

# Collected Poems

Attila József

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# Chapter I

1934

## I.I Consciousness (*Eszmélet*)

### I

Dawn unbinds sky from earth	1
and at its clear, soft word	2
beetles and children	3
spin forth into the daylight;	4
there is no moisture in the air,	5
the bright levity floats!	6
Overnight they alighted on the trees	7
like small butterflies, the leaves.	8

<i>Földtől<sup>1</sup> eloldja<sup>2</sup> az eget<sup>3</sup></i>	1
<i>a hajnal<sup>4</sup> s tiszta<sup>5</sup>, lágy<sup>6</sup> szavára<sup>7</sup></i>	2
<i>a bogarak,<sup>8</sup> a gyerekek</i>	3
<i>kipörögnek<sup>9</sup> a napvilágra<sup>10</sup>;</i>	4
<i>a levegőben<sup>11</sup> semmi pára<sup>12</sup>,</i>	5
<i>a csilló<sup>13</sup> könnyűség lebeg.<sup>14</sup></i>	6
<i>Az éjjel<sup>15</sup> rászálltak<sup>16</sup> a fákra,<sup>17</sup></i>	7
<i>mint<sup>18</sup> kis<sup>19</sup> lepkék,<sup>20</sup> a levelek.<sup>21</sup></i>	8

Chiastic structure:

1-4: e-e(8)/á-[r]a(9)/e-e(8)/á-[r]a(9)

5-8: á-[r]a(9)/e-e(8)/á-[r]a(9)/e-e(8)

<sup>1</sup>*föld* “earth” + ablative *-től* “without/from”

<sup>2</sup>*el-* “away” + vb. *old* “to unbind” + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. *-ja*

<sup>3</sup>*ég* “sky” + acc. *-et* → *eget*

<sup>4</sup>“dawn”

<sup>5</sup>adj. “bright”

<sup>6</sup>adj. “soft”

<sup>7</sup>*szó* “voice”, “word” + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. *-a* → *szava* + subl. *-ra*

“onto/by” → *szavára*

<sup>8</sup>*bogár* “beetle” + pl. *-(a)k* → *bogarak*

<sup>9</sup>vb. *kipörög* “to spin” + 3rd pers. pl. ind. pres. indef. *-nek*

<sup>10</sup>*nap* “sun/day” + *világ* “world” + subl. *-ra* “onto/by”

<sup>11</sup>*levegő* “air” + inessive *-ben* “in”

<sup>12</sup>“moisture”, “mist”

<sup>13</sup>vb. *csillog* “to glitter” + adj.-forming *-o* → *csilló*; usually *csillogó*

<sup>14</sup>vb. *lebeg* “to float (in the air)”, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>15</sup>*éj* “night” + instrumental *-vel* “with” → *éjjel*

<sup>16</sup>pointed action *rá-* “on” + vb. *száll* “to fly/to land” + 3rd pers. sg. past indef. *-tak*

<sup>17</sup>*fa* “tree” + pl. *-k* + subl. *-ra* “onto/by” → *fákra*

<sup>18</sup>“like”

<sup>19</sup>“small”

<sup>20</sup>*lepké* “butterfly” + pl. *-k* → *lepkék*

<sup>21</sup>*level* “leaf” + pl. *-(e)k*

**II**

I saw paintings daubed with blue,	1
red, yellow in my dreams	2
and felt that everything was just so —	3
not one speck of dust flying madly about.	4
Now a blur, my dream reaches my members	5
and the iron world is in order.	6
During the day a moon rises inwardly and,	7
when the night is out, a sun shines within.	8

<i>Kék, piros, sárga, összekent</i> <sup>22</sup>	1
<i>képeket</i> <sup>23</sup> <i>láttam</i> <sup>24</sup> <i>álmaimban</i> <sup>25</sup>	2
<i>és úgy éreztem,</i> <sup>26</sup> <i>ez a rend</i> <sup>27</sup> —	3
<i>egy szalló</i> <sup>28</sup> <i>porszem</i> <sup>29</sup> <i>el nem hobbant.</i> <sup>30</sup>	4
<i>Most homályként</i> <sup>31</sup> <i>száll tagjaimban</i> <sup>32</sup>	5
<i>álmom s a vas</i> <sup>33</sup> <i>világ a rend.</i>	6
<i>Nappal</i> <sup>34</sup> <i>hold</i> <sup>35</sup> <i>kel</i> <sup>36</sup> <i>bennem</i> <sup>37</sup> <i>s ha</i> <sup>38</sup> <i>kinn</i> <sup>39</sup> <i>van</i>	7
<i>az éj</i> <sup>40</sup> — <i>egy nap süt</i> <sup>41</sup> <i>idebent.</i> <sup>42</sup>	8

