

## THREE VILLAINOUS VILLANELLES

### VILLANELLE THE FIRST

“Without us what will heroes have to show?”  
Said Kulan Gath and Doctor Fu Manchu.  
“Their job security to us they owe.”

The other Marvel villains cried: “That’s so!  
“So come! Let’s go on strike and make them stew.  
Without us what will heroes have to show?”

“Let’s down our tools, our evil deeds forgo.  
“The heroes’ll lose their jobs, with naught to do.  
“Their job security to us they owe.”

Among the idle villains doubts did grow;  
Alarmed, the evil duo asked anew:  
“Without us what will heroes have to show?”

‘It’s *I*,’ each thought, ‘should rule the world, and so  
‘The duo must be stopped – else ‘twill be true  
‘Their job security to us *they* owe.’

The strike collapsed. Mistrust had dealt the blow.  
The villains feared their fellows more, but knew:  
“Without us what will heroes have to show?  
Their job security to us they owe.”

.....

### VILLANELLE THE SECOND

“Why are we folk tale villains not thought nice?”  
The Wolf asked all the others gathered there.  
“Without us stories pall and lack all spice.”

“That’s so,” the Ugly Sisters said. “The dice  
Are cast against us . Fate is so unfair!  
Why are we folk tale villains not thought nice?”

“But Wolf,” said Fox, “I think it *is* a vice  
“To eat a granny; though your point is fair:  
“Without us stories pall and lack all spice.”

“About poor Cindy *you* did not think twice,  
“Yet you dare ask, you loathsome pair,  
“Why are we folk tale villains not thought nice?””

“A villain nice and bland would not suffice,”  
Said Fox, “to make a tale and give it flair;  
“Without us stories pall and lack all spice.”

“But if a foolish hero you entice  
“With cunning , you’re admired and do not care  
Why are we folk tale villains not thought nice.  
Without us stories pall and lack all spice.”

.....

### **VILLANELLE THE THIRD**

“A villain makes himself the hero too,”  
Said Genghis Khan and Stalin, People’s Tsar.  
“With fear and awe all foes he must subdue.”

“You Marvel villains simply will not do!  
“You’re Marvel hero foils – that’s so bizarre.  
“A villain makes himself the hero too.”

“And you, poor Wolf, and Ugly Sisters two –  
“A villain who’s thought nice will not get far;  
“With fear and awe all foes he must subdue.”

“Ah, Foxy, what you say is almost true.  
“But foolish hero? No, the words do jar.  
“A villain makes himself the hero too.”

“Be ruthless, strong – and to yourself be true!  
“Remove the fool! The villain brooks no bar;  
“With fear and awe all foes he must subdue.”

“The cult of personality pursue.  
“Let all adore with dread your ruling star.  
“A villain makes himself the hero too;  
“With fear and awe all foes he must subdue.”