

Gun Dòchas Oidhche | Without a Night's Wish

Sgeul ri Aithris | The Storytelling Tradition

This story was recorded, transcribed & translated by Shay MacMullin, Ban-chleasaiche | Cultural Experiences Coordinator.

https://highlandvillage.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/inline/documents/an_rubha_2020_may_-_final.pdf

The common belief held by Gaels concerning an spiorad beò | the living spirit cautions against making wishes after dark. If a person dared to do so, saying "I wish I was at the dance" or "I wish I had a bottle", the consequences could be dire. A person would be sure to follow any wishes made after dark with an utterance of protection like 'Gun dòchas oidhche.'
*The following story was recorded from **Annag ni'n Iain Alasdair 'ic Aonghais Ailean | Anna MacKinnon of Sight Point**, a wonderful mentor and champion of Gàidhlig.*

Annag: Uill, tha mi 'dol a dh'innse an naidheachd seo mu dheidhinn Ceannadach a bha á Rubh' an t-Seallaidh agus ghluais 'ad sios gu Inbhir Nis. Bha 'ad a' fuireach a' sin. Bha na gilleann ag obair 's a' mhéinn.

Translation

Anna: Well, I'm going to tell a story about a Kennedy man who was from Sight Point and they moved to Inverness. They were living there. The boys were working in the mine. Anyway, he was thinking that he was going to go. Still, he was going to the dance. But, she was too grieved to go.

Fear a bha seo, bha caraid aige. Agus bha 'ad glé mheasail air a chéile. Ach thuit, bha seach- dain eile a bha seo agus gun do dh'fhàs ise tinn. Cha robh i 'faireachdainn math idir. Bha danns shuas na Coal Mines agus co dhiubh bha 'ad an deaghaidh a bhith bru- idhinn mu dheidhinn an danns. Bha an dithis a' dol a dhol ann.

This fellow, he had a girlfriend. And they were very fond of one another. But it happened this week that she took sick. She wasn't feeling well at all.

There was a dance up in the Coal Mines (Mabou) and anyway they were after talking about the dance. They were both going to go

Co-dhiù, bha esan a' studaigeadh gu robh e 'dol a dhol ann. Fhathast, bha e 'dol dh'ionnsaidh an danns. Ach, bha ise tuil- lidh 's brònach airson a dhol ann.

Chaidh esan astaigh dh'ionnsaidh an taigh aca 's thuit i, bha 'ad a' bruidhinn agus thuit ise ris,

B. "Chan eil thu 'dol a dh'ionnsaidh an danns a-nochd 's na Coal Mines."

F. 'S thuit e, "Tha."

B. Thuit i, "Chan eil mi airson thu dhol ann."

F. Agus, thuit e, "Carson?"

B. Agus, thuit i, "Uill, chan eil mis' a' faireachdainn ro .."

F. "Uill, bheil thu tuillidh 's tinn gus a dhol ann?" thuit e.

B. Agus thuit i, "Tha. Agus chan eil mi airson thusa dhol ann."

F. Agus, thuit e, "Uill, tha mise airson a dhol ann."

B. Thuit i, "Uill, tha mis' airson a dh'fhu- ireach aig an taigh. Ach co dhiubh," thuit i, "ma tha thu 'dol a dhol ann, tha aon nighean nach eil mise airson 's gun danns thusa còmhla rithe, ma théid thu ann."

Agus chan eil cuimhn' agam dé an t-ainm a bh' air an nighinn, ach co dhiubh, chaidh a h-ainmeachadh.

He went to their house (the girlfriend's parents' house) and they were speaking and she said,

"You are not going to the dance tonight in the Coal Mines."

And he said, "Yes, I am."

She said, "I don't want you to go."

And he said, "Why?"

And she said, "Well, I'm not feeling so..." (he interrupts)

"Well, are you too sick to go?" he said.

And she said, "Yes. And I don't want you to go."

And he said, "Well, I want to go."

