

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## **Sgiobair an t-Soithich Dhuibh (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.maclea@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.maclea@bbc.co.uk). This is Litir 851. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 547 corresponds to Litir 851.*

O chionn greis bha mi a’ seòladh anns an Tuirc. Goirid an dèidh sin, lorg mi seann sgeulachd Ghàidhlig anns a bheil maraichean – ann an soitheach seòlaidh – a’ nochdadh anns an Tuirc. ’S e an t-ainm oirre ‘Sgiobair an t-Soithich Dhuibh’. Bha criutha an t-Soithich Dhuibh ri iasgach an sgadain. Bha iad fada a-mach aig muir agus **bha iasg mòr aca**. Thàinig an ceò a-nuas orra agus cha robh càil a dh’fhios aca cà’ robh iad. Chùm iad orra gus am fac’ iad tìr.

Chaidh iad a dh’ionnsaigh na tìre agus lorg iad port. Bha tràigh bheag ann. Air an tràigh bha corp. Bha coltas air a’ chorp gur e fear a bh’ ann a bhuineadh do na dùthchannan siarach, seach don Tuirc. Bha e air a bhàthadh.

Dh’iarr an caiptean air fear dhen chriutha a dhol air ais don t-soitheach. Thill e le bogsa falamh airson sgadain, lèine ùr agus spaid. Chuir iad an corp a-steach don bhogsa leis an lèine ùr air. Chladhaich iad toll leis an spaid, agus thiodhlaic iad an corp ann.

An uair sin, chaidh an sgiobair agus an criutha gu ruige taigh-bìdh. Nuair a rinn iad suidhe aig bòrd, thàinig tè-fhrithéalaidh le truinnsear air an robh aon sgadan. Chuir i an truinnsear ann am meadhan a’ bhùird. Bha sin na annas do na h-Albannaich. Bha iad ag iarraidh faighinn a-mach an robh an sgadan Turcach cho math ris an sgadan Albannach. Ghabh iad uile pìos dhen iasg agus bha e math gu leòr.

Ach nuair a thill an tè-fhrithéalaidh chun a’ bhùird, chunnaic i gun robh an sgadan air ithe. Leig i sgreuch a-mach. Bha i air a tàmailteachadh. Thàinig an t-òstair nuair a chuala e an sgreuch. Bha e air uabhasachadh gun robh na coigrich air an sgadan ithe. Bha sanas air a’ bhòrd ann an Tuircis ag ràdh nach fhaodadh duine an sgadan ithe. Ach cha robh Tuircis aig na h-Albannaich. Bha an sgadan ann dìreach airson am bòrd a sgeadachadh. Bha sgadain uabhasach gann san Tuirc agus, mar sin, uabhasach daor. Thuirt an t-òstair gum biodh a h-uile fear dhen chriutha air a chrochadh gu bàs airson an sgadan ithe.

Uill, bha sgadain cho pailt ann an Alba, agus cho saor, ’s nach b’ urrainn do mhuinntir an t-Soithich Dhuibh an gnothach a chreidsinn. Dh’fheuch an caiptean aca ri reusanachadh leis an òstair. ‘Tha sgadain gu leòr againn air bòrd an t-soithich,’ thuirt e. ‘Ma leigeas sibh le aon duine falbh, tillidh e le basgaid dhiubh dhuibh.’

Mheòraich an t-òstair air a’ chùis agus mu dheireadh leig e le fear dhen chriutha tilleadh don t-soitheach. Thill am fear seo le basgaid de sgadain agus thug e

don òstair i. Bha an t-òstair air leth toilichte agus leig e an criutha mu sgaoil. Gu dearbh, chuir e fàilte air na maraichean a bhith a' fuireach anns a' bhaile aige.

Agus dh'fhuirich iad airson greis. Bhiodh an sgiobair agus an t-òstair a' falbh timcheall a' bhaile gach latha, a' reic sgadain. Rinn iad fortan.

Latha a bha seo, bha iad a-muigh agus mhothaich iad gun robh eallach air gach duine de bhiorain is fiodh is connadh. Thionndaidh an caiptean ris an òstair. '**Dè tha a' dol an-diugh?**' dh'fhaighnich e. Agus cluinnidh sibh freagairt an òstair an-ath-sheachdain.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** maraichean: *mariners*; soitheach seòlaidh: *sailing vessel*; air a bhàthadh: *drowned*; sgreuch: *scream*; air a tàmailteachadh: *indignant, disgusted*; òstair: *publican*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** bha mi a' seòladh anns an Tuirc: *I was sailing in Turkey*; Sgiobair an t-Soithich Dhuibh: *The Captain of the Black Ship*; ri iasgach an sgadain: *at the herring fishing*; thàinig an ceò a-nuas orra: *the mist came down upon them*; chùm iad orra gus am fac' iad tìr: *they continued until they saw land*; bha coltas air a' chorp gur e fear a bh' ann a bhuineadh do na dùthchannan siarach: *the body appeared to be of a man who belonged to the west[ern countries]*; chladhaich iad toll leis an spaid: *they dug a hole with the spade*; thiodhlaic iad an corp ann: *they buried the body in it*; chaidh an sgiobair agus an criutha gu ruige taigh-bìdh: *the captain and crew went to a restaurant*; thàinig tè-fhrithéalaidh le truinnsear air an robh aon sgadan: *a waitress came with a plate on which there was one herring*; bha e air uabhasachadh gun robh na coigrich air an sgadan ithe: *he was horrified that the foreigners had eaten the herring*; dìreach airson am bòrd a sgeadachadh: *only to decorate the table*; gum biodh a h-uile fear dhen chriutha air a chrochadh gu bàs: *that all members of the crew would be executed by hanging*; ma leigeas sibh le aon duine falbh, tillidh e le basgaid dhiubh dhuibh: *if you allow one man to leave, he'll return with a basket of them for you*; leig e an criutha mu sgaoil: *he released the crew*; mhothaich iad gun robh eallach air gach duine de bhiorain is fiodh is connadh: *they noticed that all the people were carrying a load of kindling and wood and fuel*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** **Dè tha a' dol an-diugh?:** *what's happening today? This is a good and easy idiom. If you look up the verb 'happen' in a dictionary you are likely to be given 'tachair'. But we often use 'rach', as in this example. Here are some other usages: Cha robh fios aige de bha [a'] dol 'he didn't know what was happening; 's iomadh rud a bhios a' dol air latha nan geamannan 'lots of things take place on games day'; dè bha a' dol aig taigh Sheumais an-dè? 'what was happening at Jimmy's house yesterday?'*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** **bha iasg mòr aca:** *they had a large catch of fish.*

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