Chiastic structure:

1-4: e-ent(8)/ai-an(9)/a-rend(8)/i-an(9)

5-8: i-an(9)/a-rend(8)/ai-an(9)/e-ent(8)

<sup>22</sup> *össze* “together” + *ken* “smear” → *összekent* + 3rd pers. sg. past indef. -*t*

<sup>23</sup> *kép* “picture” + pl. -(e)*k* + acc. -*et*

<sup>24</sup> vb. *lát* “to see” + short base -*t*, 1st pers. sg. past def. -*tam*

<sup>25</sup> *álom* “dream” + 1st pers. sg. poss. -*a* + poss. pl. -*i* + 1st pers. sg. pers. -*m*  
+ inessive -*ban* “in” → *álmaimban*

<sup>26</sup> vb. *érez* “to feel”, 1st pers. sg. past def.

<sup>27</sup> “order”

<sup>28</sup> vb. *száll* “to fly” + pres. part. -*ó*

<sup>29</sup> “a speck of dust”

<sup>30</sup> vb. *hibban* “to become imbalanced”, arch. + past part. -*t*

<sup>31</sup> *homály* “blur” + essive formal -*ként* “as”

<sup>32</sup> *tag* “member” + 1st pers. sg. poss. -*ja* + poss. pl. -*i* + 1st pers. sg. pers. -*m*  
+ inessive -*ban* “in” → *tagjaimban*

<sup>33</sup> “iron”

<sup>34</sup> *nap* “day” + instrumental -*val* “with” → *nappal*

<sup>35</sup> “moon”

<sup>36</sup> vb. “to rise”, 3rd pers. sg. pres. def., arch. alt. *kel*

<sup>37</sup> pron. *benne* “inside smth/smb” + 1st pers. sg. pers. -*m*

<sup>38</sup> “when”

<sup>39</sup> “outside”

<sup>40</sup> “night”

<sup>41</sup> vb. “to roast/to shine”, 3rd pers. sg. pres. indef.

<sup>42</sup> adv. *ide* “here” + *bent* “within”

I.I. CONSCIOUSNESS (*ESZMÉLET*)

7

**III**

I am thin, at times I only eat bread;	1
amidst those idle and blithering souls,	2
I seek in vain more certainty, like the die.	3
No chuck roast reaches my mouth	4
while I cuddle a small child to my heart —	5
however clever, the cat cannot catch at once	6
the mouse outdoors and the one indoors.	7

<i>Sóvány</i> <sup>43</sup> vagyok, csak kenyeret <sup>44</sup>	1
<i>eszem</i> <sup>45</sup> néha, <sup>46</sup> <i>e</i> <sup>47</sup> léha, <sup>48</sup> locska <sup>49</sup>	2
<i>lelkek</i> <sup>50</sup> közt <sup>51</sup> ingyen <sup>52</sup> keresek <sup>53</sup>	3
<i>bizonyosabbat</i> , <sup>54</sup> <i>mint</i> <sup>55</sup> a kocska. <sup>56</sup>	4
<i>Nem dörgölődzik</i> <sup>57</sup> sült <sup>58</sup> lopcska <sup>59</sup>	5
<i>számhoz</i> <sup>60</sup> s szívemhez <sup>61</sup> kisgyerek <sup>62</sup> —	6
<i>ügyeskedhet</i> , <sup>63</sup> <i>nem fog</i> <sup>64</sup> a macska <sup>65</sup>	7
<i>egyszerre</i> <sup>66</sup> <i>kint</i> <sup>67</sup> s bent <sup>68</sup> egeret. <sup>69</sup>	8

Chiastic structure:

1-4: e-ret(8)/o-cska(9)/e-ek(8)/o-cska(9)

5-8: o-cska(8)/e-ek(8)/a-cska(8)/e-ret(8) — same length

<sup>43</sup>“slim”, “thin”, fig. “poor”

