

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

‘Sarah’ agus an Dà-shealladh (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: 2:55pm on Sunday as part of BBC Radio nan Gàidheal’s hour-long learning zone, following the Gaelic Learners’ programme ‘SpeakGaelic Extra’, with a repeat at 10.30 pm on Wednesday. This is Litir 1,273. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 969 corresponds to Litir 1,273. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learn Gaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learn Gaelic.scot.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu bhoireannach à taobh Loch Raineach. Bha an dà shealladh aice. Sgrìobh an t-Urramach Iain Mac na Ceàrdaich, ministear ann an Ceann Loch Raineach, dàn mu a deidhinn. Nochd e ann an clò ann an naoi ceud deug ’s a còig (1905). Ghabh e ‘Sarah’ air a’ bhoireannach mar ainm.

Tha mi airson tuilleadh innse dhuibh mu dheidhinn Sarah agus mun fhàidheadarachd aice. Latha a bha seo, chaidh am muillear à Camas Fheàrnain a dhìth. Chaill e a rathad air a shlighe dhachaigh air oidhche dhorch. Tha Uisge Thatha a’ sruthadh bho Chamas Fheàrnain gu Obar Pheallaidh (agus nas fhaide). ’S e abhainn mhòr a th’ innte. Bha dùil gun robh am muillear air tuiteam don abhainn. Rinn sgioba rannsachadh. Fhuair iad lorg air a bhonaid ach cha robh sgeul air a chorp.

Chaidh buidheann a-null a Raineach a bhruidhinn ri Sarah. Bha fios aice ro làimh gun robh iad a’ tighinn agus **dè bha fa-near dhaibh**. Nise, cha robh Sarah air a bhith ann an Obar Pheallaidh riamh roimhe. Mar sin, cha robh i air an drochaid iongantach a thog an Seanalair Wade fhaicinn. Bidh an drochaid a’ gabhail trafaig fhathast.

Rinn Sarah sgeidse dhen drochaid agus sheall i do na daoine far an robh corp a’ mhuilleir. Dh’iarr i orra cabhag a dhèanamh, **air eagal** ’s gum biodh an corp air a sguabadh air falbh leis an uisge. Nuair a chaidh na daoine ann, bha corp a’ mhuilleir aig bonn na drochaid mar a thuir Sarah.

Turas eile, bha tubaist eile ann an Uisge Thatha. Bha fear à Gar Tulaich a bha, a rèir aithris, na ribear. Chan urrainn dhomh a ràdh am biodh e a’ ribeadh bhìobhairean. Tha gu leòr dhiubh ann an Uisge Thatha a-nise. Ach chan urrainn dhomh a ràdh an robh iad fhathast ann am bith ann an Alba aig an àm sin.

Co-dhiù, thuit an ribear don abhainn air oidhche dhorch. Chaidh a bhàthadh agus chaidh a chorp a sguabadh air falbh leis an t-sruth. Chaidh triùir à Gar Tulaich a bhruidhinn ri Sarah mun chùis. Thuir i riutha gum faigheadh iad lorg air corp an duine air beulaibh togalach anns an robh mòran uinneagan.

Thill na fir dhachaigh agus ged as e Latha na Sàbaid a bh’ ann, rinn iad rannsachadh airson a’ chuirp. Dh’iarr iad air a’ mhinistear a choit a chur gu feum anns an abhainn. Ach cha robh am ministear toilichte mun iarrtas. Cha tug e cead dhaibh.

Bha argamaid ann an uair sin. Thuir fear de na daoine ris a' mhinistear gun robh eisimpleirean ann dhen dà-shealladh anns a' Bhìoball. Aig a' cheann thall, dh'aontaich am ministear a choit a thoirt dhaibh. Ach ged a rannsaich na daoine fad an latha, cha do lorg iad an corp.

An ath latha, chaidh iad a-mach a-rithist agus lorg iad an corp air beulaibh togalach eile anns an robh mòran uinneagan. B' fheudar don mhinistear – a rèir a' mhinisteir eile a sgrìobh an dàn – aideachadh gun robh rudeigin dha-rìribh anns an dà-shealladh.

A rèir choltais, chleachd Sarah copan no cuach de sheòrs air choreigin nuair a bha i ri fàidheadaireachd. Chitheadh i rudeigin anns a' chopan. Gu mì-fhortanach, dh'fhalbh an copan à fianais an dèidh a bàis.

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Faclan na Litreach: ro-ràdh: *foreword*; an t-Urramach Iain Mac na Ceàrdaich: *the Rev John Sinclair*; dàn: *poem*; fàidheadarachd: *soothsaying*; Uisge Thatha: *The River Tay*; sgeidse: *sketch*.

Abairtean na Litreach: taobh Loch Raineach: *Loch Rannoch-side*; ghabh e 'X' air a' bhoireannach mar ainm: *he called the woman 'X'*; chaidh am muillear à Camas Fheàrnain a dhìth: *the miller from Camserney went missing*; a rathad air a shlighe dhachaigh air oidhche dhorch: *his way on his route home on a dark night*; gun robh am muillear air tuiteam don abhainn: *that the miller had fallen into the river*; cha robh X air a bhith ann an Obar Pheallaidh riamh roimhe: *X had never been in Aberfeldy*; an drochaid iongantach a thog an Seanalair Wade: *the amazing bridge that General Wade built*; fear à Gar Tulaich a bha, a rèir aithris, na ribear: *a man from Grandtully who was, according to report(s), a trapper*; chan urrainn dhomh a ràdh am biodh e a' ribeadh bhìobhairean: *I can't say if he would be trapping beavers*; an robh iad fhathast ann am bith: *were they still in existence*; chaidh a bhàthadh: *he was drowned*; air beulaibh togalach anns an robh mòran uinneagan: *in front of a building which had many windows*; ged as e Latha na Sàbaid a bh' ann, rinn iad rannsachadh airson a' chuirp: *although it was the Sabbath Day, they searched for the body*; dh'iarr iad air a' mhinistear a choit a chur gu feum: *they asked the minister for the use of his (small) boat*; cha tug e cead dhaibh: *he did not give them permission*; gun robh eisimpleirean ann dhen dà-shealladh anns a' Bhìoball: *that there were examples of the second sight in the Bible*; b' fheudar don mhinistear aideachadh gun robh rudeigin dha-rìribh anns an dà-shealladh: *the minister had to admit there was certainly something in the second sight*; chitheadh i rudeigin anns a' chopan: *she would see something in the cup*; dh'fhalbh an copan à fianais an dèidh a bàis: *the cup disappeared after her death*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Bha fios aice ro làimh gun robh iad a' tighinn agus **dè bha fa-near dhaibh**: *she knew beforehand that they were coming and what they had in mind*. Fa-near means 'under consideration'. Thoir fa-near means 'take note (of)'. With the preposition do/dha (and usually the verb bi), it can be used for an expression of intention or consideration.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: **air eagal** 's gum biodh an corp air a sguabadh air falbh: *in case the body would be swept away*.

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