

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!“

...

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: “Infect 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!”

...

“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.”

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

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

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

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

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

*Traduko de la Germana poemo “Der  
 Werwolf” de CHRISTIAN MORGEN-  
 STERN (Kristiano Matenstelo, \*1871-  
 05-06 – †1914-03-31) en la Anglan de  
 Alexander Gross.*

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

*Traduko de la Germana poe-  
 mo “Der Werwolf” de CHRI-  
 STIAN MORGENSTERN (Kristia-  
 no 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>.*

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<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  
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