

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,  
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:

...

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!“

...

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

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

*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).*

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*Tiu ĉi angligo troviĝas en <http://bertilow.com/literaturo/lupfantomo.html>. Pri la tradukinto Max Knight vidu: [http://www.jbeilharz.de/morgenstern/morgenstern\\_poems.html](http://www.jbeilharz.de/morgenstern/morgenstern_poems.html) kaj [http://www.123people.de/ext/frm?ti=ersonensuche%20telefonbuch&search\\_term=m%20k%C3%BChnel&search\\_country=DE&st=suc e%20nach%20personen&target\\_url=aHR0cDovLmF0dXJoYXVzLmF0L2luZGV4LnBocD9pZD02ODc4](http://www.123people.de/ext/frm?ti=ersonensuche%20telefonbuch&search_term=m%20k%C3%BChnel&search_country=DE&st=suc e%20nach%20personen&target_url=aHR0cDovLmF0dXJoYXVzLmF0L2luZGV4LnBocD9pZD02ODc4).*

“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 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 Alexander Gross.*

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*Tiu ĉi angligo troviĝas en <http://bertilow.com/literaturo/lupfantomo.html>.*

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.

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

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

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