideachd. Tha seanfhacal ag innse dhuinn – **nuair a bhios deoch a-staigh, bidh ciall a-muigh**. Agus tha seanfhacal comhairleachaidh ann: *aon ghlainne – chan fheàirde ’s cha mhiste i, dà ghlainne – is fheàirde ’s cha mhiste i, trì glainneachan – is miste ’s chan fheàirde i*.

Tha abairtean anns an leabhar co-cheangailte ri ìrean de mhisg. Mar eisimpleir *tha smùid air ‘he is happily drunk’* agus *bha e air smùid mhòr a ghabhail ‘he went on a big drinking binge’*.

Tha a’ chaibideil mu dheireadh mu dheidhinn feise agus briathrachas na Gàidhlig airson sin. Ged a bhios cuid mì-chofhurtail le sin ’s dòcha, seo a’ chaibideil as cudromaiche anns an leabhar ann an dòigh. Carson? Uill, ’s e briathrachas a th’ ann nach fhaighear ann am faclair, agus nach fhaighear ann an clas no cùrsa Gàidhlig. Uill, cha robh a leithid ann an gin de na clasaichean agamsa, co-dhiù!

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh gun do sgrìobh Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair bàrdachd dhrabasta nach robhar a’ foillseachadh ri linn Bhictoria. Ach nochd dàin de a leithid anns a’ chruinneachadh aige ann an seachd ceud deug, caogad ’s a h-aon (1751) a dh’fhoillsich e fhèin. Agus tha fear dhiubh anns an leabhar seo. Chan e seo an dàn Gàidhlig as sine anns a

bheil bàrd a' moladh ball-bodhaig a bhuineas do dh'fhir a-mhàin – tha eisimpleirean a' dol air ais gu linn nam bàrd clasaigeach.

Ma tha sibh ag iarraidh faclan ionnsachadh airson nam ball-gineamhainn ann am fir is mnathan, seo an leabhar dhuibh. Agus tha briathrachas ann airson feise cuideachd. Tha Gàidhlig ann airson 'pòg Fhrangach' mar a chanadh daoine anns a' chànan eile. Ach, an àite an Fhraing ainmeachadh, tha i ag ainmeachadh eilean beag Gàidhealach ann an Alba. Cò fear? Cuiridh e iongnadh oirbh 's dòcha, agus chan eil mi a' dol a dh'innse dhuibh. Feumaidh sibh an leabhar a cheannach!

Agus tha ciall eile, nach robh agam roimhe, feumaidh mi aideachadh, air 'seinn na clàrsaich'. Bho seo a-mach, bidh mi gu math faiceallach de bhith a' faighneachd de bhoireannach an seinn i a clàrsach dhomh, eagal 's gum faigh mi sgailc air mo bhus!

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Faclan na Litreach: briathrachas: *vocabulary*; feise: *sex, sexual intercourse*; mì-chofhurtail: *uncomfortable*; ball-gineamhainn: *genitalia*; pòg: *kiss*.

Abairtean na Litreach: a' brosnachadh dhaoine a dh'ionnsaigh droch ghiùlan no droch chainnt: *encouraging people to engage in bad behaviour or bad language*; deoch an t-sonais: *the drink of happiness*; nì dona, chan eil againn: *we have nothing bad here*; air ghaol sìthe: *for the love of peace*; air eagal conais: *for fear of quarrelling*; airson càirdeas a dhèanamh no a dhaingneachadh: *to make or cement friendship*; airson eòlas fhaighinn air a chèile: *to get to know each other*; mothachail gu bheil cunnart an cois na dibhe: *aware that drink carries danger[s]*; aon ghlainne – chan fheàrrde 's cha mhiste i: *one glass – not the better or worse of it*; dà ghlainne – is fheàrrde 's cha mhiste i: *two glasses – the better and not the worse of it*; trì glainneachan – is miste 's chan fheàrrde i: *three glasses – the worse and not the better of it*; ìrean de mhisg: *levels of drunkenness*; nach fhaighear ann am faclair: *that is not obtained in a dictionary*; bàrdachd dhrabasta nach robhar a' foillseachadh ri linn Bhictoria: *erotic/obscene poetry that was not published in Victorian times*; nochd dàin de a leithid anns a' chruinneachadh aige: *poems of that type appeared in his collection*; a' moladh ball-bodhaig a bhuineas do dh'fhir a-mhàin: *praising a body organ that only belongs to men*; linn nam bàrd clasaigeach: *the time of the classical bards*; ag ainmeachadh eilean beag Gàidhealach: *naming a small Gaelic island*; cuiridh e iongnadh oirbh: *it will surprise you*; tha ciall eile, nach robh agam roimhe, feumaidh mi aideachadh: *there is another meaning, I didn't appreciate before, I must admit*; seinn na clàrsaich: *the playing of the clàrsach*; eagal 's gum faigh mi sgailc air mo bhus: *in case I get a slap on the mouth*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: *In The Naughty Little Book of Gaelic Michael Newton tells us that the habit of giving a parting drink/door drink was associated in particular with Clann Donnchaidh and was also known as Deoch Cloinn Donnchaidh, a name recorded in the late 17th Century. However, the practice was probably a lot more widespread and was even used by a fear-an-taigh as a polite way of calling a house cèilidh to an end and getting rid of his guests. The phrase came into English as the slightly ungrammatical deoch an dorus and was championed by music hall stars Harry Lauder in 'A Wee Deoch an Doris' and Will Fyffe in 'I Belong to Glasgow'.*

Seanfhacal na Litreach: *nuair a bhios deoch a-staigh, bidh ciall a-muigh: when drink is within, sense is without.*

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