

H. B. Marryatt

The Were-Wolf

[ze słownikiem]

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C1

Wilkołak

Z PODRĘCZNYM SŁOWNIKIEM ANGIELSKO-POLSKIM

dla osób znających język angielski co najmniej na poziomie C1

Ruda Śląska, 2024

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The Were-Wolf

THE WERE-WOLF

My father was not born, or originally a resident, in the Hartz Mountains; he was the **serf** of an **Hungarian nobleman**, of great possessions, in Transylvania; but, although a serf, he was not by any means a poor or **illiterate** man.

In fact, he was rich, and his intelligence and **respectability** were such, that he had been raised by his lord to the **stewardship**; but, whoever may happen to be born a serf, a serf must he remain, even though he become a wealthy man; such was the condition of my father.

My father had been married for about five years; and, by his marriage, had three children-my eldest brother César, myself (Hermann), and a sister named Marcella.

Latin is still the language spoken in that country; and that will account for our **high-sounding** names.

My mother was a very beautiful woman, unfortunately more beautiful than **virtuous**: she was seen and admired by the lord of the soil; my father was sent away upon some mission; and, during his absence, my mother, **flattered** by the attentions, and won by the **assiduities**, of this nobleman, **yielded** to his wishes.

It so happened that my father returned very **unexpectedly**, and discovered the **intrigue**. The evidence of my mother's shame was positive: he surprised her in the company of her **seducer**!

Carried away by the **impetuosity** of his **feelings**, he watched the opportunity of a meeting taking place between them, and murdered both his wife and her seducer.

Conscious that, as a serf, not even the **provocation** which he had received would be allowed as a justification of his conduct, he **hastily** collected together what money he could lay his hands upon, and, as we were then in the depth of winter, he put his horses to the **sleigh**, and taking his children with him, he set off in the middle of the night, and was far away before the **tragical** circumstance had **transpired**.

were wolf - wilkołak

serf - poddany, chłop pańszczyźniany, kміeć
hungarian - węgierski, Węgier, Węgierka
nobleman - szlachcic
illiterate - niepiśmienny, niegramotny, analfabeta, analfabetka

respectability - poważanie, szacunek, przyzwoitość
stewardship - zarządzanie

latin - łacina, Łatynos
high-sounding - szumnie brzmiący

virtuous - cnotliwy
flattered - schlebiać, (flat) pochlebić, mieszkanie, pochlebianie, schlebianie, płaski
assiduities - wytrwałość, pracowitość
yielded to - poddać się

unexpectedly - nieoczekiwanie, niespodziewanie, niespodzianie
intrigue - intryga, fabuła, intrygować
seducer - uwodziciel

impetuosity - porywczosć, impulsywność, gwałtowność
feelings - (feel) czuć, doświadczać, dotykać, uczucie, wrażenie, atmosfera

provocation - prowokacja
hastily - w pośpiechu, naprędce, pospiesznie, pośpieszenie
sleigh - sanie
tragical - tragiczne
transpired - się wydarzyło, parować, wydychać, wydzielać, zdarzać

Aware that he would be pursued, and that he had no chance of escape if he remained in any portion of his **native country** (in which the authorities could lay hold of him), he continued his flight without **intermission** until he had buried himself in the **intricacies** and **seclusion** of the Hartz Mountains. Of course, all that I have now told you I learned afterwards.

My oldest **recollections** are **knit** to a rude, yet comfortable cottage, in which I **lived with** my father, brother, and sister. It **was on** the confines of one of those vast forests which cover the northern part of Germany; around it were a few acres of ground, which, during the summer months, my father cultivated, and which, though they yielded a **doubtful** harvest, were sufficient for our support.

In the winter we remained much in doors, for, as my father followed the chase, we were left alone, and the **wolves**, during that season, **incessantly prowled** about.

My father had purchased the cottage, and land about it, of one of the rude **foresters**, who gain their **livelihood** partly by hunting, and partly by burning **charcoal**, for the purpose of **smelting** the ore from the neighbouring mines; it was distant about two miles from any other **habitation**.

