

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Dean Cadalan Samhach

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Dean cadala/n sa\mhach, a chuilean mo ru\in,  
dean fuireach mar tha thu, 's tu 'n dra\sd an a\it u\r;  
bidh o\igearan againn la\n beartais is cliu\,  
's ma bhios tu 'nad airidh, 's leat feareigin dhiu\.

Gur h-ann an Amerigeadh tha sinn an dra\sd  
fo dhubhar na coille nach teirig gu bra\th,  
nuair dh'fhalbhas an du\ldach 's a thionndas am bla\ths  
bidh cnothan is u\bhlán is siu\car a' fa\s.

'S ro bheag orm fhe/in cuid de 'n t-sluagh a tha ann,  
le 'n co\taichean drogaid 's ad mho/r air an ceann,  
le 'm briogaisean goirid 's iad sgoilte gu 'm buinn  
cha n-fhaicear an t-osan, 's e bhochdainn sin leam.

Tha sinne 'nar n-Innseanach cinnteach gu leo\ir  
fo dhubhar nan craobh cha bhiodh aon againn beo\ -  
coin-alluidh is be/istean ag e/igheach 's gach fro\ig  
gum bheil sinn 'nar n-e/iginn bho 'n thre/ig sinn Rìgh Deo\rs.

Mo shoraidh le fa\ilte Chinn-ta\ile nam bo\  
far an d' fhuair mi greis a\rach 's mi 'm pha\isde beag o\g;  
bhiodh fleasgaichean donna air am bonnaibh ri ceo\  
is nionagan dualach, 's an gruaidh mar an ro\s.

An toiseach an fhoghair bu chridheil ar sunnd,  
gheibht' fiadh as an fhireach is bradan a/ grunn,  
bhiodh luingeas an sgadain a' tighinn fo shiu\il  
le 'n iasgairean tapaidh nach faicte fo mhu\ig.

Ri linn a cheud Tearlach thoisich iomadach Gaidheal ag iarraidh  
caithe-beatha u\r ann an Ameireagadh. 'S e luchd-imrich mo/r Ghaidhealach  
a bh'ann am muinntir Carolina-bho-thuath. Thainig Sasunnaich do'n roinn  
sin cuideachd, ach s'iad na Gaidheil a bh'ann am mo/r-chuid. 'S ann ri linn  
an tr. Seo\ras thoisich na Sasunnaich a bhith lionmhor. Cha do ruig  
Gaidheal leas a bhith 'g iarraidh aobhar ur air son cur a mach  
le Sasunnach, ach faighteadh aobhar ur 'san a\m sin: bha na Sassunaich air  
son an ar-a-mach, b'ann air son an Rìgh bha na Gaidheil bh'ann a  
Lean daoine a tighinn bho Bhreatuinn, bho'n Albainn agus bho Shasuinn;  
thainig fear dhiubh, Iain Mac Murchaidh a/ Cinn-an-t-sa\ile, ann an 1774  
agus an deidh beagan bliadhna rinn e an ta\ladh so leanas.

## Translation

Sleep peacefully, my dear little one,  
live as you are, now in a new place;  
there'll be young men amongst us who win great riches and reknown  
and if you're a good girl [1] one of them will be for you.

It's in America that we are now,  
in the everlasting darkness of the woods [2]  
when winter is gone and warmth returns  
the hazels and apples and maples will be growing.

I have an excessive dislike for some of the people round here [3]  
with their grotty coats [4] and tall hats on their heads,  
there narrow trousers split down to the bottom,  
you can't see the socks, I reckon that's awful.

[5] Now we're like Indians sure enough [6]  
in the dark of the trees not one of us would be alive -  
wolves and wild beasts howling round every corner [7]  
that we're in trouble since we forsook King George.

[8] My farewell and greetings to cattle-rich Kintail  
where I passed the time of my upbringing when I was a little young child;  
there were brown-haired youn men on their feet to sing  
and beautiful long-haired girls with rosey cheeks.

At the beginning of autumn our joy was hearty,  
deer were had from the hills and salmon from the depths,  
the herring boats would be coming under sail  
with the bold fishermen who were never seen to be unhappy.[9]

Highlanders began to look in large numbers for a new life in America in the time of Charles the first. the populaton of North Carolina was a large Gaelic colony. Englishmen came to that territory too, but the majority were Gaels. It was about the time of George the third that the the English began to be numerous there. The gaels didn't need any new excuse to fall out with the English, but they found one anyway then: the English were for the revolution, and the N.Carolina Gaels were for the King. People had continued to come from britain, both Scots and English; one of them, John MacRae of Kintail, came in 1774 and a few years later he wrote the lullaby below.