<sup>44</sup>*kenyér* “bread” + acc. -et → *kenyeret*

<sup>45</sup>vb. *esz* “to eat”, rare without verbal pref., inf. *enni* + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -em → *eszem*

<sup>46</sup>adv. “sometimes”

<sup>47</sup>poetic abbrv. *eme/ez* “this”

<sup>48</sup>“improvident/idler”

<sup>49</sup>adj. “blethering”

<sup>50</sup>*lélek* “soul” + pl. -(e)k → *lelkek*

<sup>51</sup>post. “between/amid” from *között*: *köz* “interval” + locative -ött

<sup>52</sup>fig. arch. “in vain”, usually “free of charge”

<sup>53</sup>vb. *keres* “to seek” + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>54</sup>adj. *bizonyos* “certain” + comp. -abb “more” + acc. -t

<sup>55</sup>“like”

<sup>56</sup>“a die”

<sup>57</sup>vb. “to press against”, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>58</sup>vb. *sül* “to roast” + past part. -t

<sup>59</sup>“chuck” (shoulder meat cut, probably pork)

<sup>60</sup>*száj* “mouth” + 1st pers. sg. single poss. -m → *szám* + allative -hoz “towards” → *számhoz*

<sup>61</sup>*szívem* “heart” + allative -hez “towards”

<sup>62</sup>*kis* “small” + *gyerek* “child”

<sup>63</sup>vb. *ügyesked* “to be clever” + 3rd pers. sg. pres. potential -het

<sup>64</sup>vb. “to hold”, 3rd pers. sg. pers. indef.

<sup>65</sup>“cat”

<sup>66</sup>adv. *egyszer* “at once” + ablative -re “onto”

<sup>67</sup>adv. “outside”

<sup>68</sup>adv. “inside”

<sup>69</sup>*egér* “mouse” + acc. -t → *egeret*



**IV**

Just like a pile of logs,	1
the world lies in a jumble;	2
each thing presses, weighs on,	3
holds fast to another,	4
and so everything is determined.	5
Only what is not has a shrub,	6
only that will be that flower;	7
what is falls to pieces.	8

<i>Akár<sup>70</sup> egy halom<sup>71</sup> hasított<sup>72</sup> fa,<sup>73</sup></i>	1
<i>hever<sup>74</sup> egymáson<sup>75</sup> a világ,<sup>76</sup></i>	2
<i>szorítja,<sup>77</sup> nyomja,<sup>78</sup> összefogja<sup>79</sup></i>	3
<i>egyik<sup>80</sup> dolog<sup>81</sup> a másikat<sup>82</sup></i>	4
<i>s így<sup>83</sup> mindenik<sup>84</sup> determinált.<sup>85</sup></i>	5
<i>Csak<sup>86</sup> ami<sup>87</sup> nincs, annak<sup>88</sup> van bokra,<sup>89</sup></i>	6
<i>csak<sup>90</sup> ami lesz,<sup>91</sup> az a virág,</i>	7
<i>ami van, szétbull<sup>92</sup> darabokra.<sup>93</sup></i>	8

Chiastic structure:

1-4: o-a(9)/i-á(8)/o-a(9)/i-á(8)

5-8: i-á(8)/o-a(9)/i-á(8)/o-a(9)

<sup>70</sup>conj. literary “just like”

<sup>71</sup>“pile/heap”

<sup>72</sup>vb. *hasít* “to cleave/to split” + past. part. *-ott*

<sup>73</sup>“tree”

<sup>74</sup>vb. “to lie”, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>75</sup>pron. *egymás* “each other/one another” + superessive *-on* “on”

<sup>76</sup>“world”

<sup>77</sup>vb. *szorít* “to press/to constrict”, inf. *szorítani* + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres.

def. *-ja*

<sup>78</sup>vb. *nyom* “to weigh” + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. *-ja*

<sup>79</sup>*össze* “together” + vb. *fog* “to hold” + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. *-ja*

<sup>80</sup>*egy* “one” + 3rd pers. pl. poss. *-ik* “of”

<sup>81</sup>“thing”

<sup>82</sup>pron. *másik* “another” + acc. *-at (-át?)*

<sup>83</sup>“just so”

<sup>84</sup>adv. *minden* “everyone/everything”

<sup>85</sup>Latin *determinare* + vb.-forming *-ál* “to determine” + past part. *-t*

<sup>86</sup>adv. “only”

<sup>87</sup>rel. pron. “which/that”

<sup>88</sup>art. *az* “that” + attr. poss. *-nak* → *annak*

<sup>89</sup>*bokor* “shrub/bush” + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. *-a*

<sup>90</sup>adv. “only”

<sup>91</sup>vb. “to become”, 3rd pers. sg. ind. fut. indef.

