

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."

...

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.

...

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

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

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 Anglan de MAX KNIGHT (civila nomo: Max Kühnel, *1909-06-08 – †1993-08-31).*

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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 Alexander Gross.*

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

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