

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Locha Buidhe 's a Dhà Bhuachaille (1)

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 1,182. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 878 corresponds to Litir 1,182.

Tha mi airson seann sgeulachd à Muile aithris dhuibh. 'S e an t-ainm a th' oirre 'Locha Buidhe 's a Dhà Bhuachaille'.

Bha dà bhuachaille aig tighearna Locha Bhuidhe. Thàinig bean **an dàrna buachaille** gu taigh a' bhuachaille eile. Bha rudeigin a' goil ann am poit air teine.

'Dè th' agad sa phoit?' ars an tè a thàinig a-steach.

'Brochan,' fhreagair an tè eile.

'Dè an seòrsa brochain?'

'Dubh-bhrochan,' thuirt an tè a bha a-staigh. 'S e brochan tana a bh' ann, air a dhèanamh de mhin-choirce. Cha robh feòil no glasraich ann.

'Hut,' thuirt an tè a bha a' dèanamh cèilidh. 'S e an cèile agad an duine truagh. Tha daimh gu leòr aig an uachdaran. Cha dèanadh e cron air nan cailleadh e fear. Cuiridh mi an duine agam a-null a-nochd. Faodaidh esan agus an duine agad fhèin falbh còmhla agus fear de na daimh a thoirt dhachaigh leotha.'

Nuair a thàinig an oidhche, chuir a' bhean seo an duine aice a-null gu taigh a' bhuachaille eile. 'Fanaidh mise anns a' choille,' thuirt esan ris an fhear eile. 'Thalla thus' don bhuaile. Goid an damh agus thoir thugam e. Bheir mise dhachaigh e. Ma dh'fhaighnicheas duine dhìom an do ghoid mi an damh, canaidh mi nach do ghoid. Agus bidh an fhìrinn agam. Ma dh'fhaighnicheas duine dhìotsa an tug thu an damh dhachaigh, canaidh tu nach tug. Agus bidh an fhìrinn agad. Bidh an dithis againn ag innse na firinn!'

Dh'fhalbh iad mar sin don choille. Thog iad teine ann. Bha fear de na buachaillean a' dol a dh'fhuireach aig an teine. Bha am fear eile a' dol a ghoid an daimh.

Aig an àm sin, bha cumhachd aig tighearna duine a chrochadh gu bàs airson cron no eucoir, gun a bhith a' dol gu cùirt-lagha. Agus, mar a thachair e, bha Locha Buidhe air fear a chrochadh an latha sin fhèin, anns an aon choille 's an robh na buachaillean.

Fhad 's a bha an dà bhuachaille ris a' phlòigh aca, bha buidheann de dh'uaislean còmhla ann an taigh mòr Locha Bhuidhe. Bha iad a' cur geall nach biodh aon duine aig Locha Buidhe treun gu leòr gus a dhol a-steach don choille agus bròg a thoirt far cas an duine a chaidh a chrochadh.

Bha Locha Buidhe feargach. Chuir e airgead air a' bhòrd. Dh'iarr e air fear de na daoine aige – fear MacPhàidein – bròg an duine mhairbh a thoirt air ais leis gus gum buannaicheadh e an geall.

Dh'aontaich MacPhàidein agus dh'fhalbh e don choille anns an dorchadas. Ach nuair a thàinig e faisg air làrach a' chrochaidh, 's ann a chunnaic e fear a' dèanamh a gharaidh aig teine. Bha MacPhàidein dhen bheachd nach robh an duine 'marbh' marbh idir!

Thill e don taigh mhòr na dheann. Nuair a chaidh a cheasnachadh mun chùis, thuirte e gun robh an duine a chaidh a chrochadh beò agus ri taobh teine. Agus dh'fhàg MacPhàidein a' bhròg far an robh i – air cas an duine!

Bha na h-uaislean **cho sona ri ... uill ... bròg!** 'Mar a thuirte sinn, a Locha Bhuidhe ...' thuirte iad, 'Bha fios againn nach robh agad mar luchd-obrach ach gealtairean!' Fhuair MacPhàidein an uair sin trod bho chuideigin eile anns an t-seòmar, mar a chit sinn anns an ath Litir.

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Faclan na Litreach: Muile: *Mull*; tighearna: *lord*; a' goil: *boiling*; brochan tana: *thin porridge*; min-choirce: *oatmeal*; feòil: *meat*; glasraich: *vegetables*; plòigh: *prank, enterprise*; uaislean: *gentry*; MacPhàidein: *MacFadyen*; na dheann: *in a hurry*; gealtairean: *cowards*; trod: *scolding*.

Abairtean na Litreach: Locha Buidhe 's a Dhà Bhuachaille: [*the laird of*] *Lochbuie and his two herdsman*; an tè a bha a' dèanamh cèilidh: *the woman who was visiting*; 's e an cèile agad an duine truagh: *your husband is the [a] poor man*; tha daimh gu leòr aig an uachdaran: *the landlord has enough oxen*; cha dèanadh e cron air nan cailleadh e fear: *it wouldn't harm him if he lost one*; fanaidh mise anns a' choille: *I'll remain in the wood*; thalla thus' don bhuaile: *you go to the fold*; goid an damh agus thoir thugam e: *steal the ox and bring it to me*; ma dh'fhaighnicheas duine dhìotsa an tug thu an damh dhachaigh, canaidh tu nach tug: *if a person asks you if you took the ox home, you'll say you didn't*; bidh an fhìrinn agad: *you'll be telling the truth*; bha cumhachd aig tighearna duine a chrochadh gu bàs airson cron no eucoir, gun a bhith a' dol gu cùirt-lagha: *a laird had the power to hang a person to death for a harm or crime, without going to a court of law*; bha X air fear a chrochadh an latha sin fhèin: *X had hanged a man that very day*; a' cur geall nach biodh aon duine treun gu leòr: *betting that not one person would be brave enough*; gus a dhol a-steach don choille agus bròg a thoirt far cas an duine a chaidh a chrochadh: *to enter the wood and take a shoe from the foot of the man who had been hanged*; a' dèanamh a gharaidh aig teine: *warming himself at the fire*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Thàinig bean an dàrna buachaille gu taigh a' bhuachaille eile: *the wife of the first ['second'] herdsman came to the house of the other herdsman. Note the use of dàrna here, rather than ciad. Also note that buachaille is not lenited following dàrna, even in the genitive case. Compare deireadh a' Chiad Chogaidh (with lenition) and deireadh an Dàrna Cogaidh (no lenition).*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: **cho sona ri bròg:** *as happy as a shoe [i.e. really happy]. This is thought to refer to how the upper parts of shoes would part from the sole leaving what looks like a happy mouth.*

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