

Caibideil 17

Ath-sgrudadh

Review

A little reminder –
We really should pay the piper
(*mòran taing* to those who have!)



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This week we will learn ...

- Sean fhacal na Seachdaine
- Review of *vocabulary*
- Dualchas nan Gàidheil – ***Pòsadh air a' Ghàidhealtachd***
- Òran - “A ghaoil, leig dhachaigh gum mhàthair mi” (bidh sinn a’ cumail oirnn we will continue)

Sean fhacal na Seachdaine

Proverb / 'Old Saying" of the Week

*An sean-fhacal gu fada fìor,
cha bhriagaichear an sean-fhacal.*

The old saying long proved true shall never be belied (that is, proved false).

"I don't know any other Proverbs that speak of women so respectfully as the Gaelic ones do. They are not wanting in humour, but they never regard women as inferior creatures and mere causes of mischief, which is the point of view of the Proverbs of several great nations."

Nicolson, Alexander. *A Collection of Gaelic Proverbs and Familiar Phrases*.
Edinburgh: 1882.

This is reflected in the sean fhacal

Is mine min na gran.
Is mine mnai na fir.

Root = min, comparative = mine (finer)

Meal is finer than grain,
Women are finer than men.

Bean = wife, woman
Mnai / mnathan = women

Suirghe fada bhon taigh, 's pòsadh am bun an dorais.

Courting far from home, and marrying next door.

He went
4,000 miles...
to meet
the girl next door!

This Woodbury Deb proved
there's no place like home

In a little town in Germany, Sgt. Robert Walker
found the picture of a lovely girl.

She was Leta Averett, the "Gray Bonnet Girl"
—official pin-up of the Old Gray Bonnet Regiment.
Bob was entranced by her dazzling smile and
luscious Woodbury complexion . . . so he folded
the photograph in his wallet.

Three years later, the picture still in his pocket,
Bob returned home to Ashburn, Georgia. There,
at a neighborhood party, Bob found the surprise
that changed his life!



An ath-sgrudadh - Vocabulary

Cait' a bheil sinn?

An Roinn-Eòrpa



Cait' a bheil sinn?

Answer the questions below:

Cait' a bheil sinn?



- Sasainn
- A' Ghearmailt
- An Fhraing
- Alba
- An Tuirc

Cait' a bheil sinn?



- An Nirribhidh
- An Fhraing
- An Spàinn
- Eadailt

Cait' a bheil sinn?



- An t-Suain
- Èirinn
- A' Ghrèig
- An Spàinn

Cait' a bheil sinn?



- An Spàinn
- Sasainn
- A' Ghearmailt
- Innis Tìle

Cait' a bheil sinn?



- Sasainn
- An Spàinn
- An Suain
- An Tuirc

Cait' a bheil sinn?



- An Spàinn
- An Tuirc
- Nirribhidh
- An Fhraing

Cait' a bheil sinn?

Cait' a bheil sinn?



- An Danmhairg
- Eadailt
- An Suain
- Èirinn

Cait' a bheil sinn?



- An Suain
- An Ruis
- An Spàinn
- A' Ghrèig

Cait' a bheil sinn?



- An Suain
- A' Ghrèig
- An Ruis
- An Spàinn

Cait' a bheil sinn?



- An Suain
- An Danmhairg
- An Ruis
- An Eadailt

**Ceart no ceàrr?
(right or wrong?)**

1. Anns an Eadailt tha iad ag ithe spaghetti.



2. Anns an Spàinn tha daoine agus tairbh a' sabaid?



3. Anns a' Phortagail tha iomadh mathan-bàn ann



4. Anns an Tuirc tha iad a' tilg a' chabair?



5. Anns a' Ghearmailt tha fèis an Dàmhair ann?



6. Anns an Fhraing tha iad a' sreap an Tùr Eiffel?



7. Ann an Innis Tile tha I blàth ?



8. Ann an Alba tha iad a' seinn na pioba?



9. Ann an Èirinn tha iomadh luchraban ann?



10. Ann an Sasainn tha iad a' bruidhinn a' Bheurla.



**An latha an-diugh
When are we?**

Lathaichean na seachainn:

Days of the Week

Diluain	Monday
Dimàirt	Tuesday
Diciadain	Wednesday
Diardaoin	Thursday
Dihaoine	Friday
Disathairne	Saturday
Didòmhnaich / Latha na Sabaid	Sunday

