

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Mabinogion (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.macleam@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 833. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 529 corresponds to Litir 833.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun turas agam don Chuimrigh, agus mun t-seann sgeulachd ‘Math Mac Mhathonwy’ a bhuineas do na Mabinogion. Rugadh dithis leanabh do dh’Arianrhod – Dylan (fear a’ chuain) agus fear eile air nach robh ainm. Dh’fhàs an dàrna gille mòr is tapaidh. Latha a bha seo, bha bràthair Arianrhod, Gwydion, a’ dèanamh air caisteal a pheathar, Caer Arianrhod. Bha an dùn sin ri taobh a’ chladaich.

Lean an gille air. Nuair a ràinig iad an caisteal, thuir Arianrhod, ‘Cò e an gille seo?’

‘Do mhac fhèin,’ fhreagair Gwydion. Bha Arianrhod mì-thoilichte gun tuirt e sin. Bha nàire oirre nach robh i na h-òigh tuilleadh. ‘Dè an t-ainm a th’ air?’ ars ise.

‘Chan eil ainm air fhathast,’ dh’aidich Gwydion.

‘Agus chan fhaigh e ainm,’ thuir Arianrhod, ‘mura toir mi fhìn ainm dha.’

Bha fearg air Gwydion agus dh’fhalbh e leis a’ ghille. Rinn iad bàta draoidheil le feamainn. **Ghabh iad riochd ghreusaichean orra fhèin.** Rinn iad air Caer Arianrhod anns a’ bhàta.

Chuir Arianrhod teachdairean a dh’ionnsaigh a’ bhàta. Thill iad don dùn aice agus dh’innis iad dhì gur e greusaichean a bh’ air bòrd.

‘Ma-thà,’ arsa Arianrhod, ‘thoiribh tomhas meud mo chasan dhaibh. Iarraibh orra brògan a dhèanamh dhomh.’

Rinn Gwydion na brògan. Ach rinn e ro mhòr iad a dh’aona-ghnothach.

‘Tha iad ro mhòr,’ thuir Arianrhod **nuair a dh’fheuch i oirr’ iad.** ‘Iarraibh air na greusaichean brògan nas lugha a dhèanamh dhomh.’

An turas seo, rinn Gwydion paidhir eile dhi a bha ro bheag. Thill na teachdairean a dh’innse dha gun robh iad ro bheag.

‘Uill, cha dèan mi paidhir eile dhi gus am faic mi a casan le mo shùilean fhèin,’ thuir Gwydion.

Thàinig Arianrhod chun a’ bhàta. ‘Latha math dhut,’ thuir Gwydion. Cha do dh’aithnich Arianrhod e. Aig a’ mhionaid sin, nochd dreathan-donn. Thilg an gille òg clach air. Bhuail a’ chlach an dreathan-donn eadar fèith-lùthaidh agus cnàimh.

‘Gu dearbh,’ s ann aig Llew, an gille bàn sin, a tha làmh sgileil,’ ars Arianrhod.

‘S ann,’ dh’aontaich Gwydion, ‘agus tha thu air ainm a thoirt dha ge b’ oil leat. Is esan Llew Llaw Gyffes, an “gille bàn le làmh sgileil”.’

Leis na faclan sin, dh’fhalbh an draoidheachd agus dh’fhalbh am bàta. Na h-àite cha robh ann ach feamainn a’ chladaich. Bha an dreach tùsail air Gwydion agus

air Lleu. Bha Lleu gu bhith ainmeil. Aig a' cheann thall, dh'èirich e gu bhith na mhòr-mhaor air Gwynedd.

Taobh a-staigh ceithir cilemeatair de chladach na Cuimrigh, tha àiteachan ann a tha ag ainmeachadh Dylan, Lleu agus Arianrhod. Agus tha baile-fearainn faisg air làimh air a bheil 'Bryn Gwydion' cuideachd – sin Cnoc Ghwydion.

Tha Dylan air a chuimhneachadh ann an carraig mhòr air a' chladach air a bheil Maen Dylan. Gu tuath air sin, tha seann dùn os cionn na tràghad air a bheil Dinas Dinlle. Tha sin a' ciallachadh Dùn Lleu. Sin, a rèir an sgeòil, far an deach a thogail an dèidh dha ainm fhaighinn.

Agus a-muigh aig muir, chithear clachan aig ìsle-mhara air a bheil Caer Arianrhod. Anns na mìle bliadhna mu dheireadh, tha a' mhuir air an seann dùn aig Arianrhod a shlugadh. Ach chithear fhathast e. Tha e a' toirt na sgeulachd 'Math Mac Mhathonwy' beò do Chuimrich an latha an-diugh.

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Faclan na Litreach: tapaidh: *well-built*; paidhir: *pair*; draoidheachd: *magic*; geàrr-chunntas: *summary*; mòr-mhaor: *regional leader*; carraig: *rock*; ìsle-mhara: *low-tide*.

Abairtean na Litreach: Rugadh dithis leanabh do X: *X gave birth to two babies*; fear eile air nach robh ainm: *another that was unnamed*; caisteal a pheathar: *his sister's castle*; bha nàire oirre nach robh i na h-òigh tuilleadh: *she was ashamed that she was no longer a virgin*; chan fhaigh e ainm mura toir mi fhìn ainm dha: *he won't get a name unless I give him one*; rinn iad bàta draoidheil le feamainn: *they made a magic boat with seaweed*; chuir X teachdairean a dh'ionnsaigh a' bhàta: *X sent messengers to the boat*; thoiribh tomhas meud mo chasan dhaibh: *give them my foot measurements*; iarraibh orra brògan a dhèanamh dhomh: *ask them to make me shoes*; rinn e ro mhòr iad a dh'aona-ghnothach: *he deliberately made them too big*; gus am faic mi a casan le mo shùilean fhèin: *until I see her feet with my own eyes*; latha math dhut: *good day to you*; thilg an gille òg clach air: *the young lad threw a stone at it*; bhuaill a' chlach an dreathan-donn eadar fèith-lùthaidh agus cnàimh: *the stone hit the wren between tendon and bone*; 's ann aig Lleu, an gille bàn sin, a tha làmh sgileil: *Lleu, that fair-haired boy, has a skilful hand*; tha thu air ainm a thoirt dha ge b' oil leat: *you've given him a name, despite yourself*; bha X gu bhith ainmeil: *X was to become famous*; aig a' cheann thall: *eventually*; dh'èirich e gu bhith na mhòr-mhaor air X: *he rose to become leader of X*; tha baile-fearainn faisg air làimh air a bheil: *there is a farm nearby called*; os cionn na tràghad: *above the beach*; tha a' mhuir air an t-seann dùn a shlugadh: *the sea has swallowed up the old fort*; chithear fhathast e: *it can [will] still be seen*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: nuair a dh'fheuch i oirr' iad: *when she tried them on [her]. There is a convention concerning adjacent words, the first of which ends in a vowel, the second of which starts with a vowel, to avoid two adjacent vowels. It is that we replace the first vowel with an apostrophe (thus oirre becomes oirr'). This can be very useful for reading a script as we tend to elide the vowels in speech in that way.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Ghabh iad riochd ghreusaichean orra fhèin: *they took on the appearance (disguised themselves) of shoemakers.*

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