

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 philolo-
gist.

“Oh sage, wake up, please don’t
berate me,”
He howled sadly, “Just conju-
gate 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 pre-
sent 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 re-
plied.
The scholar paused—again he
tried:

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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 clim-
bed 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 posses-
sive 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!”

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Christian Morgenstern,
Le loup-garou

tradukita de R. Platteau

Un loup-garou, une certaine nuit,
Laisa sa moitié et puis se rendit
Auprès de la tombe d’un maître
d’école
Et lui dit, “ sur moi dis tout, c’est
ton rôle ! ”

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“ - On peut à ton sujet puisque
nous y sommes
Se demander encor bien des choses
en somme.
Loup-garou ? mais avant
Il faut se dire : loup-garquand ?

Loup-garcomment ? et puis
Bien évidemment loup-garqui ? ”
Toutes ces questions semblèrent au
loup bien absconses,
Car en fait ce qu’il voulait c’était
les réponses.

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