

Christian Morgenstern,
Der Werwolf

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Varulven

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Christian Morgenstern,
The Banshee
(An Approach)

tradukita de Sven Collberg

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Ein Werwolf eines Nachts entwich von Weib und Kind und sich begab an eines Dorfeschul Lehrers Grab und bat ihn: „Bitte, beuge mich!“

Der Dorfeschulmeister stieg hinauf auf seines Blech schilds Messing knauf und sprach zum Wolf, der seine Pfoten geduldig kreuzte vor dem Toten:

„Der Werwolf“ – sprach der gute Mann, „des Werwolfs, Genitiv sodann, dem Werwolf, Dativ, wie man’s nennt, den Werwolf, - damit hat’s ein End!“

En varulv lopp från fru m.m.
en vacker afton samt begav sig till en bymagisters grav och bad: “Var snäll och konjugera.

mig!” Byskolläraren stod upp på blecknamnsskyltens mässingknopp med svar till den, som satt på pass med tåligt korslagd tass på tass.

“Jag var-ulv 1:a pers. i sing., du, han, hon, den, det var-ulv. Så vi voro-ulv, I voren. På de voro-ulv kom ingenting.”

A Werewolf, troubled by his name,
Left wife and brood one night and came
To a hidden graveyard to enlist
The aid of a long-dead philologist.

“Oh sage, wake up, please don’t berate me,”
He howled sadly, “Just conjugate me.”
The seer arose a bit un steady
Yawned twice, wheezed once, and then was ready.

“Well, ‘Werewolf’ is your plural past,
While ‘Waswolf’ is singularly cast:
There’s ‘Amwolf’ too, the present tense,
And ‘Iswolf,’ ‘Arewolf’ in this same sense.”

One night, a banshee slunk away from mate and child, and in the gloom went to a village teacher’s tomb, requesting him: “Infl ect me, pray.”

The village teacher climbed up straight upon his grave stone with its plate and to the apparition said who meekly knelt before the dead:

“The banSHEE, in the subject’s place; the banHERS, the possessive case. The banHER, next, is what they call objective case—and that is all.”

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Dem Werwolf schmeichelten die Fälle er rollte seine Augenbälle. „Indessen“, bat er, „füge doch zur Einzahl auch die Mehrzahl noch!“	Varulven myste glad åt hur pers. hade följts av sing. och plur. “Fast”, bad han, “kan det inte ges ens en enda pers. i tempus presens?”	“I know that—I’m no mental cripple—The future form and participle Are what I crave,” the beast replied. The scholar paused—again he tried:	The banshee marveled at the cases and writhed with pleasure, making faces, but said: “You did not add, so far, the plural to the singular!”
Der Dorfschullehrer aber musste gestehn, dass er von ihr nichts wusste. Zwar Wölfe gab’s in großer Schar, doch „Wer“ gab’s nur im Sinular.	Bekänna måste vår magister, att därvidlag fanns vissa brister. En varulv sine imperfecto var contradictio in adjecto.	“A ‘Will-be-wolf?’ It’s just too long: ‘Shall-be-wolf?’ ‘Has-been-wolf?’ Utterly wrong! Such words are wounds beyond all suture—I’m sorry, but you have no future.”	The teacher, though admitted then that this was not within his ken. “While bans are frequent”, he advised, “A she cannot be pluralized.”
Der Wolf erhob sich tränenblind – er hatte ja doch Weib und Kind! Doch da er keine Gelehrter eben, so schied er dankend und ergeben.	Varulven satt med tårad lins. Han visste att han fanns och finns. Därtill kom också fru m.m. som även måste existera.	The Werewolf knew better—his sons still slept At home, and homewards now he crept, Happy, humble, without apology For such folly of philology.	The banshee, rising clammily, wailed: “What about my family?” Then, being not a learned creature, said humbly “Thanks” and left the teacher.

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*Verkinto de tiu ĉi Germana poemo estas CHRISTIAN MORGENSTERN (Kristiano Matenstelo, *1871-05-06 – †1914-03-31).*

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Tiu ĉi anglico troviĝas en <http://bertilow.com/literaturo/lupfantomo.html>. Pri la tradukinto Max Knight vidu: http://www.jbeilharz.de/morgenstern/morgenstern_poems.html kaj http://www.123people.de/ext/frm?ti=ersonensuche%20telefonbuch&search_term=max%20k%C3%BChnel&search_country=DE&st=suche%20nach%20personen&target_url=aHR0cDovLd3dy5saXRlc3M0dXJ0YXVzLm