She said, "Well, I want to stay at the house. But anyway," she said, "if you are going to go, there is one girl I don't want you to dance with, if you go." And I don't remember what her name was, but anyway, she was named.

B. Thuit is ris an toiseach, "Geall dhomh nach danns thu còmhla rithe!"

F. "Geallaidh," thuit e.

Dar a ràinig e an danns, có bha roimhe aig an danns ach an té a bha seo. Agus dé rinn e ach thug e 'dhanns i. Dhanns e, cha chreid mi car tric, còmhla rithe.

She said to him in the first place, "Promise me that you won't dance with her!"

"I promise," he said.

So when he got to the dance, who was ahead of him but this girl. And what did he do but he took her to dance. So, he danced, I believe, with her quite often.

Ach co dhiubh, air a' rathad dhachaigh, thachair e air a spiorad, aig a' charaid aige.

B. Agus thuit i ris, "Dhanns thusa còmhla ris an nighinn a dh'iarr mis' ort gun danns còmhla rithe."

F. Agus thuit e, "Cha do dhanns."

B. Thuit i, "Dhanns!" Thuit i, "Tha fhios agamasa gun do dhanns thu còmhla rithe." Agus thuit i, "Dh'iarr mis' ort gun dhanns còmhla rith' 's chaidh thu 'nam aghaidh."

F. Agus thuit e, "Cha do dhanns! Cha do dhanns mise còmhla rithe ..."

Agus thionndail i air! Bha i 'ga bhualadh le 'dùirn. Agus bha e air a ghearradh. Bha fùil a' tighinn às a' chraiceann aige leis a' phronnadh a thug i dha. Agus thuit e cha mhór nach d' rinn i an gnothach air, nach do chuir i crìoch air leis cho fiadhaich 's a bha i.

Agus cha b' urrainn dha sian a dheanadh dhi. Bha do spionnadh aice. Cha ghabhadh sian deanadh dhi. Bha i fairis air a h-uile sian a rinn e. Cha mhór nach robh e toirt suas mu dheireadh. Agus, mar e rinn Dia, fhuair e falbh.

But anyway, on the way home, he met her spirit, his (girl) friend's spirit.

And she said to him, "You danced with the girl I asked you not to dance with."

And he said, "I didn't."

She said, "You did!" She said, "I know you danced with her." And she said, "I asked you not to dance with her and you defied me."

And he said, "I didn't. I didn't dance with her ... "

And she turned on him! She was striking him with her fists. And he was wounded. He was bleeding with the pounding that she gave him. He said she nearly did him in, she nearly finished him, she was so wild. And he couldn't do anything to her. She was so powerful. Nothing could be done to her. She excelled against everything he did. He almost gave up at the end. As fate would have it, he got away.

Agus bha e tachairt air pàirt dha 'n fheadhainn a bha 'dol a dh'obair dha 'n mheinn a' mhadainn ud. Agus bha 'ad a' faighneachd dheth, "Dé ach Dia nan gràsan a dh'éirich dhut-as? Tha thu làn fuil. Tha thu air do ghearradh suas." Agus, 's ise a rinn e. 'S e a' spiorad aice.

Agus tha 'ad ag ràdhainn ma chuireas tu dòchas 's an oidhche ort fhéin gun téid agad a bhith an àiteigin airson cron a dheanadh nam biodh tu ann.

Seigheag: Agus gu dé a bu chòir dhut a bhith 'g ràdhainn?

A: Gun toil oidhche.

S: Agus chuala mi cuideachd, "Gun dòchas oidhch'."

A: Bheireadh Da (a h-athair), "Gun dòchas oidhche."

And he met some of the fellows on the way to work the next morning. And they were asking him, "What in the name of the God of Graces happened to you? You're full of blood. You're scraped up." And that's what she did. It was her spirit.

And they say that if you put a wish on yourself that you'll travel, you'll be in a place to do harm if you're there.

Shay: And what should you say? A: Without a night's wish.

S: And I've also heard, "Without a night's wish."

A: Da (Anna's father) would say that, "Without a night's wish."