

Y vee shoh chaie ghow shin baght jeh paart jeh'n chreenaght ta ry gheddyn ayns ny shenn-raaghyn Gaelgagh. Ta mee sheiltyn dy beagh eh feeu jeeaghyn er ny smoo jeu yn vee shoh. Ta shenn-raa ny ghaa cur shin ayns cooinaghtyn dy vel dooghys deiney as cretooryn currit voish sheeloghe dys sheeloghe. 'Ta'n eean myr e ghooie my vel clooie er e chione', as 'my ta keim 'sy laair, bee keim 'sy lhiy'. Er y laue elley, foddee drogh liught ve ec moir ny ayr fondagh: 'Ta booa vie ny ghaa agh drogh lhey eck'. Foddee nagh vel yn shenn-raa shoh feer chenjal da mraane: 'Raad ta mraane ta pleat, as raad ta gioee ta keck; raad ta thalleyryn ta thollagyn, as raad ta seyir ta spollagyn'.

Ta ny shenn-raaghyn shoh cur raaue dooin gyn y ve mollit liorish yn tuarystal ny yn co-chasllys er çheu-mooie: 'Cronk glass foddey jeh; lhome, lhome tra roshym eh'; 'Cha nee yn wooa smoo eieys smoo vlieaunys', 'Siyn follym smoo sheean nee'. Er y laue elley, ga dy vel caslys donney er red, foddee dy bee eh ny share: 'Foddee fastyr grianagh ve ec moghrey bodjalagh'. My ta shiu jannoo red ennagh ayns fardail, ta shiu 'goll thie yn ghoayr dy hirrey ollan'. Fodmayd gra mychione yn chrauee-foalsey ta feddyn foill da peiagh elley son loght t'eh hene kyndagh jeh dy vel 'yn oghe gyllagh "thoin losht" da'n aiee'. Ta'n shenn-raa shoh cur reih dooin cre share lhien, tooilley cooid ny tooilley spoyrt: 'Myr sloo yn çeshaght share yn ayn, myr smoo yn çeshaght s'reaie yn cloie'. Ny-yeih ta shenn-raa elley coyrlagh shin dy ve kiaralagh: 'Tra s'reaie yn cloie, share faagail jeh'.

Ta shiartanse dy henn-raaghyn elley greinnagh shin dy ve friosagh as kiaralagh myrgheddin. 'Ta aile meeley jannoo bry millish', ta shen dy ghra, ny bee-jee ro hiyragh. Er yn aght cheddin, 'Myr smoo siyr, smoo cumrail'; 'Leah appee, leah loau'; as 'Foddee yn moddey s'jerree tayrtyn y mwaagh'. 'Lurg roayrt hig contraie'; ta shen, ga dy vel shin bishaghey ec y traa t'ayn, hig seaghyn ny trubbyl traa ennagh, nonney, 'Yiow moyrn lhiggey'. Cha lhisagh shin 'coontey ny hein roish ta ny hoohyn guirt'; as she bree yn çhenn-raa shoh va'n firrinyys echey soilshit ayns Laksaa tammylt beg er dy henney, nagh lhisagh shin moylley red gys ta shin er phrowal eh as shickyry dy vel eh mie: 'Moyll yn droghad myr heu harrish'.

Last month we explored some of the wisdom that is to be found in the old Manx proverbs. I think it would be worth looking at a few more this month. A number of proverbs remind us that the nature of men and beasts is transmitted from generation to generation. ‘The chick is like his kind before there is down on his head’, and ‘if there is an amble in the mare, there will be an amble in the colt’. On the other hand, good parents may have bad offspring: ‘Many a good cow had a bad calf’. Perhaps the following proverb is not very kind to women: ‘Where there are women there is prattle, and where there are geese there is dung; where there are tailors there are body-lice, and where there are carpenters there are wood-chips’.

The following proverbs warn us not to be deceived by appearances: ‘A green hill far off; bare, bare when I reach it’; ‘It is not the cow that lows the most that milks the most’, ‘Empty vessels make the most sound’. On the other hand, though something might look bad, it may improve: ‘A cloudy morning may have a sunny afternoon’. If you do something pointless, you are ‘going to the goat’s house to seek wool’. We may say of the hypocrite who finds fault with another for an offence of which he himself is guilty that ‘the oven is calling the kilt “burnt bottom”’ (i.e., the pot calling the kettle black). The following proverb gives us a choice, more stuff or more fun: ‘The smaller the company the better the share, the greater the company the merrier the play’. Yet another proverb advises us to be cautious: ‘When the play is merriest, it is best to leave off’.

Several other proverbs also encourage us to be cautious and careful. ‘A gentle fire makes sweet malt’, i.e. do not be too hasty. Likewise, ‘The more haste, the more hindrance’; ‘Soon ripe, soon rotten’; and ‘The last dog may catch the hare’. ‘After springtide will come neaptide’, that is, though we prosper at present, misfortune will come in the future, or else, ‘Pride will have a fall’. We should not ‘count our chicks before the eggs are hatched’, and the meaning of the following proverb, the truth of which was proved in Laxey recently, is that we should not praise a thing until we have tried it and are sure it is good: ‘Praise the bridge as you go over it’.