Mìosachan na Bliadhna

Months of the year

Am Faoilteach	January
An Gearain	February
Am Màrt	March
An Giblean	April
An Cèitean	May
An t-Ògmhios	June
An t-Iuchair	July
An Lùnastal	August
An t-Sultain	September
An Dàmhair	October
An t-Samhain	November
An Dùbhlachd	December

Now, **Fill in the calendar below for this month:**

Dathan Colors

Dathan



Dè an dath a tha seo?



dearg



gorm

Dè an dath a tha seo?



buidhe



purpaidh



Dè an dath a tha seo?



geal



dubh



donn



uaine



Dè an dath a tha seo?



glas



orains



Special Color Categories in Gaelic

Gaelic has an interesting feature in a small number of its color categorization.

First, remember that colors are categorizations by a language culture – different language-cultures categorize colors differently. Some cultures, for instance, do not distinguish between red and pink (they are both shades of “red”). In some cultures, the material that the color is “on” comes into how the color is categorized.

This is so in Gaelic.

What in English is known as “red” is categorized as *dearg* if it is on an inanimate object but *ruadh* if it is hair or fur.

Geal – or “white” – pertains to inanimate objects (a white fence, for example), while what English speakers would consider the same color is called *bàn* if it is the color of someone’s hair or the color of, say, a cow. As well, *bàn* might be interpreted as “fair” or what in English would be called “blond.”

Grass, which is “green” in English, is often referred to as *gorm*, – or “blue” – in Gaelic (this might not seem too odd if one thinks of the “blue grass” of Kentucky), not *uaine* (more commonly translated as “green”).

Additionally, *liath* pertains to both the pale blue of a sky and grey hair, while *gras* describes more conventionally “grey” on – again – inanimate objects.

(It should be noted that many of these traditional categorizations are disappearing in favor of the English-language distinctions.)

The following illustrations will further explain these concepts.

DATHAN SÒNRAICHTE (SPECIAL COLORS)



liath

Glas



ruadh



ruadh



Raibeart Ruadh MacGriogair



Dearg



bàn



Geal

Dè an dath a tha seo?



Bàn



Geal



Dè an dath a tha seo?

Gorm



Uaine



Feuch na tha fios agad (try what you know)

DÈ AN DATH A THA SEO?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Ralbert Ruadh MacGriogair

Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Dè an dath a tha seo?



Faclan nam faireachdainn

This week, we will explore and learn words of emotion. Review the pages below for some of these important concepts.

Additionally remember the prepositional pronouns that are often used with these words –

- To **have/possess** = aig +
- To be **on** = Air +

As we've covered before, aig is important in the communication of possession – to have something, like the song

Tha taigh **agam**, tha bean **agam** ... (I have a house, I have a wife)

The following table illustrates the prepositional pronouns for **aig**.

Aig + mi	Agam	“at me” / my
Aig + thu	Agad	“at you” / your
Aig + e	Aige	“at him” / his
Aig + i	Aice	“at her” / her
Aig + sinn	Againn	“at us” / our
Aig + sibh	Agaibh	“at you” / your (plural / form
Aig + iad	Aca	“at them” / their

Air – “on” – comes into play in the communication of some emotions. Sometimes we say an emotion is “on” us

- Tha eagal orm – I am afraid, or literally, Fear is **on** me.

The following table illustrates the prepositional pronouns for **air**.

Air + mi	Orm	“on me”
Air + thu	Ort	“on you”
Air + e	Air	“on him”
Air + i	Oirre	“on her”
Air + sinn	Oirnn	“on us”
Air + sibh	Oirbh	“on you” (pl & form)
Air + iad	Orra	“on them”

In the sentences where you are saying an emotion is “on” somebody and you name the person, you phrase it like

- Tha eagal air Seumas – Fear is on Seumas / Seumas is afraid
- Tha gaol aige air Màiri – He has love “on” (for) Màiri / He loves Màiri

And as you will see, sometimes in Gaelic we say we “are” something as in English– using adjectives such as

- Tha mi *brònach* – I am sad
- Tha mi *toilichte* – I am happy

Below you’ll find a presentation with visual prompts to the meaning of the words, but first here is a vocabulary list:

