

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 31 (which corresponds to Litir 335). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Seo stòiridh mu Thormod MacLeòid, an t-Urramach Tormod MacLeòid. Bha Tormod a' fuireach ann am Baile Anna ann an Eilean Cheap Bhreatainn. Bha e ainmeil. Bha na daoine a' toirt spèis dha. Bha e cumhachdach. Ach rinn e mearachd.

Bha fear a bha seo anns an sgìre sin a' coiseachd air an rathad. Thachair e ri ceannaiche. Bha an ceannaiche a' reic rudan. Cheannaich am fear rudan bhon cheannaiche. Ach cha robh airgead aige. Bha an t-airgead anns an taigh. Bha e ann an sporan. Agus bha an sporan ann an ciste.

Chaidh an dithis don taigh. Thug an duine an sporan a-mach. Thug e an t-airgead don cheannaiche. Chuir e an sporan air ais. Dh'fhalbh an dithis.

Às dèidh greis air an rathad, dh'fhalbh an ceannaiche. Chaidh am fear eile a dh'obair. Thill e dhachaigh feasgar. Cha robh sgeul air an sporan. Cha robh an sporan anns a' chiste. Bha cuideigin air a ghoid.

Bha na fir a' smaoinichadh gur e balach òg a ghoid an sporan. Bha am balach sin a' fuireach an ath dhoras. Thuirt am balach uair is uair nach do ghoid e an sporan.

Mu dheireadh, thuirt na fir gu robh am balach a' dol a chadal anns a' chladh. Bha iad a' dol ga ghlasadh anns a' chladh airson na h-oidhche. Bha an t-eagal mòr air a' bhalach. Agus thuirt e gun do ghoid e an sporan.

Rinn Tormod MacLeòid co-dhùnadh. 'S e co-dhùnadh cruaidh a bh' ann. Gheàrr na daoine pàirt de chluas a' bhalaich dheth. Rinn iad sin sa spot. Bha mòran anns a' choimhearsnachd mì-thoilichte mu dheidhinn.

Seachdain às dèidh sin thuirt cuideigin gum fac' e an ceannaiche air an là a chaidh an sporan a ghoid. Bha an ceannaiche a' dol tro uinneag an taighe. Thuirt an ceannaiche gun do thill e don taigh. Thuirt e gun do ghoid esan an sporan.

Bha fear-lagha ann an Suidni deònach Tormod a thoirt gu lagh. Ach dhiùlt athair a' bhalaich sin a dhèanamh.

* * * * *

Faclan is abairtean: an t-Urramach Tormod MacLeòid: *Rev. Norman MacLeod*; Baile Anna ann an Eilean Cheap Bhreatainn: *St Ann's on Cape Breton Island*; ainmeil: *famous*; bha na daoine a' toirt spèis dha: *the people respected him*; mearachd: *mistake*; thachair e ri ceannaiche: *he met a pedlar*; a' reic rudan: *selling*

things; bha an t-airgead anns an taigh: the money was in the house; bha an sporan ann an ciste: the purse was in a chest; an dithis: the two people; thug e an t-airgead don cheannaiche: he gave the money to the pedlar; às dèidh greis air an rathad: after a short while on the road; dh'fhalbh an ceannaiche: the pedlar left; thill e dhachaigh feasgar: he returned in the afternoon; cha robh sgeul air an sporan: there was no sign of the purse; bha cuideigin air a ghoid: somebody had stolen it; bha am balach a' fuireach an ath dhoras: the boy was living next door; uair is uair: time after time; nach do ghoid e an sporan: that he didn't steal the purse; a' dol a chadal anns a' chladh: going to sleep in the cemetery; glasadh: locking; bha an t-eagal mòr air a' bhalach: the boy was very frightened; 's e co-dhùnadh cruaidh a bh' ann: it was a cruel decision; gheàrr na daoine pàirt de chluas a' bhalaich dheth: the men cut off part of the boy's ear; rinn iad sin sa spot: they did that immediately; mì-thoilichte: unhappy; thuir cuideigin gum fac' e an ceannaiche: somebody said he saw the pedlar; bha e a' dol tro uinneag an taighe: he was going through the house's window; bha fear-lagha ann an Suidni deònach Tormod a thoirt gu lagh: a lawyer in Sydney (Cape Breton) was willing to take Norman to law (ie to court); dhiùlt athair a' bhalaich sin a dhèanamh: the boy's father refused to do that.

ends