

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 subject'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!"

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

...

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."

"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:

"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."

...

Christian Morgenstern,
El Hechicero

tradukita de Hans Eiseneck

Un hechicero, con esposa
vino un día a la fosa
de su maestro, y al profesor
pidió: "¿Me cuentas? ¡Por favor!"

El profesor sin vacilar
subió y comenzó a hablar.
Desde allá de su letrero
se dirigió al hechicero:

"El hechiuno" le explica,
"el hechidos" después indica,
"el hechitres" dice al fin,
"con eso basta ¡chiquitín!"

El hechicero, conmovido
por lo que capta su oído,
al maestro ruega, encantado,
que le adjunte un quebrado.

Pero el profesor confiesa
que nada sabe con certeza:
"Hay muchos hechos. Hechiceros
únicamente hay enteros."

...

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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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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El brujo se volvió muy triste:
 "Mi cara mitad, ¿no la viste?"
 Ya que no era sabio
 con gratitud se despidió.

*Traduko de la Germana poemo "Der Werwolf" de CHRISTIAN MORGENSTERN (Kristiano Matenstelo, *1871-05-06 – †1914-03-31) en hispana de Hans Eiseneck.*

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