

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,’ ‘Arewolf’ 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:

“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,  
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  
konjugera.

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 ingen-  
ting.”

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 pre-  
sens?”

Bekänna måste vår magi-  
ster,  
att därvidlag fanns vissa  
brister.  
En varulv sine imperfecto  
var contradictio in adjecto.

...

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!”

The teacher, though, admitted  
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.

*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.*

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

*Tiu ĉi angligo troviĝas en [http://bertilow.com/literaturo/  
lupfantomo.html](http://bertilow.com/literaturo/lupfantomo.html).*

Varulven satt med tårad  
lins.  
Han visste att han fanns  
och finns.  
Därtill kom också fru m.m.  
som även måste existera.

*Traduko de la Germana poe-  
mo “Der Werwolf” de CHRI-  
STIAN MORGENSTERN (Kri-  
stiano Matenstelo, \*1871-05-  
06 – †1914-03-31) en la Sve-  
dan de Sven Collberg.*

*Arg-825-1654 (2013-02-13  
17:00:43)*

*Tiu ĉi francigo troviĝas ne la  
reterjo [http://bertilow.  
com/literaturo/  
lupfantomo.html#sv](http://bertilow.com/literaturo/lupfantomo.html#sv).*

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

*Traduko de la Germana poe-  
mo “Der Werwolf” de CHRI-  
STIAN MORGENSTERN (Kri-  
stiano Matenstelo, \*1871-05-06 –  
†1914-03-31) en la Anglan de  
MAX KNIGHT (civila nomo: Max  
Kühnel, \*1909-06-08 – †1993-08-  
31).*

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

*Tiu ĉi angligo troviĝas en  
[http://bertilow.com/  
literaturo/lupfantomo.  
html](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=max%20k%C3%  
BChnel&search\\_country=  
DE&st=suc e%20nach%  
20personen&target\\_url=  
aHR0cDovLd3dy5saXRlcmF0dXJoYXVzLmFOL2luZ](http://www.123people.de/ext/frm?ti=ersonensuche%20telefonbuch&search_term=max%20k%C3%BChnel&search_country=DE&st=suc e%20nach%20personen&target_url=aHR0cDovLd3dy5saXRlcmF0dXJoYXVzLmFOL2luZ)*