

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Uamh Mhòr (2)

Each week the West Highland Free Press publishes the text for Ruairidh 's "Letter to Gaelic Learners" on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal (103.5-105 FM). Broadcasts are as follows: 10.00 pm on Sunday, following the Gaelic Learners' programme 'Beag air Bheag', with a repeat at 10.30 pm on Wednesday. This is Litir 1,042. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 4.03 pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 738 corresponds to Litir 1,042. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun Uaimh Mhòir faisg air Ceann a' Ghiùthsaidh. Thog Clann 'ic Ille Naoimh creach air fearann Mhic a' Phearsain Chluainidh. Chuir Mac a' Phearsain a nighean gu ruige Clann 'ic Ille Naoimh mar theachdaire, **feuch an gnothach a rèiteach.**

Bha Clann 'ic Ille Naoimh gu math mì-mhodhail dhi. Chuir iad air ais dhachaigh i gun chòta bàn oirre, agus leis an tarbh a chaidh a ghoid na cois. Ach bha an tarbh gun teanga. Bha sin na dhùbhlán mòr do Mhac a' Phearsain agus chuir e roimhe dìoghaltas a dhèanamh air Clann 'ic Ille Naoimh.

Chuir fear de Chlann 'ic a' Phearsain – Alasdair Cainnteach – feachd de cheud duine ri chèile. Ann an dorchadas na h-oidhche, dh'fhalbh iad a-mach agus thug iad ionnsaigh mharbhtach air Clann 'ic Ille Naoimh. Thathar ag ràdh nach robh ach ochd duine deug de Clann 'ic Ille Naoimh fhathast beò an ath mhadainn. Bha iadsan gan cumail fhèin am falach anns na coilltean timcheall an Ràta.

Cha do theich iad às an sgìre, ge-tà. Dh'fhuirich iad ann agus, gu sàmhach agus ann an dìomhaireachd, chruthaich iad an taigh fo-thalamh ris an canar an-diugh an Uamh Mhòr. Thog iad taigh tuathanaich os a chionn. Agus dh'fhuirich iad an sin, gu sàmhach, dìomhair airson grunn bhliadhnaichean. Bha doras-bùird ann an ùrlar a' chidsin. Bhiodh na boireannaich a' cur biadh sìos do na fir tron doras sin.

Bha amharas aig Alasdair Cainnteach gun robh cuid de dh'fhir Clann 'ic Ille Naoimh air maireachdainn beò, ach cha robh fios aige cà' robh iad. An robh iad air teicheadh no an robh fhathast a' fuireach ann am Bàideanach ann an dìomhaireachd? Chuir e roimhe faighinn a-mach.

Dh'fhalbh e à fianais airson greis agus leig e le fheusag fàs gus an robh i gu math mòr, fada. Chuir e e fhèin ann an riochd diol-dèirce agus feasgar a bha seo, chaidh e gu taigh an tuathanaich ann an Ràt. Dh'iarr e air na boireannaich gum faigheadh e **cuid na h-oidhche** aca. Dhiùlt iad e, agus dh'iarr iad air falbh.

Ach, nuair a dh'fheuch na boireannaich ri a chur a-mach às an taigh, thòisich e air sgreuchail le pian, agus e a' cumail a-mach gun robh e a' fulang leis a' chloich-fhuail no *kidney stone*. Ghabh na boireannaich truas ris a' bhodach agus leig iad leis a dhol a chadal air beulaibh an teine anns a' chidsin.

Thug Alasdair a' chreidsinn gun robh e air a dhol a chadal. An uair sin, dh'fhosgail na boireannaich an doras-bùird anns an ùrlar, agus chuir iad biadh sìos do na fir a bha am falach. Chunnaic Alasdair Cainnteach a h-uile càil. Dh'fhalbh e an ath

mhadainn agus chuir e feachd làidir ri chèile. Chaidh iad gu taigh an tuathanaich agus lorg iad na fir anns an Uaimh Mhòir fon ùrlar. Thathar ag ràdh gun do gheàrr iad cinn nam fear falaichte dhiubh air stoc craoibhe taobh a-muigh doras mòr an taighe.

Feumaidh gun deach an taigh a leagail agus a' chlach gu lèir a bh' ann a thoirt air falbh, oir chan eil sgeul an-diugh air. Chan eil ann ach an Uamh Mhòr fhèin. Co-dhiù, sin an sgeul.

Agus, thathar ag ràdh ann am Bàideanach gu bheil sliochd Alasdair Cainnteach a' fulang leis a' chloich-fhuail chun an latha an-diugh.

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Faclan na Litreach: mì-mhodhail: *unmannerly*; cainnteach: *loquacious*; doras-bùird: *trapdoor*; dhiùlt: *refused*; a' chlach-fhuail: *kidney stone*; truas: *pity*.

Abairtean na Litreach: mun Uaimh Mhòir faisg air Ceann a' Ghiùthsaidh: *about Raitt's Cave near Kingussie*; thog Clann 'ic Ille Naoimh creach air fearann Mhic a' Phearsain Chluainidh: *the MacNivens raided cattle on the land of MacPherson of Cluny*; chuir iad air ais dhachaigh i gun chòta bàn oirre: *they sent her back home without her petticoat on*, leis an tarbh a chaidh a ghoid na cois: *accompanied by the bull that had been stolen*; bha an tarbh gun teanga: *the bull was without a tongue*; bha sin na dhùbhlan mòr: *that was a big challenge*; chuir esan roimhe dìoghaltas a dhèanamh air: *he decided to wreak revenge on*; thug iad ionnsaigh mharbhtach air: *they made a deadly attack on*; na coilltean timcheall an Ràta: *the woods around Raitts*; dh'fhuirich iad an sin, gu sàmhach, dìomhair airson grunn bhliadhnaichean: *they stayed there, quietly and secretly, for a few years*; gun robh cuid de X air maireachdainn beò: *that some of X had survived*; cha robh fios aige cà' robh iad: *he didn't know where they were*; chuir e roimhe faighinn a-mach: *he decided to find out*; dh'fhalbh e à fianais airson greis: *he disappeared for a while*; leig e le fheusag fàs gus an robh i gu math mòr, fada: *he allowed his beard to grow until it was very large and long*; chuir e e fhèin ann an riochd diol-dèirce: *he disguised himself as a beggar*; thòisich e air sgreuchail le pian: *he started to scream with pain*; thug X a' chreidsinn gun robh e air a dhol a chadal: *X pretended he had gone to sleep*; gun do gheàrr iad cinn nam fear falaichte dhiubh air stoc craoibhe: *that they cut off the heads of the hidden men on a tree stump*; gun deach an taigh a leagail: *that the house was dismantled*; gu bheil sliochd X a' fulang: *that X's descendants suffer*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Chuir Mac a' Phearsain a nighean gu ruige Clann 'ic Ille Naoimh mar theachdaire, **feuch an gnothach a rèiteach**. *MacPherson sent his daughter to the MacNivens as a messenger, in an attempt to sort out the matter.* Feuch used in this way works well idiomatically and is very neat. Here is another example: chaidh i gu leabaidh tràth, feuch faighinn cuidhteas a cnatain 'she went to bed early in an attempt to get rid of her cold'.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: gum faigheadh e cuid na h-oidhche aca: *that he would get a night's lodgings in their house.*

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