

An Litir Bheag

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

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 9 (which corresponds to Litir 313). Ruairidh would welcome feedback on An Litir Bheag from listeners/readers. He can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

An t-seachdain sa chaidh thòisich mi air an t-seann sgeulachd “Èirig Fhinn” no “Fionn’s Reparation”. Bha an ceathrar còmhla ann an Rìoghachd nam Fear Mòra. B’ iad an ceathrar Fionn Mac Cumhail, a thriùir cho-dhaltan agus am fear beag. Thachair iad ri boireannach mòr. Bha cù beag aice. A h-uile turas a choimhead an cù air Fionn bha fiaclan Fhinn air ais anns a’ bheul aige. Ach nuair a choimhead an cù air falbh, thuit na fiaclan a-mach.

Bha na co-dhaltan a’ smaoinichadh gu robh èirig Fhinn aca. Thug iadsan agus Fionn am boireannach mòr agus an cù air ais leotha. Dh’fhàg iad am fear beag anns an eilean. Ràinig am fear beag taigh. Bha solas anns an taigh. Chaidh am fear beag a-steach. Bha teine mòr ann. Ach cha robh duine a-staigh.

Thàinig fear àrd a-steach. “Dè do naidheachd?” dh’fhaighnich e. Fhreagair am fear beag nach robh naidheachd aige. Bha e ag iarraidh naidheachd a chluinntinn bhon fhear eile.

“Tha mo naidheachd bochd,” ars’ am fear àrd. “Chaidh mo phiuthar a thoirt air falbh. Bha i gam nighe gach là. Bha sin an dèidh a bhith a’ sabaid. Agus bha mi deiseil airson sabaid a-rithist air an làrna-mhàireach.”

Thàinig bràthair eile dhachaigh. “Dè do naidheachd, fhir bhig?” dh’fhaighnich e. “Chan eil naidheachd agamsa,” thuirt am fear beag. “Dè do naidheachd fhèin?”

“Tha droch naidheachd agam,” thuirt am fear eile. “Chaidh mo phiuthar a thoirt air falbh. I fhèin agus an cù beag aice. Bha i gam nighe gach là. Bha sin an dèidh a bhith a’ sabaid. Agus bha mi deiseil airson sabaid a-rithist air an làrna-mhàireach.”

Thàinig treas bràthair dhachaigh. “Dè do naidheachd?” thuirt e ris an fhear beag. Bha an aon chòmhradh eadar am fear beag is an treas bràthair. Thuirt am fear beag ris na bràithrean, “Tha mise airson sabaid nur n-àite.”

“Dè tha thusa a’ dol a dhèanamh leat fhèin?” arsa fear de na bràithrean. Dh’innis iad dha gu robh rèiseamaid shaighdearan ann. Chuir na bràithrean an ceann far a h-uile duine aca. Ach bha cailleach mhòr ann. Bha soitheach draoidheil aice. Bha i a’ cur meur anns an t-soitheach is an uair sin ann am beul duine a chaill a cheann. Bha an duine ag èirigh beò.

Ciamar a bha am fear beag a' dol a shabaid an aghaidh sin? Innsidh mi dhuibh an ath-sheachdain.

* * * * *

Faclan is abairtean: an t-seachdain sa chaidh thòisich mi: *last week I started*; bha an ceathrar còmhla ann an Rìoghachd nam Fear Mòra: *the four were together in the Kingdom of the Big Men*; a thriùir cho-dhaltan: *his three foster-brothers*; thachair iad ri boireannach mòr: *they met a large woman*; a h-uile turas a choimhead an cù air Fionn: *every time the dog looked at [on] Fionn*; bha fiaclan Fhinn air ais anns a' bheul aige: *Fionn's teeth were back in his mouth*; gu robh èirig Fhinn aca: *that they had Fionn's reparation*; ràinig am fear beag taigh: *the wee man reached a house*; “dè do naidheachd?” dh'fhaighnich e: *“what is your news?” he asked*; bha e ag iarraidh naidheachd a chluinntinn bhon fhear eile: *he wanted to hear news from the other man*; ars' am fear àrd: *said the tall man*; chaidh mo phiuthar a thoirt air falbh: *my sister was taken away*; bha i gam nighe gach là: *she was washing me every day*; bha sin an dèidh a bhith a' sabaid: *that was after [I had been] fighting*; deiseil airson sabaid a-rithist air an làrna-mhàireach: *ready to fight again the next day*; dè do naidheachd, fhir bhig?: *what's your news, wee man?*; tha droch naidheachd agam: *I have bad news*; i fhèin agus an cù beag aice: *herself and her small dog*; thàinig treas bràthair dhachaigh: *a third brother came home*; bha an aon chòmhradh eadar X agus Y: *X and Y had the same conversation*; tha mise airson sabaid nur n-àite: *I (emphatic) want to fight in your place*; dè tha thusa a' dol a dhèanamh leat fhèin?: *what are you (emphatic) going to do by yourself?*; dh'innis iad dha gu robh rèiseamaid shaighdearan ann: *they told him that there was a regiment of soldiers*; chuir na bràithrean an ceann far a h-uile duine aca: *the brothers decapitated (took the head off) every one of them*; bha soitheach draoidheil aice: *she had a magic vessel*; bha i a' cur meur anns an t-soitheach: *she was putting a finger in the vessel*; ann am beul duine a chaill a cheann: *in the mouth of a man who [had] lost his head*; bha e ag èirigh beò: *he was coming back to life [he was arising alive]*; ciamar a bha am fear beag a' dol a shabaid an aghaidh sin?: *how was the wee man going to fight against that?*; innsidh mi dhuibh an ath-sheachdain: *I will tell you next week.*

ends