

# Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

## Mac a' Bhuidealair (1)

*A special programme, in the form of a "letter", designed for Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk). This is Litir 802. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 498 corresponds to Litir 802.*

O chionn fhada bha uachdaran air a' Ghàidhealtachd. Bha buidealair air a bhith aige fad ùine mhòr. 'S e fear onarach a bh' ann agus bha an t-uachdaran toilichte leis. Bha mac aig a' bhuidealair agus nuair a ràinig e an aois cheart fhuair e fhèin obair anns an taigh mhòr cuideachd.

Cha robh an gille air a bhith ag obair ann fada nuair a thòisich seudan is rudan luachmhor air dhol a dhìth. Fhuair an t-uachdaran a-mach gur e an gille a bh' air an goid. Bhruidhinn e ri athair – an seann bhuidealair – agus thuir e ris gu feumadh e an gille aige a chur air falbh. Mura dèanadh e sin, chuireadh an t-uachdaran an teaghlach gu lèir **a-mach air an t-sitig**.

Thug am buidealair a mhac air falbh leis a Ghlaschu, feuch dreuchd ùr a lorg dha. Air a' chiad oidhche aca, thàinig fear dhan ionnsaigh air an t-sràid. Dh'fhaighnich an srainnsear gu dè thug orra thighinn a Ghlaschu.

'Tha mi ag iarraidh gun lorg an gille agam ceàird,' thuir am buidealair.

'Ma-thà,' thuir am fear eile, 'ionnsaichidh mise ceàird dha.'

'Dè a' cheàird?' thuir am buidealair.

'Mèirle,' fhreagair am fear eile.

'Cha bhi sin doirbh,' ars am buidealair. 'S e mèirle a thug an seo e.'

'**Nas fheàrr buileach**,' thuir am fear eile. Agus dh'fhalbh an gille leis a' mhèirleach. Chaidh e a dh'fhuireach cuide ri gràisg mhèirleach ann an Glaschu.

An dèidh latha no dhà, chaidh an gille a-mach le fear de na mèirlich airson faicinn mar a bha iad ag obair. Chaidh iad gu bùth aig fear-reic uaireadairean.

'Tha mi ag iarraidh uaireadair òir a cheannach,' thuir am mèirleach ri fear na bùtha. Chuir fear na bùtha bogsa uaireadairean òir air a' chunntair.

'A bheil seòrsa eile agad?' ars am mèirleach.

'Tha,' fhreagair fear na bùtha. Chaidh e a thogail bogsa eile de dh'uaireadairean. Nuair a bha a chùl ris a' chunntair, chuir am mèirleach fear de na h-uaireadairean suas a mhuinchill. Thug fear na bùtha bogsa eile leis chun a' chunntair.

'Chan eil gin dhiubh seo freagarrach,' thuir am mèirleach. Thug e taing do dh'fhear na bùtha agus dh'fhalbh e a-mach leis an uaireadair fhathast na mhuinchill.

Nuair a bha am mèirleach a-mach à sealladh, thuir an gille ri fear na bùtha, 'Am faca tu gu dè rinn an duine sin?'

‘Dè rinn e?’ dh’fhaighnich fear na bùtha.

‘Chuir e fear de na h-uaireadairean agad suas a mhuinchill agus dh’fhalbh e leis.’ Chunnt fear na bùtha na h-uaireadairean agus, ceart gu leòr, bha aonan a dhìth. Ruith e a-mach às a’ bhùth, feuch poileas a lorg. Ach cha robh sgeul air poileas no, gu dearbh, air a’ mhèirleach.

Fhad ’s a bha fear na bùtha a-muigh air an t-sràid, chuir an gille an ceann air fear de na bogsaichean uaireadairean, agus chuir e am bogsa am broinn a sheacaid. Dh’fhalbh e gu àros nam mèirleach.

‘Am faca tu na rinn mi sa bhùth?’ thuirt am mèirleach ris a’ ghille. ‘Saoil am bi thu fhèin cho sgileil rium uair no uaireigin?’

Leis a sin, thug an gille am bogsa de dh’uaireadairean a-mach. ‘Bha thu math,’ thuirt e, ‘ach saoilidh mi gun robh mise na b’ fheàrr.’ Agus innsidh mi dhuibh dè thachair an uair sin an-ath-sheachdain.

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**Faclan na Litreach:** uachdaran: *landlord, laird*; buidealair: *butler*; onarach: *honest*; mèirle: *thieving, burglary*; gràisg mhèirleach: *a gang of thieves*.

**Abairtean na Litreach:** nuair a ràinig e an aois cheart fhuair e fhèin obair anns an taigh mhòr: *when he reached the right age he himself got work in the estate house*; nuair a thòisich seudan is rudan luachmhor air dhol a dhìth: *when jewels and valuable items started to go missing*; gur e an gille a bh’ air an goid: *that it was the lad who had stolen them*; feuch dreuchd ùr a lorg dha: *to try and find him a new profession*; dh’fhaighnich an srainnsear gu dè thug orra thighinn a Ghlaschu: *the stranger asked what had caused them to come to Glasgow*; gun lorg an gille agam ceàird: *that my son will find a profession*; bùth aig fear-reic uaireadairean: *a watchmaker’s shop*; chuir fear na bùtha bogsa uaireadairean òir air a’ chunntair: *the shopkeeper put a box of gold watches on the counter*; suas a mhuinchill: *up his sleeve*; chan eil gin dhiubh seo freagarrach: *none of these are suitable*; am faca tu gu dè rinn an duine sin?: *did you see what that man did?*; bha aonan a dhìth: *one was missing*; chuir e am bogsa am broinn a sheacaid: *he put the box inside his jacket*; saoil am bi thu fhèin cho sgileil rium uair no uaireigin: *do you think you’ll be as skilful as me some day*.

**Puing-chànain na Litreach:** **Nas fheàrr buileach:** *much better. It can be difficult to translate buileach at times. It is an adverb meaning ‘completely, entirely’ and is often used as an intensifier, commonly with the comparatives of math and dona ie feàrr and miosa. Bhiodh sin na bu mhiosa buileach ‘that would be even worse’.*

**Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach:** chuireadh an t-uachdaran an teaghlach gu lèir **a-mach air an t-sitig:** *the landlord would throw the entire family out [lit. out on the dungheap].*

*Tha “Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh” air a maoinachadh le MG ALBA*