

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,’ ‘Arewolf’ 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,
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,
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 ingenting.”

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 presens?”

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

...

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.*

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

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

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

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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 poemo “Der Werwolf” de CHRISTIAN MORGENSTERN (Kristiano Matenstelo, *1871-05-06 – †1914-03-31) en la Svedan de Sven Collberg.*

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

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