

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 10 (which corresponds to Litir 314). Ruairidh would welcome feedback on An Litir Bheag from listeners/readers. He can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Halo a-rithist. Tha sinn a' leantainn leis an sgeulachd *Èirig Fhinn*. Bha am fear beag ann an Rìoghachd nam Fear Mòra. Bha Fionn agus a cho-dhaltan air a dhol dhachaigh. Chuala am fear beag bho na bràithrean mu rèiseamaid shaighdearan. Bha cailleach ann cuideachd. Bha soitheach draoidheil aice. Bha i a' cur corrag anns an t-soitheach is an uair sin ann am beul duine a chaill a cheann. Bha an duine sin ag èirigh beò.

“Cò eile a thig?” thuirt am fear beag.

“Thig rèiseamaid eile,” thuirt aon bhràthair. “Bidh cluicheadairean clàrsaich aca. Cuiridh iad nad chadal thu.”

“Cò eile a thig?” thuirt am fear beag.

“Thig cailleach mhòr mhòr,” thuirt an treas bràthair. Ma bhios i faisg ort, marbhaidh a h-anail thu.”

“Cò eile a thig?” thuirt am fear beag.

“Cha tig duine sam bith eile,” fhreagair na bràithrean. Dh'fhalbh am fear beag.

Ràinig e an t-àite. Chunnaic e rèiseamaid a' tighinn. Chaidh e am falach. Chaidh na saighdearan seachad. Chaidh am fear beag air an cùlaibh. Mharbh e a h-uile duine aca. Thàinig a' chailleach. Bha soitheach draoidheil aice. Laigh am fear beag am measg nan daoine marbh, mar gu robh e fhèin marbh.

Chuir a' chailleach corrag anns an t-soitheach. Chuir i a corrag ann am beul fear de na saighdearan, agus dh'èirich e beò. Chuir i a corrag ann am beul an fhir bhig. Bhìd esan a corrag dhith. Leum e gu chasan. Mharbh e a' chailleach agus an saighdear.

Thàinig an rèiseamaid eile. Bha cluicheadairean clàrsaich aca. Dh'fhàs am fear beag uabhasach sgìth. Ach chum e na dhùisg. Nuair a chaidh na saighdearan seachad, leum e a-mach agus mharbh e iad.

Thàinig a' chailleach mhòr mhòr. Bha iad a' sabaid fad na h-oidhche. Anns a' mhadainn chaidh na bràithrean ann.

“Cuir do chorrage anns an t-soitheach,” thuirt am fear beag ri fear de na bràithrean, “agus cuir nam bheul i.” Rinn am bràthair sin agus mharbh am fear beag a' chailleach.

Bha an ceathrar a' fuireach còmhla. Ach là a bha seo bha am fear beag anns a' mhonadh. Thàinig marcaiche às an àird an iar-thuath. Bha e air each dubh. Thug am marcaiche ionnsaigh air an fhear bheag. Thug am fear beag a chlaidheamh a-mach agus ... uill, innsidh mi dhuibh dè thachair an ath-sheachdain, nuair a thig an stòiridh gu crìch.

* * * * *

Faclan is abairtean: tha sinn a' leantainn leis an sgeulachd *Èirig Fhinn*: *we are continuing with the story "Fionn's Reparation"*; Rìoghachd nam Fear Mòra: *Kingdom of the Big Men*; bha Fionn agus a cho-dhaltan air a dhol dhachaigh: *Fionn and his foster-brothers had gone home*; chuala am fear beag bho na bràithrean: *the wee man heard from the brothers*; mu rèiseamaid shaighdearan: *about a regiment of soldiers*; bha soitheach draoidheil aice: *she had a magic vessel*; bha i a' cur corrag ann am beul duine a chaill a cheann: *she was putting her finger in the mouth of a man who [had] lost his head*; bha e ag èirigh beò: *he was arising alive*; cò eile a thig?: *who else will come?*; cuiridh iad nad chadal thu: *they will put you to sleep*; ma bhios i faisg ort, marbhaidh a h-anail thu: *if she is close to you, her breath will kill you*; cha tig duine sam bith eile: *nobody else will come*; dh'fhalbh am fear beag: *the wee man left*; chaidh e am falach: *he hid*; chaidh na saighdearan seachad: *the soldiers went past*; chaidh am fear beag air an cùlaibh: *the wee man went behind them*; laigh am fear beag am measg nan daoine marbh: *the wee man lay among the dead men*; mar gu robh e fhèin marbh: *as if he himself were dead*; chuir a' chailleach corrag anns an t-soitheach: *the hag put a finger in the vessel*; ann am beul an fhir bhig: *in the wee man's mouth*; bhìd e a corrag dhith: *he bit her finger off*; mharbh e a' chailleach: *he killed the hag*; bha cluicheadairean clàrsaich aca: *they had harpers*; dh'fhàs am fear beag uabhasach sgìth: *the wee man grew very tired*; ach chum e na dhùisg: *but he stayed awake*; bha iad a' sabaid fad na h-oidhche: *they were fighting all night*; cuir nam bheul i: *put it [fem] in my mouth (corrag is feminine)*; bha an ceathrar a' fuireach còmhla: *the four [men] were living together*; là a bha seo bha am fear beag anns a' mhonadh: *one day the wee man was on the hill*; thàinig marcaiche às an àird an iar-thuath: *a rider came from the north-west*; bha e air each dubh: *he was on a black horse*; thug X ionnsaigh air Y: *X attacked Y*; thug am fear beag a chlaidheamh a-mach: *the wee man took out his sword*; nuair a thig an stòiridh gu crìch: *when the story comes to an end*.