

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."

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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."

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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."

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Christian Morgenstern,
Le loup-garou

tradukita de R. Platteau

Un loup-garou, une certaine nuit,
Laissa 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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Et lui dit, " sur moi dis tout, c'est ton rôle
!"

" - 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-garou quand ?

...

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!"

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?"

"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:

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.

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

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

"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."

" - Point de réponses, dit le puits de savoir,
Etre imaginaire, nul ne peut te voir ! "
A ces mots l'animal éclata tout en larmes.
" - Oh!, même les baisers de ma douce moitié

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

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

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

Ne pourrons plus me faire me sentir tout entier.
Rester un loup-garou est un sort qui m'alarme. "
Mais comme le loup était bien poli
Il remercia et puis repartit.

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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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