Word & English translation	How it’s used
Toilichte – happy	Tha mi toilichte – I am happy Tha e toilichte – he is happy
Brònach – sad	Tha iad brònach – they are sad Tha I brònach – she is sad
Eagalach – fearful, frightened, afraid Eagal – fear	Tha e eagalach – he is afraid (he is afraid) Tha eagal orm – I am afraid (fear is on me) Tha eagal air Alasdair – Alasdair is afraid (Fear is on Alasdair)
Feargach – angry Fearg – anger	Bha e feargach – he was angry Bi fearg oirre – she will be angry (anger will be on her) Tha fearg air an duine – Anger is on the man / The man is afraid
Moiteil – pride	Tha i moiteil – she is proud Bha iad moiteil – they were proud
Iongnadh – surprise	Tha iongnadh orm – I am surprised (lit. surprise is on me) Bha iongnadh air – he was surprised (lit. surprise was on him) Bi iongnadh air Pàdraig – Pàdraig will be surprised (Surprise will be on Pàdraig)
Air bhioran – excited (lit. <i>on points</i> , as in on ‘pins and needles’)	Tha sinn air bhioran – we are excited An robh thu air bhioran? – were you excited?
Luathaireach – mischievous	Bha e luathaireach – he was mischievous. Tha i luathaireach – she is mischievous.
Faoin – silly Amaideach – silly, foolish Gòrach – silly, foolish (one who is foolish / fool = amadan)	Na bi faoin – don’t be silly A bheil e amaideach? Is he foolish? Tha thu gòrach, a bhalaich. You are silly/foolish, boy.
Lachan- laughter Gàire – laughter Gàireachdainn – laughing (verbal noun)	Lachan & gàire are both nouns – one ‘makes’ laughter Bha e a’ dèanamh lachan – he was laughing (lit., he was making laughter) Bi iad a’ dèanamh gàire – they will laugh (lit. they will be making laughter) While gàireachdainn is a verbal noun Tha e a’ gàireachdainn – he is laughing
Troimh-a-chèile – confused	Tha mi troimh-a-chèile – I am confused An robh e troimhe-a-chèile – Was he confused?
Eud – jealousy, envy	A bheil eud ort – Are you jealous/envious (lit., is envy on you?) Bi eud oirre – She will be jealous (lit., jealousy will be on her) Bha eud air Calum – Calum is jealous (Jealousy is on Calum)
Air bòradh – bored	Note the use of the personal possessive pronoun: Tha mi air mo bhòradh – I am bored A bheil thu air do bhòradh – are you bored?

	<p>Tha e air a bhòradh – he is bored Tha I air a bòradh – she is bored</p> <p>Bi sinn air ar bòradh – we will be bored An robh sibh air ur bòradh – were you (all) bored Bha iad air am bòradh – they are bored</p>
<p>Gaol – love</p>	<p>Note: the person who loves ‘has’ love; the person (or thing, whatever) who is loved, has love on them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tha gaol aig Romeo air Juliet – Romeo loves Juliet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (lit. Love is at Romeo on Juliet, or, loosely translated, <i>Romeo has love for Juliet</i>) ○ Tha gaol aige oirre • Tha gaol aig Juliet air Romeo – Juliet loves Romeo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lit. Love is at Juliet on Romeo – perhaps, loosely translated as <i>Juliet has love for Romeo.</i> ○ Tha gaol aice air <p>Tha gaol agam ort – I love you. Lit. I have love on you Bha gaol aice air – she loved him (lit. she had love on him) Bha gaol aige oirre – he loved her (lit. he had love on her)</p> <p>Tha gaol aca oirnn – they love us A bheil gaol agaibh air – do you (pl., form) love him? Tha gaol againn air ar clann / tha gaol againn orra – we love our children / we love them – lit. love at us is on them</p>

Faclan nam Faireachdainn

Words of Emotion

toilichte

- Tha e toilichte
- Tha i toilichte
- Tha iad toilichte



Brònach

- Mulad – “s mulad a tha mi ...”
- Tha e brònach
- Tha i brònach
- Tha iad brònach



eagalach

- Tha e eagalach
- Tha eagal air
- Tha eagal orra



Feargach

- Tha e feargach
- Tha fearg air
- Tha fearg oirre
- That fearg orra



Moiteil



Tha e moiteil
Tha i moiteil



Air bhioran



- Tha i air bhioran
- Tha e air bhioran
- That iad air bhioran



Iongnadh air



- Tha iongnadh air
- Tha iongnadh oirre
- Tha iongnadh orra



Tha e ...



