

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Long a Chaidh a dh'Ameireagaidh (4)

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 1,197. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 893 corresponds to Litir 1,197.

Ann an sgeulachd *An Long a Chaidh a dh'Ameireagaidh*, dh'fhàg sinn Iain agus am bodach, a bh' ann an riochd eich, mu choinneimh a' chaisteil phràise le caolas eatarra. Thug am bodach slat do dh'Iain. 'Buail an t-slat ormsa,' thuirt e, 'agus bidh mi nam long. Bheir mi don chaisteal thu. Cuiridh a' bhaintighearna a ceann a-mach agus canaidh i "cò às a thàinig thu, a sheòladair?" Freagraidh thusa gun tàinig thu às na h-Innsean.' Agus mhìnich am bodach mar a bhiodh an còrr dhen chòmhradh.

'S ann mar sin a thachair e. Dh'inns Iain gun tàinig e às na h-Innsean. 'Dè an luchd a th' agad air bòrd?' dh'fhaighnich a' bhaintighearna.

'Tha sìoda,' fhreagair Iain. 'Tha e freagarrach airson aodach a dhèanamh do bhaintighearnan.'

'An toir thu ultach dheth a-steach?' dh'fhaighnich am boireannach.

'Chan eil fhios agam dè an seòrsa a b' fheàrr leibh,' fhreagair Iain. 'Nach tig sibh a-mach don t-soitheach airson na th' agam fhaicinn.' Dh'aontaich a' bhaintighearna gu dèanadh i sin.

Bha i cho fada air bòrd a' coimhead air na h-ultaichean sìoda 's nach do mhothaich i gun robh an soitheach a' dèanamh a shlighe gu socair. Bha i a-nise pìos mòr air falbh bhon chaisteal. Bha i feargach. Thug i a-mach iuchraichean a' chaisteil agus thilg i a-mach air an loch iad. '**Ge brìth dè dh'èireas dhòmhsa,**' thuirt i, 'cha tèid duine eile a-steach don chaisteal às mo dhèidh.'

Chaidh iad gu lùchairt an Rìgh. Thuirt a' bhaintighearna nach pòsadh i an Rìgh gus am biodh an caisteal pràise aig ceann na lùchairt. Thuirt an Rìgh ri Iain gu feumadh esan sin a chur an sàs no gum biodh e air a chrochadh. Chaidh Iain don bhodach. Chaidh an dithis aca gu uamh nam. Thog na famhairean an caisteal pràise agus chuir iad aig ceann na lùchairt e.

Ach cha robh a' bhaintighearna riarichte. 'Cha phòs mi thu,' thuirt i ris an Rìgh, 'gus am faigh mi na h-iuchraichean a thilg mi don loch.' Bha an Rìgh a' dol a chrochadh Iain mura faigheadh e na h-iuchraichean. Chaidh Iain agus am bodach don tràigh far an robh an t-iasg. Bha Iain air beatha an èisg a shàbhaladh roimhe. Lorg an t-iasg na h-iuchraichean. Thug Iain na h-iuchraichean don bhaintighearna.

Cha robh i sàsaichte, ge-tà. 'Cha phòs mi thu,' thuirt i ris an Rìgh, 'gus am faigh mi trì botail de dh'uisge à Tobar nam Buadh.'

'Gheibh Iain an t-uisge dhut,' ars an Rìgh.

Chaidh am bodach, a bh' ann an riochd eich, agus Iain gu àite fad air falbh. 'Nise, Iain,' thuirt am bodach, 'faigh clach agus buail mi am bun na cluaise.'

Marbhadh tu mi. Sgolt mo bhrù agus leig pàirt de mo chaolain a-mach air mo chliathaich. Thig còig fithich. Beir air **dithis** dhiubh. Can ris na trì eile nach leig thu am bràithrean mu sgaoil gus an toir iad dhut còig botail de dh'uisge à Tobar nam Buadh.'

Thachair an gnothach mar a mhìnich am bodach e. Thill na fithich le còig botail de dh'uisge. Agus dè rinn Iain an uair sin? Chì sinn anns an ath Litir.

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Faclan na Litreach: sìoda: *silk*; feargach: *angry*; lùchairt: *palace*; riarachta, sàsaichte: *satisfied*; fithich: *ravens*.

Abairtean na Litreach: An Long a Chaidh a dh'Ameireagaidh: *The Ship that Went to America*; dh'fhàg sinn Iain agus am bodach, a bh' ann an riochd eich, mu choinneimh a' chaisteil phràise le caolas eatarra: *we left Iain and the old man, who was in the form of a horse, opposite the brazen castle, with a strait between them*; buail an t-slat ormsa: *hit me with the rod*; cuiridh a' bhaintighearna a ceann a-mach: *the lady will put her head out*; gun tàinig thu às na h-Innsean: *that you came from the Indies*; dè an luchd a th' agad air bòrd?: *what load do you have on board?*; freagarrach airson aodach a dhèanamh do bhaintighearnan: *suitable for making clothes for ladies*; an toir thu ultach dheth a-steach?: *will you bring in a large armful of it?*; nach tig sibh a-mach don t-soitheach: *won't you come out to the ship*; 's nach do mhothaich i gun robh an soitheach a' dèanamh a shlighe gu socair: *that she didn't know that the ship was gently making its way*; thug i a-mach iuchraichean a' chaisteil agus thilg i a-mach air an loch iad: *she took out the keys of the castle and she threw them out into the loch*; no gum biodh e air a chrochadh: *or he would be hanged*; cha phòs mi thu: *I won't marry you*; bha Iain air beatha an èisg a shàbhaladh roimhe: *Iain had saved the life of the fish before*; chuir e fios air: *he sent for*; trì botail de dh'uisge à Tobar nam Buadh: *three bottles of water from the well of the virtues*; gu àite fad air falbh: *to a far distant place*; faigh clach agus buail mi am bun na cluaise: *get a stone and hit me at the base of the ear*; sgolt mo bhrù agus leig pàirt de mo chaolain a-mach air mo chliathaich: *slit my belly and let part of my intestine out on my side*; can ris na trì eile nach leig thu am bràithrean mu sgaoil gus an toir iad dhut: *tell the three others that you won't release their brothers until they give you*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Beir air **dithis** dhiubh: *catch two of them. You might have been given advice that dithis, trìùir, ceathrar etc are only used for counting couple. This is not entirely true. Dialectally they can also be used for counting animals, particularly in Argyll.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Ge brìth dè dh'èireas dhòmhsa: *whatever happens to me.*

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