I can call to mind the whole landscape now: the tall **pin**es which rose up on the mountain above us, and the wide **expanse** of forest beneath, on the **topmost boughs** and heads of whose trees we looked down from our cottage, as the mountain below us rapidly descended into the distant valley. In summer time the prospect was beautiful; but during the severe winter, a more **desolate** scene could not well be imagined.

I said that, in the winter, my father occupied himself with the chase; every day he left us, and often would he lock the door, that we might not leave the cottage.

He had no one to assist him, or to take care of us-indeed, it was not easy to find a female servant who would **live in** such a **solitude**; but, could he have found one, my father would not have received her, for he had **imbibed** a horror of the sex, as a difference of his conduct **toward** us, his two boys, and my poor little sister, Marcella, **evidently** proved.

You may suppose we were sadly neglected; indeed, we suffered much, for my father, **fearful** that we might **come to** some harm, would not allow us fuel, when he left the cottage; and we were obliged, therefore, to creep under the **heaps** of bears'-skins, and there to keep ourselves as warm as we could until he returned in the evening, when a **blazing** fire was our delight.

native country - ojczysty kraj
intermission - przerwa
intricacies - zawilóść
seclusion - odosobnienie, zacisze

recollections - wspomnienie, przypomnienie, medytacja
knit - dzianina, robić na drutach, dziać, zrosnąć się
lived with - żyć z (czymś), zaakceptować coś nieprzyjemnego; mieszkać z (kimś); być w związku i mieszkać razem bez ślubu
was on - być włączonym (o maszynach); odbyć lub odbywać się; brać leki lub narkotyki; być na szczycie, w szczytowej formie
doubtful - wątpliwy, niepewny, niepewnie

wolves - wilk, basior, wadera, pożreć, pochłonać
incessantly - nieustannie
prowled - grasować

foresters - leśnik
livelihood - źródło utrzymania, utrzymanie
charcoal - węgiel drzewny, antracyt
smelting - wytapianie
habitation - zamieszkiwanie, domostwo

pines - sosna, sosnowy, piniowy
expanse - przestrzeń, bezkres
topmost - najwyższy
boughs - gałąź, konar
desolate - pustoszyć, wyludniać, wymarły, opuszczony

live in - mieszkać na miejscu
solitude - samotność
imbibed - pić
toward - ku, do, w stronę, w kierunku
evidently - najwyraźniej, ewidentnie, zauważalnie

fearful - przestraszony, strachliwy
come to - przyjść
heaps - hałdy, sterta, kupa, kopiec
blazing - płonący, płonąć, palić się, ogień, płomień, pożar, wybuch, gwiazdka

That my father chose this **restless** sort of life may **appear strange**, but the fact was that he could not remain quiet; whether from **remorse** for having committed murder, or from the misery **consequent** on his change of situation, or from both combined, he was never happy unless he **was in** a state of activity.

restless - bez odpoczynku, niespokojny, niezaspokojony
appear strange - wydawać się dziwny
remorse - wyrzuty sumienia, skrucha
consequent - konsekwentny, następnik
was in - być w; być dostępnym, urzędować; być w domu lub biurze; wpłynąć (dokument)

Children, however, when left much to themselves, acquire a **thoughtfulness** not common to their age. So it was with us; and during the short cold days of winter we would sit silent, longing for the happy hours when the snow would melt, and the leaves **burst out**, and the birds begin their songs, and when we should again be set at liberty.

thoughtfulness - troskliwość, troska
burst out - wybuchnąć, krzyknąć

Such was our peculiar and **savage** sort of life until my brother César was nine, myself seven, and my sister five, years old, when the circumstances occurred on which is based the extraordinary narrative which I am about to relate.

savage - dzikus, dziki, zdziczały, barbarzyński, niecywilizowany, brutalny, bestialski

One evening my father returned home rather later than usual; he had been **unsuccessful**, and, as the weather was very severe, and many feet of snow were upon the ground, he was not only very cold, but in a very bad humour.

