

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Leabhar Dhèir (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 1,176. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 872 corresponds to Litir 1,176.

Tha sinn a’ toirt sùil air na notaichean Gàidhlig ann an Leabhar Dhèir. Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mar a ghabh mac aig Bede galar. Bha sin an dèidh do Bheide, an ceannard Cruithneach ionadail, àite airson manachainn a dhiùltadh do Chalum Cille.

Seo na thachair an uair sin, mar a th’ aig Uilleam MacBhàtair anns an leabhar aige Rosg Gàidhlig: ... *chaidh am morair a dh’athchuinge nan clèireach gun dèanadh iad ùrnaigh leis a’ mhac chum tigeadh slàinte dha, agus thug e an iobairt dhaibh o cloich an tiobrad gu ruige cloich Peit-mhic-Gharnaid.*

Tha sin a’ ciallachadh gun do thuig Bede gun robh cumhachd aig na clèirich Chrìosdail. Dh’iarr e orra ùrnaigh a dhèanamh airson a mhic. Nan tigeadh piseach air, gheibheadh na clèirich am fearann a dh’ainmich Bede eadar cloich an tiobrad agus cloich Peit-mhic-Gharnaid.

A rèir Leabhar Dhèir, rinn na clèirich ùrnaigh agus thàinig slàinte don ghille. Cha do chùm Calum Cille am fearann dha fhèin, ge-tà. ’S ann a thug e seachad e do a chompanach, Drostan. Seo na tha anns na notaichean anns an Leabhar: ... *thug Calum Cille do Dhrostan a’ chathair sin, agus bheannaich e i, agus dh’fhàg e am briathar – ge b’ e a sheasadh na h-aghaidh, nach biodh e bliadhnach, buadhach.*

Dh’fhàg Calum Cille mallachd air duine sam bith a chuireadh an aghaidh na manachainn – nach biodh e bliadhnach, buadhach. Tha sin a’ ciallachadh nach biodh a bheatha fada no soirbheachail.

Nise, a bheil sibh eòlach air Dèir ann an Siorrachd Obar Dheathain? Chan eil sgeul air a’ mhanachainn san latha an-diugh. Ach thathar a’ smaoinichadh gun robh i an ìre mhath far a bheil *Old Deer*. Ach dè as ciall don ainm *Deer* – no ann an Gàidhlig Dèir? Uill tha an seantans mu dheireadh anns a’ chiad earrainn de na notaichean ag innse sin dhuinn – **ma ghabhas e creidsinn**: Seo an **rosgrann** gu lèir: *Thàinig deòir Dhrostan air sgaradh ri Calum Cille. Labhair Calum Cille, ‘biodh Dèir ainm bho seo a-mach.* Anns an dàrna linn deug, chanadh na Gàidhlig *déara* far am bi sinne ag ràdh an-diugh *deòir*. *Tears*. Mar sin, thàinig an t-ainm-àite *Dèir* – no *Deer* – bho na deòir a leig Drostan nuair a thill Calum Cille a dh’Eilean Ì.

Cuimhnicheamaid gun robh an sgrìobhadair beò mu shia ceud bliadhna an dèidh turas Chalum Cille a Dhèir. ’S dòcha gun robh an cunntas ann am beul-aithris air a chruthachadh airson an t-ainm a mhìneachadh. Ach, air an làimh eile, chan eil mìneachadh eile agam.

Dh’fhalbh Calum Cille a dh’Ì, ach dè thachair do Dhrostan? Cò bh’ ann an Drostan? Gu fortanach dhuinn, tha cunntas air anns an leabhar ainmeil Leabhar

Ùrnaighean Obar Dheathain no *Breviarium Aberdonense*. Ged a tha an leabhar sin sean, chan eil e cho sean ri Leabhar Dhèir. Chaidh a chur an clò ann an còig ceud deug is deich (1510). Tha e ag innse dhuinn gun robh Drostan na aba agus gun robh a latha fèille air a' cheathramh latha deug dhen Dùbhlachd. Tuilleadh mu dheidhinn anns an ath Litir.

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Faclan na Litreach: Leabhar Dhèir: *The Book of Deer*; galar: *disease*; mallachd: *curse*; cuimhnicheamaid: *let us remember*; mìneachadh: *explanation*; Leabhar Ùrnaighean Obar Dheathain: *The Aberdeen Breviary*.

Abairtean na Litreach: an dèidh do Bhede, an ceannard Cruithneach ionadail, àite airson manachainn a dhiùltadh do Chalum Cille: *after Bede, the local Pictish leader, refused Columba a place for a monastery*; chaidh am morair a dh'athchuinge nan clèireach gun dèanadh iad ùrnaigh leis a' mhac chum tigeadh slàinte dha: *the mormaer went to beseech the clerics that they pray with the son in order that health would come to him*; thug e an ìobairt dhaibh o cloich an tiobrad gu ruige cloich Peit-mhic-Gharnaid: *he gave them the offering [of land] from cloch an tiobrad to cloch Peit-mhic-Gharnaid*; gun robh cumhachd aig na clèirich Chrìosdail: *that the Christian clerics were powerful*; rinn na clèirich ùrnaigh: *the clerics prayed*; thàinig slàinte don ghille: *health came to the lad*; cha do chùm Calum Cille am fearann dha fhèin: *Columba didn't keep the land to himself*; 's ann a thug e seachad e do a chompanach: *he gave it to his companion*; thug Calum Cille do Dhrostan a' chathair sin, agus bheannaich e i: *Columba gave that place to Drostan*; dh'fhàg e am briathar – ge b' e a sheasadh na h-aghaidh, nach biodh e bliadhnach, buadhach: *he left the statement – whoever might stand against it, that he would not be long-living or successful*; chan eil sgeul air a' mhanachainn: *there is no sign of the monastery*; anns an dàrna linn deug, chanadh na Gàidhlig *déara* far am bi sinne ag ràdh an-diugh *deòir*: *in the twelfth century, the Gaels would say déara where we today say deòir*; thàinig deòir Dhrostan air sgaradh ri Calum Cille: *Drostan's tears came when separating from Columba*; labhair Calum Cille, 'biodh Dèir ainm bho seo a-mach: *Columba said, 'let Déir be its name henceforth'*; dè as ciall dha?: *what does it mean?*; cò bh' ann an Drostan?: *who was Drostan?*; chaidh a chur an clò: *it was printed*; gun robh X na aba: *that X was an abbot*; gun robh a latha fèille air a' cheathramh latha deug dhen Dùbhlachd: *that his feast-day was on the 14th of December*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Seo an **rosgrann** gu lèir: *here is the entire sentence*. Throughout the rest of the text I have used the English loanword *seantans* as a translation for 'sentence'. However, there is an older word *rosgrann*, that we shouldn't forget. It is based on *rosg* 'prose' and *rann* 'verse, stanza, portion'.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: **ma ghabhas e creidsinn:** *if it can be believed*.

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