

Christian Morgenstern,
The Banshee (An
Approach)

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 sub-
ject's place;
the banHERS, the possessive
case.
The banHER, next, is what
they call
objective case—and that is all."

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!"

...

Christian Morgenstern,
Der Werwolf

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

Der Dorfschulmeister stieg
hinauf
auf seines Blechschilds Mes-
singknauf
und sprach zum Wolf, der
seine Pfoten
geduldig kreuzte vor dem
Toten:

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

Dem Werwolf schmeichelten
die Fälle
er rollte seine Augenbälle.
„Indessen“, bat er, „füge
doch
zur Einzahl auch die Mehr-
zahl noch!“

...

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 be-
rate 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."

"I know that—I'm no mental
cripple—
The future form and participle
Are what I crave," the beast rep-
lied.
The scholar paused—again he tried:

...

The teacher, though, admitted then
that this was not within his ken.
“While bans are frequent”, he advised,
“A she cannot be plurized.”

Der Dorfschullehrer aber musste
gestehn, dass er von ihr nichts wusste.
Zwar Wölfe gab’s in großer Schar,
doch „Wer“ gab’s nur im Singular.

“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 banshee, rising clammily, wailed: “What about my family?”
Then, being not a learned creature,
said humbly “Thanks” and left the teacher.

Der Wolf erhob sich tränenblind –
er hatte ja doch Weib und Kind!
Doch da er keine Gelehrter eben,
so schied er dankend und ergeben.

The Werewolf knew better—his sons still slept
At home, and homewards now he crept,
Happy, humble, without apology
For such folly of philology.

*Traduko de la Germana poemo “Der Werwolf” de CHRISTIAN MORGENSTERN (Kristiano Matenstelo, *1871-05-06 – †1914-03-31) en la Anglan de MAX KNIGHT (civila nomo: Max Kühnel, *1909-06-08 – †1993-08-31).*

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

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Arg-825-1660 (2013-02-13 22:36:06)

Arg-825-1652 (2013-02-11 18:44:21)

Arg-825-1657 (2013-02-13 18:39:45)

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