

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 20 (which corresponds to Litir 324). Ruairidh would welcome feedback on An Litir Bheag from listeners/readers. He can be contacted at rodny.macleane@bbc.co.uk.

Bha mi ag innse stòiridh dhuibh anns an Litir mu dheireadh. 'S e an t-ainm a th' air *Bàillidh Throndairnis agus a' Bhana-bhuidseach*. Tha Trondairnis anns an Eilean Sgitheanach. 'S e sgìre a th' ann. Tha e ann an ceann a tuath an eilein.

Anns an stòiridh, thug gillean bò agus each gu Eilean Thuilm. Bò na bantraich agus each a' bhàillidh. Cha robh fios aig a' bhàillidh no aig a' mhaor. Nuair a ràinig am bàillidh agus am maor am buaile, cha robh sgeul air bò no each.

Chaidh am bàillidh agus am maor suas do na gillean. "Am faca sibh duine an seo?" dh'fhaighnich iad. Dh'innis iad do na gillean mun bhò is each.

Thuir na gillean nach fhaca iad duine sam bith. Thuir fear de na gillean gun robh cailleach a' fuireach faisg. Bha fiosachd aice. "Bidh fios aice cà' bheil a' bhò 's an t-each," thuir e.

"Rach sìos ga h-iarraidh," ars' am bàillidh.

Dh'fhalbh dithis de na gillean. Ràinig na gillean taigh na caillich. Dh'innis iad don chaillich dè rinn iad. Dh'aontaich i tuilleadh spòrs a dhèanamh. Sgeadaich i i fhèin mar bhana-bhuidseach. Chuir i craiceann gobhair mu a guailnean. Chuir i bonaid air a ceann. Leig i a falt sìos a druim. Thog i bata. Bha coltas bana-bhuidsich oirre.

Dh'fhalbh i còmhla ris na gillean. Chaidh iad suas don àite far an robh càch.

"An innis thu dhomh," dh'fhaighnich am bàillidh, "càite a bheil a' bhò agus an t-each?"

"Cò bu leis iad?" ars' am boireannach.

"Tha a' bhò leis an Rìgh. Tha an t-each leamsa," thuir am bàillidh.

"Tha thu breugach," ars' ise. "Dè bhiodh bò leis an Rìgh a' dèanamh an seo?"

"Thug am boireannach sin dhomh i – mar mhàl," thuir am bàillidh.

"Tha thu breugach," thuir am boireannach. "Cha tug. Thug thusa bhuaipe i."

Thuir a' chailleach gum faca i sìthichean o chionn ghoirid. Chaidh iad tron taigh aice. Bha bò agus each aca.

“ Chaidh iad a-steach don chnoc ud,” thuirt i. “Nam biodh sibhse eòlach air na daoine beaga mar a tha mise, cha bhiodh sibh a’ goid crodh bho bhantraichean.”

Nuair a chuala am bàillidh sin, dh’fhalbh e. Cha tug e bò bho bhantrach tuilleadh cho fad ’s a bha e na bhàillidh air Trondairnis.

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Faclan is abairtean: bha mi ag innse stòiridh dhuibh: *I was telling you a story;* Bàillidh Thronairnis agus a’ Bhana-bhuidseach: *the factor of Trotternish and the witch;* ’s e sgìre a th’ ann: *it is a district;* bò na bantraich agus each a’ bhàillidh: *the widow’s cow and the factor’s horse;* am buaile: *the cattlefold;* cha robh sgeul air: *there was no sign of;* am faca sibh duine?: *have you seen a [any] person?;* gun robh cailleach a’ fuireach faisg: *that an old woman was living close;* bha fiosachd aice: *she could tell the future;* rach sìos ga h-iarraidh: *go down and get her;* dh’fhalbh dithis de na gillean: *two of the lads left;* dh’aontaich i tuilleadh spòrs a dhèanamh: *she agreed to have more fun;* sgeadaich i i fhèin mar bhana-bhuidseach: *she gave herself the appearance of a witch;* chuir i craiceann gobhair mu a guailnean: *she put a goat’s skin around her shoulders;* leig i a falt sìos a druim: *she let her hair down her back;* thog i bata: *she picked up a stick;* chaidh iad suas don àite far an robh càch: *they went up to the place where the others were;* an innis thu dhomh: *will you tell me;* cò bu leis iad?: *who owned them?;* tha a’ bhò leis an Rìgh: *the cow is owned by the King;* tha an t-each leamsa: *the horse is owned by me;* breugach: *untruthful;* dè bhiodh bò leis an Rìgh a’ dèanamh an seo?: *what would a cow owned by the King be doing here?;* thug am boireannach sin dhomh i – mar mhàl: *that woman gave it to me – as rent;* cha tug: *she did not.* thug thusa bhuaipe i: *you took it from her;* gum faca i sìthichean o chionn ghoirid: *that she had seen fairies recently;* chaidh iad a-steach don chnoc ud: *they went into yonder hill;* nam biodh sibhse eòlach air na daoine beaga: *if you knew the little people;* cha bhiodh sibh a’ goid crodh bho bhantraichean: *you wouldn’t steal cattle from widows;* cha tug e bò bho bhantrach tuilleadh: *he didn’t take a cow from a widow again;* cho fad ’s a bha e na bhàillidh air Trondairnis: *for all the time he was a factor in Trotternish.*