

## Beealeraght

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Ayns Keeill ny Maynee Lheeah ayns Doon Edin ta shirveish Ghailckagh goll er cummal dagh Jedoonee ec lieh-oor lurg munlaa. Lurg y çhirveish daa hiaghtin er dy henney va çhaglym er-lheh er ny chummal mooie 'sy rhuillick ec oaie unnane jeh ny bardoonee s'cronnal va rieu jannoo arraneyn ayns Gailck Albinagh. She Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir yn ennym v'er, as hooar eh baase ayns Doon Edin daa cheead blein er dy henney ayns 1812 tra v'eh kiare feed blein as hoght dy eash.

Va Donnchadh Bàn bio ayns eash tra va'n shenn oardagh Gailckagh goll naardey as dy row aghtyn joarree Baarlagh brishey stiagh er seihll ny Gaeljee. Tra v'eh aeg v'eh gobbraghey da Earley Argyll myr forster er y thaloo echey ayns Glione Orchy, faggys da'n boayl raad v'eh ruggit. V'eh goaill kiarail jeh ny feeaihee as she ec y traa shen ren eh screeu yn arrane share shione da sleih dys y laa t'ayn jiu, 'Moylley Beinn Dorain', ayn v'eh cur coontey down er dy chooilley cretoor as luss va ry gheddyn mygeayrt y clieau bare lesh. Ymmodee bleeantyn lurg shen as eh troailt ayns ynnyd foddey jeh haink dooinney aeg ny whail. Dooyrt y dooinney shoh rish er-finnue, "Nee uss ren Beinn Dorain?" Dreggyr eshyn, "She Jee ren ee, agh she mish voyll ee."

Tra hug yn ard-ghooinney kirree mooarey joarree er y thaloo ayns ynnyd tannys as feeaihee, begin da Donnchadh Bàn obbyr elley y gheddyn, hoshiaght ayns yn armee as eisht ny arreyder ayns Doon Edin. Ny yeih, nish as reesht v'eh goll back dys y çheer echey hene as shooyl ny sleityn myr boallagh eh ayns laghyn e aegid, as hie eh seose Beinn Dorain son y cheayrt s'jerree ayns 1802 tra v'eh three feed blein as hoght-jeig dy eash, as gyn dooyt she drappal nagh nee beggan ta shen. Hug ny hooar eh trimshey vooar er, as ayns nane jeh ny harraneyn s'jerree echey t'eh gra 'Yn slieau s'beg heill mee dy jinnagh eh caghláa—son dy vel eh nish fo kirree, ren y seihll molley mee'. Va Donnchadh Bàn baghey ayns daa heill: yn shenn seihll Gailckagh lesh kynneeyn as king-chynney, as seihll yn ard-valley raad hug eh magh ny harraneyn echey ayns lioar, ga nagh row eh hene rieu abyl lhaih.

In Greyfriar's kirk in Edinburgh a Gaelic service is held every Sunday at 12.30. After the service two weeks ago a special ceremony was held in the graveyard at the grave of one of the Gaelic world's greatest poets, Duncan Ban Macintyre, who died in Edinburgh 200 years ago when he was 88 years old.

Macintyre lived in an age when the old Gaelic order was breaking down and foreign ways were entering the world of the Gael. When he was young he worked for the Earl of Argyll as a forester on his land in Glen Orchy, close to his birthplace. He looked after the deer and it is at this time he wrote his best-known song, 'the Praise of Beinn Dorain', in which he describes every creature and plant to be found around his favourite mountain. Many years later while travelling in a remote area of the Highlands he encountered a young man. This man said to him excitedly, "Are you the one who made Beinn Dorain (i.e. the song)?" He replied, "God made her, but I praised her."

When the chief put big Lowland sheep on the land in place of tenants and deer, Macintyre had to find other work, first in the army and then as a guardsman in Edinburgh. Nevertheless now and again he returned to his native area and walked the hills as he used to in his youth, and he climbed Beinn Dorain for the last time in 1802 when he was 78, and that is no mean feat. What he found saddened him deeply, and

he said in one of his last songs, 'The mountain I little thought would change—since it is now infested with sheep, the world has deceived me'. Macintyre lived in two worlds: the old Gaelic world of clans and chiefs, and the world of the city where he published his songs in a book, though he himself was illiterate.