

# An Litir Bheag

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An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 7 (which corresponds to Litir 311). Ruairidh would welcome feedback on An Litir Bheag from listeners/readers. He can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).

Tha seanfhacal ann mu *farmad*. 'S e sin "envy". Farmad. Seo an seanfhacal: *Sgoltaidh farmad na creagan*. Sgoltaidh farmad na creagan. Tha e a' ciallachadh gum faod farmad a bhith làidir làidir. Gum faod farmad mòr rudeigin mì-nàdarrach a dhèanamh. Gum faod e a bhith cho làidir 's gum bris e clachan, no creagan, ann an dà phìos. Gum faod farmad creagan a sgoltadh.

'S e sin a tha an seanfhacal ag ràdh. Ach a bheil e fìor? Uill, a rèir choltais, tha. Seo agaibh naidheachd bheag a tha a' dearbhadh gu bheil e fìor. Thachair e o chionn fhada air a' Ghàidhealtachd.

Bha fear ann uaireigin, agus bha e dìcheallach. Bha e ag obair gu cruaidh. Bha e a' dèanamh mòran caise. Bha e a' dèanamh barrachd càise na duine sam bith eile anns a' choimhearsnachd. Agus bha e a' reic barrachd càise na duine sam bith eile. Bha e gu tric a' coiseachd seachad air na nàbaidhean le poca air a dhruim. Bha e a' dol don mhargaidh. Anns a' phoca bha càbag. 'S e càbag pìos mòr cruinn càise. Bha e a' dol a dh'fhaighinn airgead airson na càbaig anns a' mhargaidh.

Ach cha robh na nàbaidhean toilichte leis. Cha robh càbagan acasan. Bha iad a' smaoinichadh gu robh e a' dèanamh cus airgid. Bha esan a' fàs beartach. Bha iadsan bochd. Bha na nàbaidhean a' coimhead air le farmad.

Là a bha seo, bha fear na càbaig a' coiseachd seachad air taighean a nàbaidhean. Bha poca air a dhruim. Ach cha robh càbag anns a' phoca an turas seo. Bha clach-mhuilinn anns a' phoca – clach-mhuilinn bheag. Ach cha robh fios aig na nàbaidhean gu robh clach aige. Bha iadsan a' smaoinichadh gu robh càbag aige a-rithist. Agus bha iad farmadach. Bha iad a' coimhead air an duine le farmad mòr nan cridhe.

Agus thachair rud annasach. Nuair a ràinig an duine a' mhargaidh, dh'fhosgail e am poca. Agus dè lorg e? Cha robh a' chlach-mhuilinn slàn. Bha i air a briseadh ann an dà phìos. Bha i air a sgoltadh. Ach dè sgolt i? Cha do thachair dad, ach gun do choimhead na nàbaidhean air le farmad. Thachair e dìreach mar a chanas an seanfhacal. *Sgoltaidh farmad na creagan*.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** sgoltaidh farmad na creagan: *envy will split the rocks*; gum faod farmad a bhith làidir làidir: *that envy may be extremely strong*; rudeigin mì-nàdarrach: *something unnatural*; gum bris e clachan: *that it will*

*break stones; a bheil e fìor?: is it true?; a tha a' dearbhadh: which proves; thachair e o chionn fhada: it happened a long time ago; bha e dìcheallach: he was diligent; barrachd càise na duine sam bith eile anns a' choimhearsnachd: more cheese than anybody else in the community; a' coiseachd seachad air na nàbaidhean: walking past the neighbours; margaidh: market; 's e càbag pìos mòr cruinn càise: a càbag (kebbock) is a large round piece of cheese; bha e a' dol a dh'fhaighinn airgead airson na càbaig: he was going to get money for the kebbock; cha robh na nàbaidhean toilichte leis: the neighbours were not pleased with him; gu robh e a' dèanamh cus airgid: that he was making too much money; bha esan a' fàs beartach: he (emphasised) was growing wealthy; bha na nàbaidhean a' coimhead air le farmad: the neighbours were looking upon him with envy; bha clach-mhuilinn anns a' phoca: there was a millstone in the bag; cha robh fios aig na nàbaidhean: the neighbours didn't know; le farmad mòr nan cridhe: with great envy in their hearts; thachair rud annasach: an unusual thing happened; nuair a ràinig an duine a' mhargaidh: when the man reached the market; dh'fhosgail e am poca: he opened the bag; dè lorg e?: what did he find?; slàn: whole, complete; Bha i air a briseadh ann an dà phìos: it (fem) was broken in two pieces; bha i air a sgoltadh: it (fem) was split; cha do thachair dad: nothing happened; ach gun do choimhead na nàbaidhean air le farmad: except that the neighbours looked upon him with envy; thachair e dìreach mar a chanas an seanfhacal: it happened just as the proverb says.*

*ends*