

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 40 (which corresponds to Litir 344). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Bha àite ann am Bràigh Mhàrr a bha ainmeil. B' e sin Caisteal Ceann na Drochaid. Bha rìghrean na h-Alba a' fuireach ann aig amannan. Bha na rìghrean a' dol ann airson sealg. Bha sealg mhath anns an sgìre.

Nuair a bha Calum a' Chinn Mhòir na rìgh, bha e a' fuireach ann an Caisteal Ceann na Drochaid aig amannan. Bha am fear leis an robh an caisteal a' cumail torc nimhe. Bha sin airson an rìgh a chumail toilichte. Bha an torc uabhasach mòr. Bha e a' fuireach ann an toll faisg air a' chaisteal. Bha Rìgh Calum a' coimhead air gach turas a bha e san sgìre.

Bha an torc ainmeil. 'S e Tad-Loggann an t-ainm a bh' air. Bha an rìgh measail air Tad-Loggann. Ach cha robh muinntir na sgìre measail air Tad-Loggann idir. Bha e acrach is sanntach. Bha e ag ithe cus. Airson biadh a chumail ris, dh'iarr an t-uachdaran air a h-uile teaghlach bò a thoirt dha.

Bha aig banntrach bhochd ri bò a thoirt don uachdaran. 'S e an t-ainm a bh' air a' bhoireannach a' Bhantrach NicLeòid. Bha gille aice. B' e Sanndaidh an t-ainm a bh' air. Bha e còig bliadhna' deug a dh'aois. Bha athair Shanndaidh air a mharbhadh nuair a bha Sanndaidh òg.

Bha a' Bhantrach NicLeòid uabhasach brònach. B' e sin an aona bhò a bh' aice. Bha i uabhasach bochd. Bha Sanndaidh ag iarraidh bò a mhàthar a shàbhaladh. Bha e sgileil mar bhoghadair. Rinn e boghachan is saighdean. Chleachd e na boghachan is saighdean airson losgadh air eòin is ainmhidhean.

An ath-là, rinn Sanndaidh trì saighdean ùra. Chaidh e suas air a' Chàrn Liath. Mharbh e capall-coille. Thill e dhachaigh. Chuir e an capall-coille am falach. Chaidh e a leabaidh.

Dh'èirich Sanndaidh tràth. Bha e fhathast dorch. Thug e an capall-coille leis, agus chaidh e don chaisteal. Chaidh e tarsainn Uisge Dè. Chaidh e gu àite mu choinneimh toll an tuirc. Bha sin air taobh thall allt ris an canar Uisge Cluainidh. Chunnaic Sanndaidh saighdear anns a' chaisteal. Bha e air bàrr a' bhalla. Agus innsidh mi dhuibh dè thachair an ath-sheachdain.

* * * * *

Faclan is abairtean: bha àite ann am Bràigh Mhàrr a bha ainmeil: *there was a place in Braemar which was famous*; Caisteal Ceann na Drochaid: *Kindrochit Castle*; bha rìghrean na h-Alba a' fuireach ann aig amannan: *the kings of Scotland*

stayed there at times; sealg mhath: good hunting; nuair a bha Calum a' Chinn Mhòir na rìgh: when Malcolm Canmore was king; bha am fear leis an robh an caisteal a' cumail torc nimhe: the man who owned the castle kept [was keeping] a wild boar; bha e a' fuireach ann an toll: he lived [was living] in a pit; cha robh muinntir na sgìre measail air X: the people of the area were not keen on X; sanntach: greedy; airson biadh a chumail ris: to keep him supplied with food; dh'iarr an t-uachdaran air a h-uile teaghlach bò a thoirt dha: the landlord asked every family to give him a cow; bantrach: widow; bha e còig bliadhna deug a dh'aois: he was fifteen years old; bha athair Shanndaidh air a mharbhadh: Sandy's father was killed; brònach: sad; b' e sin an aona bhò a bh' aice: that was her only cow; bha Sanndaidh ag iarraidh bò a mhàthar a shàbhaladh: Sandy wanted [was wanting] to save his mother's cow; bha e sgileil mar bhoghadair: he was skilful as an archer; boghachan is saighdean: bows and arrows; airson losgadh air eòin is ainmhidhean: to fire at birds and animals; chuir e an capall-coille am falach: he hid the capercaillie; dh'èirich Sanndaidh tràth: Sandy rose early; thug e an capall-coille leis: he took the capercaillie with him; chaidh e tarsainn Uisge Dè: he went across the River Dee; mu choinneimh toll an tuirc: opposite the boar's pit; allt ris an canar Uisge Cluainidh: a burn which is called Clunie Water; chunnaic Sanndaidh saighdear: Sandy saw a soldier; bha e air bàrr a' bhalla: he was on top of the wall.

ends