

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 302 (which corresponds to Litir 606). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.macleane@bbc.co.uk.

I'm going to finish the story Great Gulp. The Widow's Son wanted to marry the King's daughter. But the King wasn't willing to give him his daughter. The Floor-Mischief had another plan. "Give him an invitation to dinner," she said to the King. "Make sure that he sits in the great chair. There is a deadly spike in that chair. The deadly spike will kill him."

But Good Hearing heard the conversation. And Hard Haunches went to the dinner as a servant to the Widow's Son. The King welcomed the Widow's Son. He showed him the great chair. But Hard Haunches said that it was his custom to sit in each chair before his master. Hard Haunches sat in the chair. He broke every spike.

The Widow's Son was expecting that he would get the King's daughter. But the Floor-Mischief had another plan. She spoke to the King. She told him her plan. The Widow's Son would have to take the freshwater lochan, that was at the summit of the hunting mountain, down to near the Palace. The King agreed to the plan.

"I'm hearing something,"

Tha mi a' dol a chur crìoch air an sgeulachd *Balgam Mòr*. Bha Mac na Bantraich ag iarraidh nighean an Rìgh a phòsadh. Ach cha robh an Rìgh deònach a nighean a thoirt dha. Bha plana eile aig an Earchlais-Ùrlair. "Thoiribh cuireadh dha do dhinnear," thuirt i ris an Rìgh. "Dèanaibh cinnteach gun suidh e air a' chathair mhòir. Tha bior nimhe anns a' chathair sin. Cuiridh am bior nimhe às dha."

Ach chuala Claisneachd Mhath an còmhradh. Agus chaidh Tòn Chruaidh don dinnear mar ghille do Mhac na Bantraich. Chuir an Rìgh fàilte air Mac na Bantraich. Sheall e dha a' chathair mhòr. Ach thuirt Tòn Chruaidh gun robh e na chleachdadh dha suidhe anns gach cathair ro a mhaighstir. Shuidh Tòn Chruaidh anns a' chathair. Bhris e gach bior.

Bha dùil aig Mac na Bantraich gum faigheadh e nighean an Rìgh. Ach bha plana eile aig an Earchlais-Ùrlair. Bhruidhinn i ris an Rìgh. Dh'inns i a plana dha. Dh'fheumadh Mac na Bantraich an lochan uisge, a bha air mullach na beinne seilge, a thoirt sìos gu faisg air an Lùchairt. Dh'aontaich an Rìgh ris a' phlana.

"Tha mi a' cluinntinn rudeigin,"

said Good Hearing.

“What are you hearing?” said the Widow’s Son. Good Hearing explained about the lochan at the summit of the hunting mountain.

“I’ll defeat them,” said Great Gulp.

Great Gulp went to the hill. He was good at sucking up lochans and spouting them out. He started to suck up and spout out water. Everything around the castle was now swimming in water. The water was going to destroy everything.

The King asked the Widow’s Son to order Great Gulp not to pour any more water. He promised that he would have his daughter that night.

The Floor-Mischief was put to death because she was responsible for the great flood. The King’s daughter married the Widow’s Son. The King gave them a great wedding. And I’m certain the couple were happy for many years.

thuirt Claisneachd Mhath.

“Dè tha thu a’ cluinntinn?” thuirt Mac na Bantraich. Mhìnich Claisneachd Mhath mun lochan air mullach na beinne seilge.

“Nì mise a’ chùis orra,” thuirt Balgam Mòr.

Chaidh Balgam Mòr don mhonadh. Bha esan math air a bhith a’ srùbadh lochain agus gan spùtadh amach. Thòisich e air uisge a shrùbadh is a spùtadh. Bha gach nì mun chaisteal anise a’ snàmh ann an uisge. Bha an t-uisge a’ dol a mhilleadh gach rud.

Dh’iarr an Rìgh air Mac na Bantraich òrdugh a thoirt do Bhalgam Mòr gun tuilleadh uisge a dhòrtadh. Gheall e gum faigheadh e fhèin a nighean air an oidhche sin.

Chaidh an Earchlais-Ùrlair a chur gu bàs oir ’s i a bu choireach ris an uisge mhòr. Phòs nighean an Rìgh Mac na Bantraich. Rinn an Rìgh banais mhòr dhaibh. Agus tha mi cinnteach gun robh an cupall sona airson iomadach bliadhna.