- Luathaireach



Faoin



- Tha iad ...
 - Faoin
 - Gòrach
 - Amaideach



Lachan / gàireachdainn



- Tha iad a' dèanamh lachan
- ... a' dèanamh gàire
- Tha iad a' gàireachdainn



Troimh a' chèile



- Tha e troimh a' chèile
- Tha iad troimh a' chèile
- Tha i troimh a' chèile



Air (mo) bhòradh



- Tha i air a bòradh
- Tha iad air am bòradh



Eud

- Tha eud aige
- Tha eud aice
- Tha eud orra



Gaol /

- Tha iad ann an gaol
- Tha gaol agam ort
- Tha gaol aice air
- Tha gaol aige oirre



Eacarsaichean

Translate into Gàidhlig (remember, for all verb forms, use the verbal noun construction)

1. Do you love him?
2. I am happy.
3. They will be happy.
4. He was bored.
5. Were you bored?
6. She is sad.
7. Are you sad?
8. We are sad.
9. They were sad.
10. Are you afraid?
11. They will be afraid.
12. He is very angry.
13. She was angry.
14. We will be surprised.
15. They were surprised.
16. He is silly.
17. They are foolish.
18. We're excited.
19. They were excited.
20. Were you excited?
21. They laughed / were laughing.
22. Did you laugh?
23. She laughed
24. They will laugh.
25. She is jealous.
26. They will be jealous.
27. I was bored.
28. We are bored.
29. He loves her.
30. She loves him.
31. They loved them.
32. I was confused.
33. We are confused.
34. Are you confused?
35. He was confused.

Freagairtean shìos – ach na coimhead air fàth! 😊 – answers below but don't peek!

Answer key – eacarsaichean

1. Do you love him? A bheil gaol agad air?
2. I am happy. Tha mi toilichte
3. They will be happy? Bi iad toilichte
4. He was bored. Bha e air a bhòradh
5. Were you bored? An robh thu air do bhòradh?
6. She is sad. Tha I brònach
7. Are you sad? A bheil thu brònach
8. We are sad. Tha sinn brònach
9. They were sad. Bha iad brònach
10. Are you afraid? A bheil thu eagalach / a bheil eagal ort
11. They will be afraid. Bi iad eagalach / bi eagal oirbh
12. He is very angry. Tha e glè fheargach / tha fearg mòr air
13. She was angry. Bha I feargach / bha fearg oirre
14. We will be surprised. Bi iongnadh oirnn
15. They were surprised. Bha iongnadh oirbh
16. He is silly. Tha e gòrach (or faoin or amaideach)
17. They are foolish. Tha iad faoin (or gòrach or amaideach)
18. We're excited. Tha sinn air bhioran
19. They were excited. Bha iad air bhioran
20. Were you excited? An robh thu/sibh air bhioran?
21. They laughed / were laughing. Bha iad a' dèanamh lachan / gàire; bha iad a' gàireachdainn
22. Did you laugh? An robh thu a' dèanamh lachan / gàire? An robh thu a' gàireachdainn?
23. She laughed. Bha I a' dèanamh lachan /gàire. Bha I a' gàireachdainn.
24. They will laugh. Bi iad a' dèanamh lachan / gàire. Bi iad a' gàireachdainn.
25. She is jealous. Tha eud oirre.
26. They will be jealous. Bi eud orra.
27. I was bored. Bha mi air mo bhòradh.
28. We are bored. Tha sinn air ar bòradh.
29. He loves her. Tha gaol aige oirre.
30. She loves him. Tha gaol aice air.
31. They loved them. Tha gaol aca oirbh.
32. I was confused. Bha mi troimh-a-chèile.
33. We are confused. Tha sinn troimh-chèile.
34. Are you confused? A bheil thu troimh-a-chèile?
35. He was confused. Bha e troimh-a-chèile.

Dualchas nan Gàidheil



Marriage in the Highlands
Pòsadh air a' Ghàidhealtachd

Suitor and his best friend called on girl's father to ask for her hand

- After some small talk, friend would 'talk up' – praise – young man
- Girl would show her concurrence to marriage by staying in room
- (if she left, that meant she didn't want the match)
- Father would say something like,
 - *"Nam biodh i deònach, bidh mise deònach, mura bi, cha bhì mise."* (if she were willing, I would be, if she is not, I am not.)
- The couple would then drink a dram from the same *quaich*.




