

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 11 (which corresponds to Litir 315). Ruairidh would welcome feedback on An Litir Bheag from listeners/readers. He can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Tha mi a' dol a chur crìoch air an t-seann sgeulachd *Èirig Fhinn* no *Fionn's Reparation*. An t-seachdain sa chaidh, bha am fear beag ann an Rìoghachd nam Fear Mòra. Thug am marcaiche ionnsaigh air. Ach, ged a bha e beag, cha robh am fear beag lag.

Thug am fear beag a chlaidheamh a-mach. Mharbh e am marcaiche. Bha e airson faicinn dè bha am marcaiche a' giùlan. Rinn e rannsachadh air a chorp. Lorg e dà chìr agus sporan. Dh'fhosgail e an sporan. Anns an sporan bha sia fiaclan. Sia fiaclan aig Fionn Mac Cumhail. Chaidh am fear beag dhachaigh leis na fiaclan.

Dh'fhaighnich fear de na bràithrean, "Dè chunnaic thu an-diugh?"

"Thàinig marcaiche orm," thuirt am fear beag. "Thug e ionnsaigh orm. Ach mharbh mi e."

"Dè lorg thu aige?" dh'fhaighnich na bràithrean.

"Lorg dà chìr agus sporan," ars' am fear beag, "Bha sia fiaclan anns an sporan."

"Och och," thuirt am bràthair as àirde. "Cha do rinn thu math riamh dhuinn. Ach rinn thu cron an-diugh. Mharbh thu an t-aon bhràthair a bh' aig m' athair."

Thuirt am fear beag, "Tha mi coma."

Thuirt fear eile de na bràithrean, "Bha iad ag ràdh gun robh fear a' dol a thogail *èirig Fhinn* 'ic Cumhail. Agus bha esan a' dol a thoirt saorsa dhuinn bho shabaid is bho chogadh."

Thuirt am fear beag gu robh *èirig Fhinn* aige. Mar sin bha e a' falbh. Thug na bràithrean each luath dubh dha.

"Thoir ar naidheachd do ar piuthar, agus bidh i agad fhèin mar bhean," thuirt na bràithrean ris.

Dh'fhalbh am fear beag. Bha e air an each. Chaidh an t-each thar a' chuain. Aig beul na h-oidhche bha am fear beag còmhla ri Fionn Mac Cumhail. Dh'fhaighnich e de Fhionn 's de cho-dhaltan an d' fhuair iad an *èirig*. Fhreagair iadsan, "Cha d' fhuair."

Thug am fear beag an sporan a-mach. Dh'fhosgail e an sporan. Thug e na sia fiaclan a-mach. Thuirt e ri Fionn, "Tha d' *èirig* an sin, 's cha d' fhuair do cho-dhaltan e."

Uill, sin agaibh *Èirig Fhinn*. Ach rinn mise sìmplidh i. Ma tha sibh ag iarraidh a leughadh air fad, ann an Gàidhlig agus Beurla, tha i ann an *Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness*, iris còig-deug (XV). Mar sin leibh an-dràsta.

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Faclan is abairtean: tha mi a' dol a chur crìoch air: *I am going to finish*; Rìoghachd nam Fear Mòra: *Kingdom of the Big Men*; thug am marcaiche ionnsaigh air: *the (horse) rider attacked him*; ged a bha e beag, cha robh am fear beag lag: *although he was small, the wee man wasn't weak*; claidheamh: *sword*; bha e airson faicinn dè bha am marcaiche a' giùlan: *he wanted to see what the rider was carrying*; rinn e rannsachadh air a chorp: *he searched his body*; lorg e dà chìr agus spòran: *he found two combs and a purse*; chaidh am fear beag dhachaigh leis na fiaclan: *the wee man went home with the teeth*; dè chunnaic thu an-diugh?: *what did you see today?*; ach mharbh mi e: *but I killed him*; thuirt am bràthair as àirde: *the tallest brother*; cha do rinn thu math riamh dhuinn: *you never did us [any] good*; rinn thu cron: *you did damage*; mharbh thu an t-aon bhràthair a bh' aig m' athair: *you killed my father's only brother ["the one brother that was at my father"]*; tha mi coma: *I couldn't care less*; gun robh fear a' dol a thogail èirig Fhinn 'ic Cumhail: *that a man was going to lift Fionn Mac Cumhail's reparation*; bha esan a' dol a thoirt saorsa dhuinn bho shabaid is bho chogadh: *he was going to bring [give] us freedom from fighting and from war*; thug na bràithrean each luath dubh dha: *the brothers gave him a fast black horse*; thoir ar naidheachd do ar piuthar: *give our news to our sister*; bidh i agad fhèin mar bhean: *you will have her as a wife*; chaidh an t-each thar a' chuain: *the horse went across the ocean*; aig beul na h-oidhche bha am fear beag còmhla ri Fionn Mac Cumhail: *at dusk the wee man was with Fionn Mac Cumhail*; dh'fhaighnich e de Fhionn 's de cho-dhaltan: *he asked Fionn and his foster-brothers*; dh'fhosgail e an sporan: *he opened the purse*; tha d' èirig an sin, 's cha d' fhuair do cho-dhaltan e: *your reparation is there, and your foster-brothers didn't get it [for you]*; rinn mise sìmplidh i: *I simplified it [made it simple]*; ma tha sibh ag iarraidh a leughadh air fad: *if you want to read it in its entirety*; mar sin leibh an-dràsta: *cheerio just now*.

ends