

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Na Sia Bonnaich Bheaga (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 1,035. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 731 corresponds to Litir 1,035.

Tha mi a’ dol a thoirt na sgeulachd ‘Na Sia Bonnaich Bheaga’ gu crìch. ’S e sgeulachd a th’ ann a chaidh a chruinneachadh anns an naoidheamh linn deug le Iain Òg Ìle. Tha mi an dùil gur ann an Ìle fhèin a chruinnich e e, oir chleachd e sé an àite sia. ’S e **Na Sé Bonnaich Bheaga** a bh’ aige air an sgeulachd. A bharrachd air sin, ’s e *gealbhan* a bh’ aige air *teine*.

Co-dhiù, seo agaibh deireadh na sgeulachd. Bha nighean an fhamhair agus mac na bantraich air sgaradh bho chèile nuair a bha iad anns a’ bhaile mhòr. Bha nighean an fhamhair air obair a lorg aig gobha ann an ceàrdach. Ach bha i ann an riochd gille. Cha robh fios aig a’ ghobha gur e nighean a bh’ innte. Bha e gu math toilichte leis an obair aice oir bha i gu math sgileil.

Nise, bha nighean aig a’ ghobha fhèin. Ghabh ise nòisean air gille a’ ghobha, gun fhios aice nach e gille a bh’ ann ach nighean aig fhamhair. Bha nighean an fhamhair troimhe-chèile mu dheidhinn, ach lean i oirre a choimhead airson an duine aice fhèin – mac na bantraich. Bha esan a-nise fo ghealladh-pòsaidh aig nighean an rìgh. Bhon a fhuair e pòg bho chù, cha robh cuimhne aige air nighean an fhamhair.

Latha a bha seo, thàinig fios mu bhanais nighean an rìgh. Chaidh iarraidh air a’ ghobha agus a nighean a bhith an làthair aig a’ bhanais. Rinn nighean an fhamhair coileach òir agus cearc airgid mar thiodhlac bainnse. Nuair a chaidh i don bhanais, chuir i an coileach òir agus a’ chearc airgid air bòrd mu choinneamh fear na bainnse. Bha daoine a’ gabhail iongantas. Cha robh fios aca dè bha seo a’ ciallachadh.

Thug an nighean gràinne eòrna à poca, agus thilg i air a’ bhòrd i. Dh’ith an coileach i is thug e criomag às a’ chirc. ‘Gog, gog,’ thuir a’ chearc. ‘Nam biodh cuimhne agad air an latha a chairt mise na seachd bàthaichean aig an fhamhair, **cha dèanadh tu sin orm.**’

Thug an nighean gràinne eòrna eile à poca, agus thilg i air a’ bhòrd i. Dh’ith an coileach i is thug e criomag às a’ chirc. ‘Gog, gog,’ thuir a’ chearc. ‘Nam biodh cuimhne agad air an latha a thugh mi na seachd bàthaichean aig an fhamhair, cha dèanadh tu sin orm.’

Thug an nighean treas gràinne eòrna à poca, agus thilg i air a’ bhòrd i. Dh’ith an coileach i is thug e criomag às a’ chirc. ‘Gog, gog,’ thuir a’ chearc. ‘Nam biodh cuimhne agad air an latha a rug mise air an each aig an fhamhair, cha dèanadh tu sin orm.’

Uill, dh'aithnich an gille nighean an fhamhair, agus bha cuimhne aige oirre a-rithist. Leum e thar a' bhùird agus ghabh e grèim oirre. Thuir e rithe gun robh gaol aige oirre. Dh'fhàg e nighean an rìgh.

Ach cha robh e uile gu leòr mì-fhàbharach do nighean an rìgh. Gu dearbh, bha i ann an gaol le fear eile roimhe, agus phòs i esan.

Phòs mac na bantraich agus nighean an fhamhair, agus dh'fhalbh iad a dh'fhuireach ann an taigh an fhamhair a bha a-nise falamh. Agus mura robh iad sona, sunndach còmhla, cha chuala mi guth air.

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Faclan na Litreach: na chadal: *sleeping*; gealbhan: *fire*; gobha: *blacksmith*; ceàrdach: *smiddy*; sgileil: *skilful*; banais: *wedding*; gràinne eòrna: *a grain of barley*; thugh: *thatched*; dh'aithnich: *recognised*.

Abairtean na Litreach: 'S e sgeulachd a th' ann a chaidh a chruinneachadh anns an naoidheamh linn deug: *it's a story that was collected in the nineteenth century*; tha mi an dùil gur ann an Ìle fhèin a chruinnich e e: *I expect that it's in Islay itself that he collected it*; bha nighean an fhamhair agus mac na bantraich air sgaradh bho chèile: *the giant's daughter and the widow's son had separated from each other*; bha i ann an riochd gille: *she was disguised as a boy*; ghabh ise nòisean air gille a' ghobha: *she fancied the smith's lad*; gun fhios aice nach e gille a bh' ann: *without her knowing that he wasn't a lad*; fo ghealladh-pòsaidh aig nighean an rìgh: *engaged to the king's daughter*; chuir i an coileach òir agus a' chearc airgid air bòrd mu choinneamh fear na bainnse: *she put the golden cockerel and the silver hen on a table opposite the bridegroom*; bha daoine a' gabhail iongantais: *people were surprised*; thug e criomag às a' chirc: *he pecked the hen*; nam biodh cuimhne agad air an latha a chairt mise na seachd bàthaichean: *if you remembered the day I mucked out the seven byres*; an latha a rug mise air an each: *the day I caught the horse*; leum e thar a' bhùird agus ghabh e grèim oirre: *he leaped over the table and took hold of her*; gun robh gaol aige oirre: *that he loved her*; cha robh e uile gu leòr mì-fhàbharach do nighean an rìgh: *it wasn't altogether unfavourable to the king's daughter*; dh'fhalbh iad a dh'fhuireach ann an taigh an fhamhair a bha a-nise falamh: *they left to live in the giant's house that was now empty*; mura robh iad sona còmhla, cha chuala mi guth air: *if they weren't happy together, I never heard of it*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: *Na Sé Bonnaich Bheaga: The Six Wee Bannocks. This is the form in which the story was collected by Iain Òg Ìle (John Francis Campbell of Islay). Sé is the old form of the number six (which appears in a number of children's rhymes), still used in Argyll (many people in the northern Gàidhealtachd don't seem to realise that an alternative form of 'sia' exists). Similarly with the nouns of quantity – seisear is an alternative to sianar.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: *cha dèanadh tu sin orm: you wouldn't do that to me.*

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