Informal 'marriage by declaration'

- Formal statement that couple was 'man and wife'
- sometimes by clasping hands through a hole in a monolith
- Sometimes by 'handfasting'
- A couple agree to live together
- The agreement sometimes for a year,
- if the woman became pregnant, a proper marriage usually followed

Marriage by declaration common throughout Scotland



- Which is what made 'runaway' marriages to *Greta Greene* (at the English-Scottish border) popular & possible (until 1939)
- Many restrictions on marriage in England ... few in Scotland




A chiad Rèiteach - the 'first arrangement' – the request

- 'Best man' requests marriage for friend
- Proposed groom is not present – but waits anxiously at home (supposed to be looking after children)
- From production of *Gruth 's Uachdar* (Crowdy & Cream), set in the Hebrides

The *Rèiteach*

- The betrothal feast
- The bride's relations passed out tea; the groom's passed out whisky.
- Two girls – one from the bride's family and one from the groom's – went round and invited the guests
- Bride and groom themselves invited close relations and special friends
- great slight if anyone was left out!




Creeling of the groom

- Day before the wedding.
- Groom carried large basket or *creel* filled with stones from one side of the village to another.
- Continued until the fiancée ran out and gave him a kiss.
- Then permitted to stop his circuit of the village.

Ceremony of feet washing

- Night before marriage
- Friends of the bride would wash her feet in a tender manner in a symbolic act of cleansing.
- Treatment of the groom was much rougher. His feet were covered in soot and feathers. Soot represented hearth and home and was thought to be lucky.
- A coin put into water – general scramble for it, because whoever secured it would be next to marry!






The procession:

- Bridegroom first (preceded by bagpiper) & a young man on either side, followed by bride with her two maids
- bride and groom to exchanged vows outside the front entrance to the kirk with the guests standing by
- Then, they enter for blessing
- Afterwards, pistols and guns fired over their heads
- Cake is broken over bride's head – great struggle for a piece of it

The wedding dinner

- Breakfast, dinner, & supper
 - provided by bride's parents while groom supplied the drinks
 - Sometimes by entire community
- Long tables set out in barn with dishes of meat, potatoes, eggs, and oatcake, and cheese
- "The food was heaped up like seaweed. There was butter and cheese and fish being served by women of liberal hand; there were lads fighting and grappling and chewing bones ..."
- At end, bridegroom goes round with plate – guests give according to their inclination ... sometimes receiving enough to stock their farm



Dannsadh!

- Sometimes danced to a piper, but often to a fiddler
- The fiddler got a penny a dance! (a lot back then)
- At the end of each dance, all the couples kiss
- Ceremonial first dance by bride and groom, and best man and bridesmaid



Continued dancing till it was time for the couple to go to bed

- *Stealing of the bride*: bride 'stolen' from dance floor and replaced with another girl,
- bride taken way and undressed by friends (with jokes & pranks)
- Mothers of bride and groom sprinkle the marriage bed with holy water
- Knots in groom's clothing were untied to assure the marriage would be fruitful
- Bridegroom shows his virality by doing the "salmon leap" – springing into the bed from the floor (after Cuchulainn)



Festivities continued till next morning (w/o bride & groom)

- Then *bréid* or "kertch" (marriage scarf) placed on the bride's head
- Sometimes celebrations would go on for days
- No honeymoon – couple stayed w/ bride's family for a week
- Attended church following Sunday – considered 'married'
- Then moved into new home



Òran na seachdain

And as promised, we're going to concentrate on *aon òran*:

“A ghaoil, leig dhachaigh gum mhàthair mi”

(but don't worry, we're going to take our time and not going to do the whole thing)

Sung by Julie Fowlis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jou0qORSDK0>