(Incidentally, Gaelic survived in N Carolina well into the 20th century; but it's been extinct there for about 70 years now.)

## Vocabulary

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'nad [nat] in your  
'nar [nar] in our  
againn [akiN'] at us, of us  
air [er'] on  
airidh [ar'i] merit, worth, desert  
a\it [a:t'] place  
ann [auN] in  
aon [':n] one  
a\rach [a:rax] upbringing  
bheag [vek] small (lenited form of beag)  
beag [bek] small  
beartais [b'a:rs'tis'] of riches (genitive of beartas)  
bheil [veil] is (present dependent of bi)  
be/istean [beis't'un] beasts of prey (plural of be/ist)  
beo\ [b'o:] alive  
bidh [bi:] will be (future independent of bi)  
bhiodh [vi%] would be (incomplete independent of bi)  
bhios [vis] will be (future relative of bi)  
bla\ths [bla:s] warmth  
bhochdainn [voxkiN'] misfortune, bad luck, mischief, a pity  
bonnaibh [bouNuv] dative plural of bonn, base, sole, heel,  
foundation  
(see also buinn below)  
bradan [bratun] salmon  
bra\th [bra:x] judgement, destruction. go bra\th = for ever  
briogaisean [bri:kus'un] trousers (plural of briogais)  
buinn [buN'] gen singular and nominative plural of bonn, now  
also used as dative. see bonnaibh above.  
Interesting that the song uses both forms of the  
dative plural, shows how slowly language changes  
-  
both forms are still used today so a couple of  
centuries has not been long enough for the new  
style  
to eliminate the old dative in -aibh.  
cadala/n [katulan] a small sleep (diminutive of cadal)  
ceann [k'auN] head  
ceo\l [k'o:l] music  
cinnteach [ki:N'd'ax] certain  
cliu\ [kl'u:] fame  
cnothan [kro un] nuts; nut-trees (most often hazel)  
coille [kuL'e] wood, grove  
coin-alluidh [con'jauLi] wolves  
co\taichean [co:tich'un] coats  
craobh [kru:v] tree  
chridheil [xrijel'] hearty

cuid [kut'] a share, some  
chuilean [xul'an] puppy (vocative case); used as term of affection  
for small child.

dean [d'en] do  
dh'fhalbhas [%alavas] will leave (future relative of falbh)

dhiu\ [ju:] of them

donna [douNa] brown, brown-haired (plural of donn)

dra\sd [drast] an dra\st = now

drogaid [drokat'] coarse reddish-brown felt. french droguet (cloth  
not fit for anything).

dualach [dualax] having beautiful hair.

dhubhar [%u:ur] darkness, shadow

du\ldach [du:ltax] winter (for An Du\dlachd) in this poem.  
usually an adjective meaning

gloomy/stormy/wintry

(-dl- and -ld- forms are equally common. I think  
-dl- is the original form and -ld- a modern

variant)

e/igheach [e:ijux] crying, calling, howling

e/iginn [e:igiN'] danger

fhaicear [exk'er] will be seen (future dependent passive of faic)

faicte [fexkt'e] was seen (past dependent passive of faic)

fa\ilte [fa:lt'u] greeting

far [far] where (relative)

fa\s [fa:s] growing

feareigin [ferukin'] one, someone, anyone

fhe/in [he:in'] self

fiadh [fi:u%] deer

fhireach [(j)irax] hill, moor

fleasgaichean [fleskix'un] young men

fhoghair [o%er'] autumn, harvest time

fro\ig [fro:g'] hole, nook, niche. house out in the wilds. den, lair.

fhuair [hur'] found (past independent of faigh)

fuireach [furox] living, dwelling, staying

gach [gax] each, every

gheibht' [jo:t'] was got (incomplete passive of faigh)

goirid [gerit'] short

greis [greis'] (short) time

gruaidh [gruai] cheek

grund [gru:Nd] bottom; the deep;

gur [gur] is (present dependent of is)

iad [at] they

iasgairean [iusker'un] fishermen

innseanach [i:s'enax] indians

la\n [la:n] full

leam [l'u:m] with me (also pronounced [laum], [l'oum], [l@m], ...

leat [l'axt] with you (or [let], [lect], [lat], [le@t], ...

