

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Naomh Drostan

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 fios@learngaelic.scot. This is Litir 1,177. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 873 corresponds to Litir 1,177.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Naomh Drostan. Tha e air ainmeachadh ann an Leabhar Dhèir. Ach tha an cunntas seo a’ tighinn bho Leabhar Ùrnaighean Obar Dheathain no *Breviarium Aberdonense*. **Chan eil e soilleir cà’ n do rugadh e**, ach tha an leabhar ag innse dhuinn gun do bhuineadh e do chinneadh rìoghail nan Albannach.

Leis gun robh Drostan ag amas air a bhith ag obair ann an seirbheis Dhè, thug a phàrantan e dha uncail – Naomh Calum Cille – a bha a’ fuireach ann an Èirinn. An sin, bhiodh e a’ faighinn ionnsachadh creideimh.

Bha Drostan an uair sin a’ fuireach ann an àite ris an canar Dalquongale. Tha na sgoilearan a’ dèanamh dheth gur e sin Dercongal faisg air Dùn Phris, air a bheil *Hollywood* an-diugh. Nuair a chaochail an seann aba an sin, bha Drostan air a dhèanamh na aba ann.

Bha e an sin greis. An uair sin, **dh’fhalbh e a dh’fhuireach** ann an àiteachan iomallach. Bha e a’ fuireach mar aonaran ann an dìthreabhan. Thog e eaglais ann an Gleann Easg ann an Monadh Aonghais.

Tha Leabhar Ùrnaighean Obar Dheathain ag innse dhuinn gun robh Drostan co-cheangailte ri aon mhìorbhail. Thug e fradharc às ùr do shagart dall dom b’ ainm Simon.

Feumaidh gun robh e a’ fuireach ann an Gleann Easg fad ùine mhòr. ’S e duine naomh a bh’ ann agus bha spèis aig an t-sluagh air. Nuair a chaochail e, thachair rud inntinneach. Chaidh na cnàmhan aige a thoirt a dh’Obar Dobhair – an t-àite far an tàinig e fhèin is Calum Cille gu tìr nuair a fhuair iad fearann airson manachainn ann an Dèir. Chaidh na cnàmhan a chur ann an tuam cloiche ann an Obar Dobhair. Bhiodh mòran daoine, a bha a’ fulang le galaran de dh’iomadh seòrsa, a’ dol ann. Bhiodh iad a’ faighinn leigheas ann. Mar a thachair leis a’ ghille aig Bede, thigeadh slàinte thuca.

Ged a tha Leabhar Ùrnaighean Obar Dheathain ag innse dhuinn gun robh ceangal eadar Drostan agus Obar Dobhair, chan eil e a’ dèanamh iomradh sam bith air Dèir. Tha e coltach nach robh an fheadhainn a chuir an Leabhar Ùrnaighean ri chèile eòlach air Leabhar Dhèir.

Cuideachd, ged a tha an Leabhar Ùrnaighean ag ràdh gur e Albannach a bh’ ann an Drostan – a’ ciallachadh Gàidheal – thathar a’ smaoinichadh gur e ainm Cruithneach a bh’ aige. Agus tha e co-cheangailte ri sgìre anns an ear-thuath far an robh na Cruithnich a’ riaghladh fad ùine mhòr.

Ged nach eil sgeul air Manachainn Dhèir an-diugh, a bheil dualchas Dhrostan fhathast beò? Tha, gu dearbh. Tha e air a chuimhneachadh ann an Obar Dobhair far a

bheil eaglais air a bheil Eaglais Naoimh Dhrostan. Tha tobar anns a' bhaile air a bheil Tobar Dhrostan mar ainm.

Tha ainmean-àite ga chuimhneachadh ann an Gleann Easg cuideachd – ach an sin 's e Droustie a th' air. Mar eisimpleir, tha *Droustie's Meadow* agus *Droustie's Well* ann.

Tha an naomh ceangailte ri Obar Lobhair ann an Srath Spè cuideachd. 'S e *Sgìre Dhrostan* a chanas sinn ris a' pharaiste an sin. Agus tha àiteachan ann an Gleann Urchardain, Bàideanach agus Gallaibh co-cheangailte ris. 'S iomadh eaglais ann an Alba air a bheil Eaglais Dhrostan mar ainm. Is fhiach an duine a chuimhneachadh gun teagamh.

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Faclan na Litreach: Naomh Drostan: *St Drostan*; Leabhar Dhèir: *The Book of Deer*; Leabhar Ùrnaighean Obar Dheathain: *The Aberdeen Breviary*; Gleann Easg: *Glen Esk*; Monadh Aonghais: *the upland of Angus*; tuam cloiche: *stone tomb*; leigheas: *cure (medical)*; tobar: *well*; Obar Lobhair: *Aberlour*; Srath Spè: *Strathspey*.

Abairtean na Litreach: gun do bhuineadh e do chinneadh rìoghail nan Albannach: *that he belonged to the royal race of the Scots*; ag amas air a bhith ag obair ann an seirbheis Dhè: *aiming to work in the service of God*; tha na sgoilearan a' dèanamh dheth gur e sin X faisg air Dùn Phris: *the scholars reckon that is X near Dumfries*; nuair a chaochail an seann aba an sin, bha Drostan air a dhèanamh na aba ann: *when the old abbot died there, Drostan was made abbot*; a' fuireach mar aonaran ann an dìthreabhan: *living as a hermit in wild places*; co-cheangailte ri aon mhìorbhail: *connected to one miracle*; thug e fradharc às ùr do shagart dall dom b' ainm Simon: *he restored sight to a blind priest called Simon*; 's e duine naomh a bh' ann agus bha spèis aig an t-sluagh air: *he was a saintly man and the people greatly respected him*; chaidh na cnàmhan aige a thoirt a dh'Obar Dobhair: *his bones were taken to Aberdour*; chan eil e a' dèanamh iomradh sam bith air Dèir: *it doesn't mention Deer*; far an robh na Cruithnich a' riaghladh fad ùine mhòr: *where the Picts ruled for a long time*; ged nach eil sgeul air Manachainn Dhèir an-diugh: *although there is no sign of the [original] monastery of Deer today*; tha àiteachan ann an Gleann Urchardain, Bàideanach agus Gallaibh co-cheangailte ris: *there are places in Glenurquhart, Badenoch and Caithness connected to him*; is fhiach an duine a chuimhneachadh: *it's worth remembering the man*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: dh'fhalbh e a dh'fhuireach ann an àiteachan iomallach: *he went to live in remote places. In a construction of this nature, we lenite the verbal noun (infinitive) e.g. chaidh e a choimhead a' ghèam 'he went to see the game'. But because fh is silent, we insert a dh' in front of a verbal noun which starts with 'f'. Chaidh i a dh'fhuireach 'she went to live there'. Thig mi a dh'fhaicinn dè tha dol 'I'll come to see what's happening'.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Chan eil e soilleir cà' n do rugadh e: *it's not clear where he was born.*

Tha “*Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh*” air a maoinachadh le MG ALBA