unsuccessful - nieudany

He had brought in wood, and we were all three of us **gladly** assisting each other in blowing on the **embers** to create the **blaze**, when he caught poor little Marcella by the arm and threw her aside; the child fell, struck her mouth, and bled very much.

gladly - chętnie
embers - rozżarzony węgielek
blaze - blask, płonąć, palić się, ogień, płomień, pożar, wybuch, gwiazdka

My brother **ran to** raise her up.

ran to - biec do kogoś z prośbą o pomoc; włączyć do rzeczy, które lubisz; stać na coś, być wystarczającym na coś

Accustomed to ill usage, and afraid of my father, she did not dare to cry, but looked up in his face very **piteously**.

accustomed - przyzwyczajając, przyzwyczaić
ill usage - złe traktowanie, znęcanie się
piteously - żałośnie, rozpaczliwie

My father drew his **stool** nearer to the **hearth**, **muttered** something in abuse of women, and busied himself with the fire, which both my brother and I had deserted when our sister was so **unkindly** treated.

stool - stolec, taboret
hearth - palenisko, ognisko domowe
muttered - wymamrotać, mruknąć, mamrotać, mamrotanie
unkindly - nieprzyjemnie, nieuprzejmie, nieżyczliwie

A cheerful blaze was soon the result of his **exertions**; but we did not, as usual, **crowd round** it.

exertions - wysiłek, natężenie
crowd round - gromadzić się

Marcella, still bleeding, retired to a corner, and my brother and I took our seats beside her, while my father hung over the fire **gloomily** and alone.

gloomily - ponuro, mrocznie

Such had been our position for about **half-an-hour**, when the **howl** of a **wolf**, close under the window of the cottage, fell on our ears.

half-an-hour - półgodzinny (np. seans)
howl - wycie, wyć
wolf - wilk, basior, wadera, pożreć, pochłonąć

My father started up, and seized his gun; the howl was repeated, he examined the priming, and then hastily left the cottage, shutting the door after him.

We all waited (**anxiously** listening), for we thought that if he succeeded in shooting the wolf, he would return in a better humour; and although he was harsh to all of us, and particularly so to our little sister, still we loved our father, and loved to see him cheerful and happy, for what else had we to **look up to**?

And I may here observe, that perhaps there never were three children who were fonder of each other; we did not, like other children, fight and dispute together; and if, by chance, any disagreement did arise between my elder brother and me, little Marcella would **run to** us, and kissing us both, seal, through her **entreaties**, the peace between us.

Marcella was a lovely, **amiable** child; I can recall her beautiful features even now-Alas! poor little Marcella.

We waited for some time, but the report of the gun did not reach us, and my elder brother then said, "Our father has followed the wolf, and will not be back for some time. Marcella, let us wash the blood from your mouth, and then we will leave this corner, and go to the fire and warm ourselves."

We did so, and remained there until near midnight, every minute wondering, as it grew later, why our father did not return. We had no idea that he was in any danger, but we thought that he must have chased the wolf for a very **long time**. "I will look out and see if father is coming," said my brother César, going to the door.

"Take care," said Marcella, "the wolves must be about now, and we cannot kill them, brother." My brother opened the door very **cautiously**, and but a few inches; he **peeped** out-"I see nothing," said he, after a time, and once more he joined us at the fire.

"We have had no **supper**," said I, for my father usually cooked the meat as soon as he came home; and during his absence we had nothing but the fragments of the preceding day.

"And if our father comes home after his hunt, César," said Marcella, "he will be pleased to have some supper; let us cook it for him and for ourselves." César climbed upon the stool, and reached down some meat-I forget now whether it was **venison** or bear's meat; but we cut off the usual quantity, and proceeded to dress it, as we used to do under our father's **superintendence**.