(words like leam and leat will be pronounced differently depending  
on whether they take the stress, whether the preceding word has a

broad or a narrow ending, whether they are followed by a pause, and so on; learners should probably use the full clear pronunciations given first above, but not expect to hear them like that very often)

leo\ir [l'jo:r'] sufficient, plenty

luingeas [lo:un jus] boats, ships. (plural of long)

mar [mar] as

mho/r [vo:ur] big

mhu\ig [vu:g'] surliness, gloominess, frown

nach [nax] that not

nionagan [ni:nakn] girls (plural of nionag, which is a diminutive of inghean, daughter; the drawl vowel after the n of ighnean has become so strong, at the expense of the leading vowel, that everyone says nighean and that's the normal modern spelling; nigheanag is often contracted to nionag as here, but more often the middle syllable is pronounced so this word would be nigheanagan [ni:j@nakn])

nuair [nuer'] when (relative). Often pronounced [n@r']

o\igearan [o:k'erun] young men (normal spelling o\igfhearán)

orm [orom] on me

osan [osan] hose, stocking.

pha\isde [fa:st'i] child

righ [ri:] king. (in some stock phrases the old sound [r'i:] persists)

ro\s [ro:s] bloom

ru\in [ru:n'] dear, object of love or desire. [vocative of ru\n]

sa\mhach [sa:vax] peaceful

sgadain [skatan'] herring (gs & npl of sgadan [skatan]).

(NOT [sgatun], which is npl of sgad - misfortune)

sin [s'in] that (demonstrative)

sinn [s'iN'] we, us

sinne [s'iN'e] we, us (emphatic form)

siu\car [s'uxkar] sugar, but means maple in this song.

shiu\il [h'ul'] sail(s). gs and n pl of seo\l.

sluagh [slua%] people, tribe

shoraidh [hori] farewell, goodbye

sgoilte [skult'e] split (past part. of sgoilt)

(only the vowel length distinguishes this from sgaoilte

[sgu:lt'e] which is pp of sgaoil - spread, scatter)

sunnd [su:Nt] joy

tapaidh [taxpi] brave, successful, clever

teirig [t'erik] fail (future dependent)

tighinn [t'i:iN'] coming

thionndas [h'u:Ndus] will turn (future relative)

toiseach [tos'ux] beginning

thre/ig [hre:ig'] deserted, abandoned (past independent of tre/ig)

u\bhlan [u:lun] apples. plural of ubhal [ual] (the long u in the plural is because that syllable has picked up the length used for the second syllable in the singular).

Notes

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- [1] literal: if you are a deserving person.  
this line is knocking around in the oral tradition in Scotland in various versions: ma bhios tu 'nad aire, ma bhios tu air t'aire: if you watch out, if you're careful about it. I think the N American version with airidh is more likely to be right.
- [2] Or maybe it's the darkness of the everlasting woods;  
I think that this phrase qualifies "bidh fa\s" rather than "tha", ie the trees will grow in the shade NOT we're suck in a gloomy forest.
- [3] is beag orm x means I hate x. The opposite isn't is mor orm x as one might expect, but is mo/r leam x: I greatly like x. (Don't expect consistent use of prepositions in idiomatic gaelic; it doesn't happen in any other language so why should it in gaelic?)  
ro- is an intensifying prefix implying excess; usually it's best translated by english "too".  
a tha ann: who are in it; the antecedent of the pronoun "it" is America, referred to in the previous verse, if it has an antecedent at all. so in context something like
- [4] see vocabulary note for dro\gaid.  
the sentiment of this verse is something like "look at the funny Englishmen, don't they dress appallingly, isn't it a pity they haven't the sense to dress properly".
- [5] This is a rather odd verse. I think the writer is complaining that now they've lost the support of the crown so they are no better off than the indians. But I can't imagine that crown forces were much protection against wild animals, and the imagine of the wild animals warning them they're in trouble is a bit far-fetched!
- [6] Literally: We are Indians sure enough; but the distinction between "tha sinne 'nar n-innseannach" and "'s iad innseannach th'annainn" leads me to say "like indians" and stick in "now" because the literal translation would be what the other phrase means.
- [7] literally "in every nook"
- [8] The last two verses don't seem to fit in with the rest of the song.  
Maybe two songs have got muddled together at some stage? The fifth verse is usually sung along with the first four or th

Notes by Craig Cockburn (pronounced Coburn)

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