

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Na Gobhair agus am Madadh-allaidh

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 903. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 599 corresponds to Litir 903.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Naomh Faolan agus am madadh-allaidh, agus tha madadh-allaidh eile anns an sgeulachd a th’ agam dhuibh an-diugh.

Bha seann ghobhar ann aig an robh **seachdnar ghobhar òga**. Latha a bha seo, thuirt i ris an fheadhainn òga, ‘Tha mi a’ falbh don choille. Thoiribh fainear nach toir am madadh-allaidh an car asaibh. Bidh e ag atharrachadh a choltais. Ach bidh sibh ga aithneachadh air a chasan dubha agus air a ghuth gharbh.

Cha robh i air falbh fada nuair a thàinig neacheigin don doras. Thàinig guth – ‘Fosglaidh an doras a **chloinn**. Seo ur màthair.’ Ach thuirt a’ chlann, ‘Chan fhosgail. Cha tu ar màthair. Tha guth garbh agad. Is tu am madadh-allaidh.’

Chaidh am madadh gu bùth far an do cheannaich e cailc gheal. Dh’ith e i agus rinn sin a ghuth binn. Thàinig e chun an dorais a-rithist. Ach chunnaic na gobhair òga a chasan a-mach air an uinneig agus thuirt iad, ‘Cha tu ar màthair. Tha casan dubh’ agad. Is tu am madadh-allaidh.’

Chaidh am madadh gu muillear agus fhuair e min-fhlùir air a chasan. Thill e gu taigh nan gobhar. ‘Fosglaidh, a chloinn,’ thuirt e, ‘tha ur màthair air tilleadh bhon choille.’ Choimhead an fheadhainn òga a-mach agus chunnaic iad casan bàna. Dh’fhosgail iad an doras.

Dh’ith am madadh iad uile, ach a-mhàin an tè a bu lugha a chaidh am falach am broinn cloc. Nuair a thill a màthair, thàinig i a-mach agus dh’aithris i na thachair.

Chaidh iad còmhla a choimhead airson a’ mhadaidh. Lorg iad e ann am miadan. Bha e na chadal fo chraobh. Chunnaic a’ ghobhar gun robh rudan a’ gluasad na bhroinn. Bha a leanaban fhathast beò na mhaodail! Chuir i a’ ghobhar òg dhachaigh airson sgian, snàthad is snàth fhaighinn.

Nuair a thill an tè òg, gheàrr a màthair brù a’ mhadaidh agus thàinig a h-uile gin dhen fheadhainn bheaga a-mach. Bha iad beò fhathast. Thuirt am màthair riutha, ‘Faighibh clachan mòra.’ Thill iad leis na clachan agus chuir am màthair am broinn a’ mhadaidh iad. Dh’fhuair iad i am fosgladh dùinte a-rithist. Bha i cho sgiobalta ’s nach d’ fhairich am madadh-allaidh càil.

Nuair a dhùisg am madadh, bha am pathadh air. Chaidh e don fhuaran airson uisge fhaighinn. ‘Dè thachair?’ thuirt e ris fhèin. ‘Na gobhair òga nam bhroinn, tha iad air a dhol cho cruaidh ’s cho trom ri clachan.’

Nuair a ràinig e am fuaran, dh’fheuch e ri òl. Ach thug tromadas nan clach air tuiteam an comhair a chinn a-steach don uisge. Agus chaidh a bhàthadh.

A bheil sibh ag aithneachadh an sgeòil sin? Cha do rinn mi ach geàrr-chunntas dheth. 'S e sgeul Gearmailteach a th' ann agus chaidh eadar-theangachadh gu Gàidhlig. Nochd e anns an iris Ghàidhlig à Alba Nuadh – Mac-Talla – ann an ochd ceud deug, naochad 's a ceithir (1894).

Thàinig e gu m' aire oir nochd an làn-sgeul o chionn ghoirid anns an iris 'An Rubha'. 'S e sin an iris aig Baile nan Gàidheal ann an Ceap Breatainn. Dh'atharraicheadh ainm an àite sin bho 'An Clachan Gàidhealach' o chionn bliadhna no dhà. Mo bheannachd air Rodney Chaisson, Seumas Watson is càch a tha a' taisbeanadh dualchas is cànan nan Gàidheal ann. 'S e àite sònraichte a th' ann.

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Faclan na Litreach: Naomh Faolan: *Saint Fillan*; madadh-allaidh: *wolf*; neacheigin: *somebody*; muillear: *miller*; miadan: *meadow*; geàrr-chunntas: *summary*; Gearmailteach: *German*; Alba Nuadh: *Nova Scotia*; iris: *periodical*.

Abairtean na Litreach: Thoiribh fainear nach toir am madadh-allaidh an car asaibh: *watch that the wolf doesn't deceive you*; ag atharrachadh a choltais: *changing his appearance*; ga aithneachadh air a chasan dubha agus air a ghuth gharbh: *recognising him by his black feet and his rough voice*; cha tu ar màthair: *you are not our mother*; far an do cheannaich e cailc gheal: *where he bought white chalk*; fhuair e min-fhlùir air a chasan: *he got flour on his feet*; dh'ith am madadh iad uile: *the wolf ate them all*; ach a-mhàin an tè a bu lugha a chaidh am falach am broinn cloc: *except the smallest one that hid inside a clock*; dh'aithris i na thachair: *she reported what had happened*; na chadal fo chraobh: *sleeping under a tree*; gun robh rudan a' gluasad na bhroinn: *that things were moving inside him*; fhathast beò na mhaodail: *still alive in his paunch*; airson sgian, snàthad is snàth fhaighinn: *to get a knife, needle and thread*; gheàrr a màthair brù a' mhadaidh: *her mother cut open the wolf*; dh'fhuairgheil i: *she sewed*; 's nach d' fhairich am madadh-allaidh càil: *that the wolf didn't feel anything*; bha am pathadh air: *he was thirsty*; chaidh e don fhuaran airson uisge fhaighinn: *he went to the spring for a drink of water*; cruaidh 's cho trom ri clachan: *as hard and heavy as stones*; thug tromadas nan clach air tuiteam an comhair a chinn a-steach don uisge: *the weight of the stones caused him to fall head first into the water*; chaidh a bhàthadh: *it was drowned*; dh'atharraicheadh ainm an àite sin: *the name of the place was changed*; is càch a tha a' taisbeanadh dualchas nan Gàidheal ann: *and the others who display the heritage of the Gaels there*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: aig an robh **seachdnar ghobhar òga**: *who had seven young goats. You might have been told that numerical nouns like dithis, trìuir, seachdnar apply only to people but this is not true of all dialects, and clearly not of the dialect of the editor of Mac-Talla, Eòin Aonghais Chaluum (Jonathan G Mackinnon). Numerical nouns are used in several places to count animals and I've even heard them used (by native speakers eg on Lismore) of inanimate objects like buildings.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Fosglaidh an doras **a chloinn**: *open the door, children. A chloinn is the vocative form of clann.*

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