



## Duinealas Alasdair Louis - The Manliness of Alastair Louis

### Duinealas Alastair Louis

'Nuair a bha Alastair Louis Macleoid na bhalach òg, chaidh e 'na sgallag gu teaghlach ann an Leumrabhagh. Is e cleachdadh cumanta a bh'ann aig an àm sin do bhalaich a bhith 'na sgallagan aig teaghlach a choir-eigin anns a choimhearsnachd le glé bheag de thuarasdal a bharrachd air am biadh 's a leabaidh.

Cha do smaoinich Alastair bochd air ceann a chuir air a thuarasdal, agus dh'obraich e cruaidh fad bliadhna ag àiteach, agus am foghar aig lion-mor, agus a toirt dhachaidh monach agus bùrn, agus gach nì eile a bha ri dheanamh anns an tigh, agus air a chroit.

Thàinig mu dheireadh àm do Alastair bhith fàgail, agus rinn e aithnichte do fear an taigh gu robh e nis a miannachadh fàgail, agus am biodh e cho math agus gun toireadh e dha thuarasdal. Arsa am fear an taigh, 'cha do rinn sinne cùmhnant airson thuarasdal an taobh a muigh dhe do bhiadh agus do leabaidh'.

Bha aithne aig Alastair Louis gu robh e cleachdail dha na bhodach a bhith deanamh eucairt air sgallagan, agus chuir e roimhe nach biodh esan gun thuarasdal. Dh'fhuirich e sàmhach gu'n tàinig an latha airson dha a dhol dhachaidh, agus dh'eirich e tràth, agus thug e leis te dhe na cro a bhuineadh dha'n taigh mar thuarasdal airson an obair chruaidh a rinn e dha'n teaghlach fad bliadhna.

Cha robh a chridhe aig bodach Leumrabhagh (air nach cuir sinn ainm) a dhol as deidh Alastair gu Mairibhig, oir bha deagh fhios aige nach tug Alastair leis ach na bhuineadh dha gu dleach.

### The Manliness of Alastair Louis

When Alastair Louis was a young boy he went to work as a servant for a family in Lemreway. It was customary at that time for boys to work as servants for families in the community, with little wages other than their food and bed.

Poor Alastair Louis didn't think to agree wages before he started and he worked hard for a whole year on the land, in autumn taking in the nets, taking in the peats and water, and anything else that required doing in the home or on the croft.

Eventually, the time came for Alastair to go, and he let the man of the house know that he was about to leave, and would he be so kind as to give him his wages. The man of the house said 'we did not make any agreement for wages except for your bed and food'.

Alastair Louis knew that the man had a reputation for injustices towards his servants, and made up his mind that he wouldn't be done out of his wages. He behaved himself until the day of his going home, got up early and took one of the cows belonging to the house as wages for all the hard work he had done for the family over the past year.

The Lemreway man (whose name we will not reveal) didn't have the heart to go after Alastair to Marvig, because he knew fine well that Alastair only took what he was entitled to.

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