We were all busied putting it into the **platters** before the fire, to await his coming, when we heard the sound of a horn. We listened-there was a noise outside, and a minute afterwards my father entered, **ushering in** a young female, and a large dark man in a **hunter's** dress.

anxiously - z niepokojem, z niecierpliwością
look up to - poważać, patrzeć na kogoś z podziwem

run to - biec do kogoś z prośbą o pomoc; włączyć do rzeczy, które lubisz; stać na coś, być wystarczającym na coś
entreaties - błaganie, usilna prośba

amiable - sympatyczny, przyjazny, życzliwy, przyjacielski

long time - długo, długi czas; stary; odwieczny

cautiously - ostrożnie
peeped - zerknąć, podejrzeć, podglądać, spojrzeć

supper - kolacja

venison - dziczyzna, sarnina
superintendence - nadzór

platters - półmisek, taca
ushering in - być w ważnym momencie, zaznaczać lub świętować ważny moment; dokonać ważnych zmian
hunter - myśliwy, łowca

Perhaps I had better now relate, what was only known to me many years afterwards. When my father had left the cottage, he perceived a large white wolf about thirty yards from him; as soon as the animal saw my father, it retreated slowly, **growling** and **snarling**.

My father followed; the animal did not run, but always **kept at** some distance; and my father did not like to fire until he was pretty certain that his ball would take effect: thus they went on for some time, the wolf now leaving my father far behind, and then stopping and snarling **defiance** at him, and then again, on his approach, setting off at speed.

Anxious to shoot the animal (for the white wolf is very rare), my father continued the pursuit for several hours, during which he continually **ascended** the mountain.

You must know that there are peculiar spots on those mountains which are supposed, and, as my story will prove, truly supposed, to be **inhabited** by the evil influences; they are **well known** to the **huntsmen**, who **invariably** avoid them.

Now, one of these spots, an open space in the **pine** forests above us, had been pointed out to my father as dangerous on that account. But, whether he **disbelieved** these wild stories, or whether, in his eager pursuit of the chase, he **disregarded** them, I know not; certain, however, it is that he was **decoyed** by the white wolf to this open space, when the animal appeared to **slacken** her speed.

My father approached, came close up to her, raised his gun to his shoulder, and was about to fire, when the wolf suddenly disappeared.

He thought that the snow on the ground must have **dazzled** his sight, and he let down his gun to look for the beast-but she was gone; how she could have escaped over the **clearance**, without his seeing her, was beyond his **comprehension**.

Mortified at the ill success of his chase, he was about to **retrace** his steps, when he heard the distant sound of a horn.

Astonishment at such a sound-at such an hour-in such a **wilderness**, made him forget for the moment his disappointment, and he remained **riveted** to the spot.

In a minute the horn was blown a second time, and at no great distance; my father stood still, and listened: a third time it was blown. I forget the term used to express it, but it was the signal which, my father well knew, implied that the party was lost in the woods.

In a few minutes more my father **beheld** a man on **horseback**, with a female seated on the **crupper**, enter the cleared space, and **ride up** to him.

growling - (growl) warczeć, pomrukiwać, warczenie, pomrukiwanie
snarling - warczenie

kept at - kontynuować coś (trudnego)
defiance - opór

ascended - wspiąć, wjechać, wznosić się

inhabited - zamieszkały, zamieszkiwać, zajmować, wypełniać
well known - słynny, powszechnie znany
huntsmen - myśliwy, psiarczyk
invariably - niezmiennie

pine - sosna, sosnowy, piniowy

disbelieved - nie dowierzać, nie dawać wiary
disregarded - zlekceważony, lekceważyć
decoyed - zwabiony, przynęta
slacken - zwalniać, zmniejszać prędkość, połuźnić

dazzled - oślepić, oszalać, olśnić, blask, jaskrawe światło
clearance - odstęp, prześwit, wiza, zezwolenie, pozwolenie
comprehension - zrozumienie, pojmowanie

mortified - zawstydzić, zażenować
retrace - powtarzać

astonishment - zdziwienie, zdziwko
wilderness - dzicz, manowce, pustkowie, pustynia
riveted - nitowane, nit

beheld - widziany, ujrzeć
horseback - grzbiet koński, konno
crupper - podogonie
ride up - unosić się, podnosić się