

Christian Morgenstern,  
Der Werwolf

Ein Werwolf eines Nachts entwich  
von Weib und Kind und sich be-  
gab  
an eines Dorfschullehrers Grab  
und bat ihn: „Bitte, beuge mich!“

Der Dorfschulmeister stieg hinauf  
auf seines Blechschilds 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!“

...

Christian Morgenstern,  
Varulven

*tradukita de Sven Collberg*

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

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.”

...

Christian Morgenstern,  
The Werewolf

*tradukita de Alexander Gross*

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 unsteady  
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,’ ‘Aewolf’ in this same sense.”

...

Christian Morgenstern,  
The Banshee (An Ap-  
proach)

*tradukita de Max Knight*

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

...

<p>Dem Werwolf schmeichelten die Fülle er rollte seine Augenbälle. „Indessen“, bat er, „füge doch zur Einzahl auch die Mehrzahl noch!“</p>	<p>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?”</p>	<p>“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:</p>	<p>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!”</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Bekänna måste vår magister, att därvidlag fanns vissa brister. En varulv sine imperfecto var contradictio in adjecto.</p>	<p>“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.”</p>	<p>The teacher, though, admitted then that this was not within his ken. “While bans are frequent”, he advised, “A she cannot be plurized.”</p>
<p>Der Wolf erhob sich tränenblind – er hatte ja doch Weib und Kind! Doch da er keine Gelehrter eben, so schied er dankend und ergeben.</p>	<p>Varulven satt med tårad lins. Han visste att han fanns och finns. Därtill kom också fru m.m. som även måste existera.</p>	<p>The Werewolf knew better—his sons still slept At home, and homewards now he crept, Happy, humble, without apology For such folly of philology.</p>	<p>The banshee, rising clammily, wailed: “What about my family?” Then, being not a learned creature, said humbly “Thanks” and left the teacher.</p>
<p>...</p>	<p>...</p>	<p>...</p>	<p>...</p>

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

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