

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An t-Ollamh Muileach (1)

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 1,399. There is also a simpler version – An Litir Bheag – which is broadcast at 2:30pm each Sunday. Litir Bheag 1,095 corresponds to Litir 1,399. The Litir is also available at www.bbc.co.uk/litir and www.learnghaelic.scot/litir. Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learnghaelic.scot.

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mun òran ghaoil 'Mo Rùn Geal Dìleas'. Bha e air a sgrìobhadh le Iain MacIlleathain, fear-taca an Torr Loisgte ann am Muile. Bha e ag iarraidh Iseabail Chaimbeul, à Bail' an Àbaidh ann an Ìle, a phòsadh.

Dhiùlt Iseabail freagairt a thoirt dha sa mhionaid. Air sàillibh sin, thainig mulad air, agus trom-inntinn. Thug càirdean Iain comhairle dha faighinn air falbh airson greis airson math a shlàinte-inntinn. **Chaidh e a-null thairis** airson naoi mìosan.

Nuair a thill e dhachaigh, dh'iarr e cead bho phàrantan Iseabail an nighean aca a phòsadh. Dhiùlt iad. Agus, a rèir beul-aithris, chaill Iain a chiall agus chaidh a chur ann an taigh-cuthaich.

Tha an duine sin air a chuimhneachadh fhathast ann am beul-aithris nam Muileach. Tha cunntas mu leigheas a rinneadh air anns an leabhar '*Hebridean Healers: The Beatons of Mull*'. Tha dreach dhen sgeul clàraichte air làrach-lìn Thobar an Dualchais. 'S e fear Dòmhnall Moireasdan à Àird Tunna, faisg air Bun Easain, a tha ga aithris. Seo agaibh dreach dheth.

Bha Fear an Torr Loisgte **gun a bhith gu math**. Bha dotairean Gallta a' frithealadh dha. Ach cha robh e a' dol am feabhas. Chuir e fios air Iain Peutan, an t-Ollamh Muileach. Thàinig e is thug e sùil air MacIlleathain. Dh'iarr e air na dotairean Gallta fuireach a-muigh.

Thuing an t-Ollamh Muileach gur e an rud a bha a' dèanamh an fhir eile tinn – lionnach no neasgaid [*an abscess*] a bha shìos san amhaich aige. Bha e cho fada sìos 's gum biodh e do-dhèante a ruigsinn le inneal sam bith. Ciamar a bha e a' dol a bhriseadh an lionnaich?

Thuing e gur e gluasad bras de na fèithean san amhaich an dòigh a b' fheàrr. 'S e lachanaich no dìobhairt a dhèanadh sin.

Seo far am bi an sgeul a' fàs neònach. Dh'islich an lighiche a bhriogais – air beulaibh an fhir eile a bha na laighe sa leabaidh. Thog e sluasaid-teine agus dh'fhalmaich e innidh ann. Ròst e am buachar. Nuair a bha e tioram, rinn e pùdar dheth.

Bha MacIlleathain a' coimhead air a h-uile càil. Cha robh e a' creidsinn a shùilean! Phasgaich an lighiche am buachar tioram ann am pàipear agus chuir e air bòrd e. Dh'iarr e an uair sin air na dotairean Gallta tilleadh a-steach.

Thug iad sùil air a' phasgan air a' bhòrd. 'Dè an stuth-leighidh a tha seo?' dh'fhaighnich iad. Bha fàileadh neònach air, ceart gu leòr. Cha robh na dotairean air a leithid seo de dh'ìocshlaint fhaicinn riamh roimhe!

Mu dheireadh fhliuch fear dhiubh a chorrach na bheul. Chuir e a-steach don phùdar i, agus an uair sin air ais na bheul airson blasad fhaighinn dhen stuth. Uill, cha robh comas aig Fear an Torr Loisgte smachd a chumail air fhèin tuilleadh. Thòisich e air lachanaich.

Bhris sin an lionnach na amhaich agus thòisich e air a dhol am feabhas cha mhòr sa mhionaid. Ghabh na dotairean Gallta iongantach mun leigheas Ghàidhealach a chunnaic iad ann am Muile! Agus goirid an dèidh sin, agus a shlàinte air tilleadh, sgrìobh Iain MacIllEathain an t-òran 'Mo Rùn Geal Dìleas'.

* * * * *

Faclan na Litreach: Mo Rùn Geal Dìleas: *my faithful fair one*; fear-taca: *tacksman*; Bail' an Àbaidh: *Ballinaby*; dhiùlt: *refused*; Ìle: *Islay*; Àird Tunna: *Ardtun*; Bun Easain: *Bunessan*; cliùmhòr: *renowned*; lachanaich no dìobhairt: *uproarious laughter or vomiting*; ìocshlaint: *cure*.

Abairtean na Litreach: Dhiùlt Iseabail freagairt a thoirt dha sa mhionaid: *Ishbel refused to give him an instant reply*; air sàillibh sin, thainig mulad air, agus trom-intinn: *because of that, he suffered great sadness, and depression*; math a shlàinte-intinn: *the good of his mental health*; chaill Iain a chiall agus chaidh a chur ann an taigh-cuthaich: *John lost his reason and was placed in a mental institution*; tha cunntas mu leigheas a rinneadh air anns an leabhar: *there is an account of a treatment that was performed on him in the book*; bha dotairean Gallta a' frithealadh dha: *Lowland doctors were treating him*; cha robh e a' dol am feabhas: *he wasn't improving*; chuir e fios air Iain Peutan, an t-Ollamh Muileach: *he sent for John Beaton, the 'Ollamh Muileach'*; shìos san amhaich aige: *down in his throat*; cho fada sìos 's gum biodh e do-dhèante a ruigsinn le inneal sam bith: *so far down that it would be impossible to reach with any instrument*; ciamar a bha e a' dol a bhriseadh an lionnach?: *how was he going to burst the abscess?*; gur e gluasad bras de na fèithean san amhaich an dòigh a b' fheàrr: *that a violent movement of the muscles in the throat was the best way*; dh'islich an lighiche a bhriogais: *the physician lowered his trousers*; thog e sluasaid-teine agus dh'fhalmhaich e innidh ann: *he picked up a fire shovel and emptied his bowels onto it*; ròst e am buachar: *he roasted the faeces*; rinn e pùdar dheth: *he made a powder of it*; dè an stuth-leighidh a tha seo?: *what is this medicine?*; cha robh comas aig X smachd a chumail air fhèin tuilleadh: *X could no longer contain himself*; ghabh X iongantach mu: *X marvelled at*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Chaidh e a-null thairis: *he went overseas*. Note that in Gaelic we differentiate between being overseas and moving or travelling overseas. For the former we say thall thairis 'the state of being overseas'. Tha e a' fuireach thall thairis a-nise 'he lives overseas now'. For the latter we say a-null thairis 'moving overseas'. Bidh e a' dol a-null thairis an ath mhìos 'he'll be going overseas next month'.

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: Bha Fear an Torr Loisgte gun a bhith gu math: *the Laird of Torloisk was unwell*.

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