This week, we'll look at the language a little more closely

<p>A ghaoil, leig dhachaigh gum mhàthair mi; A ghràidh, leig dhachaigh gum mhàthair mi; A ghaoil, leig dhachaigh gum mhàthair mi – An tòir chrodh-laoigh a thàinig mi.</p> <p><i>A ghaoil & a ghràidh = vocative form of 'love' or beloved one</i> <i>Dhachaigh = homeward, to home; directional</i> <i>Gum mhàthair = gu mo mhàthair – to my mother</i> <i>Gum mhàthair mi – note 'mi' at end, common feature – shift object of verb to end of phrase</i> <i>An tòir chrodh-laoigh a thàinig mi = (it was for) 'the getting of the cattle that I came'</i></p> <p>Gur ann a-raoir a chuala mi Mo ghaol a bhith ri buachailleachd, 'S ged fhuair thu 'n iomall na buaile mi, A ghaoil, leig dhachaigh mar fhuair thu mi.</p> <p><i>Gur ann a-raoir = (that) it was last night ... very often you'll see something like 'S ann a-raoir – it was last night; 'S ann anns a' bhaile ... = it was in the town ... etc</i> <i>Chuala mi = I heard (simple past tense)</i> <i>A bhith ri buachailleachd – a form of a' buachailleachd, signifying not just a 1-time action but more habitual or continual</i> <i>Fhuair – simple past tense of faigh, which we've seen as a' faighean, often translated 'got' but in some contexts can mean 'found'</i></p> <p>'S mi dìreadh ris na gàrraidhean, 'S a' teàrnadh ris na fàirichean, Gun d' thachair fleasgach bàigheil rium, 'S cha d' dh' fheuch e bonn ga chàirdeis rium.</p> <p><i>Thachair – past tense of 'tachair' – happen or happen upon (meet, though not pre-arranged)</i> <i>Thachair ri – happen upon (meet up with)</i> <i>Dh'fheuch = try</i> <i>Bonn ga chàirdeis – 'bonn' = foundation, lowest part ... he would not try the lowest sort of friendship on me</i></p>	<p>Love, let me (go) home to my mother Darling, let me (go) home to my mother Love, let me home to my mother I only came for the cattle.</p> <p>It was only last night That I heard that my love was herding And though you found me at the edge of the cattle fold Love, let me home as you found me.</p> <p>I was clambering up the dykes And descending the ridges When a friendly lad met me And he did not enforce his friendship on me.</p>
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<p>Ged bheireadh tu crodh agus caoraich dhomh, Ged bheireadh tu eachaibh air thaodaibh dhomh, Ged bheireadh tu sin agus daoine dhomh, A ghaoil, leig dhachaigh mar fhuair thu mi.</p> <p>bheireadh – would give; the conditional form eachaibh – the old ‘poetic’ plural; modern = eich air thaodaibh = passive ... dhomh = do mi = to me, for me</p> <p>Trodaidh m' athair 's mo mhàthair riut, Trodaidh mo chinneadh 's mo chàirdean riut, Ach marbhaidh mo thriùir bhràithrean thu Mura tèid mi dhachaigh mar thàinig mi.</p> <p>Trodaidh = the simple future; we have seen it as “bidh iad a’ trod riut” Mo chinneadh = cinneadh / “kin” / kinfolk Thriùir = three, special number form for people Mura – if not</p> <p>Gheall mo mhàthair gùn thoirt dhomh, Gheall i ribean a b' ùire dhomh, Is gheall i breacan ùr thoirt dhomh Ma thèid mi dhachaigh mar fhuair thu mi.</p> <p>Gheall = promised (geall) A b' ùire = most new, the comparative Thoirt = a thoirt ... to give, the infinitive of the verb</p>	<p>Though you were to give me cattle and sheep Though you were to give me tethered horses Though you were to give me that and men Love, let me home as you found me.</p> <p>My mother and father will chastise you My clan and my relatives will chastise you But my three brothers will kill you If I don't return home as I came.</p> <p>My mother promised me a gown Decorated with the newest of ribbons And she promised me a new plaid If I return home the way you found me.</p>
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As with many folksongs, much has to be interpreted, as due to the economy of form, much is not stated outright. In this case, we have bits of ‘evidence,’ – the girl knows the young man (a ghaoil, a ghràidh), and she heard that he was engaged in herding and went to where he was, though she protests she only came for her family's cattle.

Her continual pleading that he allow her to return home the way he found her tells us that he is pressing her for a much more intimate relations than she is ready to consent to at the time. Though she still feels close to him –she is just not *ready*. We might guess that she is young – perhaps as young as 14 -16, old enough to be attractive to a young man but not old enough to feel comfortable giving consent – as she is still under the protection of her parents (her father and brothers will kill him if he violates her); and her mother has bribed her with presents (a new gown, ribbons, and plaid) if she returns home ‘mar fhuair thu mi’ (as he found her).