<sup>92</sup>vb. “to fall apart”, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>93</sup>adv. *darab* “piece/chunk” + pl. *-ok* + subl. *-ra* “into”

V

At the freight train station,	1
I lay down just so behind the tree's butt,	2
like a piece of silence;	3
a grey weed reached my mouth,	4
raw, strange-sweet.	5
Playing dead, I watched the guard, sensing what,	6
and the shadow on the quiet wagons	7
stubbornly leaping at the bright, dewy coal.	8

<i>A teherpályaudvaron</i> <sup>94</sup>	1
<i>úgy</i> <sup>95</sup> <i>lapultam</i> <sup>96</sup> <i>a fa</i> <sup>97</sup> <i>tövéhez</i> , <sup>98</sup>	2
<i>mint</i> <sup>99</sup> <i>egy darab</i> <sup>100</sup> <i>csönd</i> <sup>101</sup> ; <i>szürke</i> <sup>102</sup> <i>gyom</i> <sup>103</sup>	3
<i>ért</i> <sup>104</sup> <i>számhoz</i> , <sup>105</sup> <i>nyers</i> , <sup>106</sup> <i>különös-édes</i> .	4
<i>Holtan</i> <sup>107</sup> <i>lestem</i> <sup>108</sup> <i>az őrt</i> , <sup>109</sup> <i>mit</i> <sup>110</sup> <i>érez</i> , <sup>111</sup>	5
<i>s a hallgató</i> <sup>112</sup> <i>vagónokon</i> <sup>113</sup>	6
<i>árnyát</i> , <sup>114</sup> <i>mely</i> <sup>115</sup> <i>ráugrott</i> <sup>116</sup> <i>a fényes</i> , <sup>117</sup>	7
<i>harmatos</i> <sup>118</sup> <i>szénre</i> <sup>119</sup> <i>konokon</i> . <sup>120</sup>	8

### Chiastic structure:

<sup>94</sup>*teher* “freight” + *pálya* “track” + *udvar* “courtyard” (*pályaudvar* “train station”) + superessive *-on* “on”

<sup>95</sup>adv. “so (in this/that manner)”

<sup>96</sup>vb. *lapul* “to lie low” + 1st pers. sg. past indef. *-tam*

<sup>97</sup>“tree”

<sup>98</sup>*tő* “base of the stem of a plant” + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. *-e* “of” → *tövé* + allative *-hez* “towards” → *tövéhez*

<sup>99</sup>“like”

<sup>100</sup>“piece”

<sup>101</sup>“silence”, alt. *csend*

<sup>102</sup>adj. “grey”

<sup>103</sup>“weed”

<sup>104</sup>vb. *ért* “to reach/to understand”, arch. “to touch”, 3rd pers. sg. past indef.

<sup>105</sup>*száj* “mouth” + 1st pers. sg. single poss. *-m* → *szám* + allative “towards” *-hoz* → *számhoz*

<sup>106</sup>adj. “raw”

<sup>107</sup>*holt* “dead” + adv.-forming *-an*

<sup>108</sup>vb. *les* “to spy” + 1st pers. sg. past indef. *-tem*

<sup>109</sup>*őr* “guard” + acc. *-t*

<sup>110</sup>inter. “what”

<sup>111</sup>vb. “to feel/to smell/to taste”, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>112</sup>vb. *hallgat* “to remain silent/to listen” + adj.-forming *-ag*

<sup>113</sup>*vagón* “wagon” + pl. *-ok* + superessive *-on* “on”

<sup>114</sup>*árny* “shadow/ghost” + acc. *-at* (*-át?*)

<sup>115</sup>literary, “which/that”

<sup>116</sup>pointed action *ra-* “at” + vb. *ugrik* “to leap/to jump” + 3rd pers. sg. ind. past. indef. *-ott* → *ugrott*

<sup>117</sup>adj. “bright”

<sup>118</sup>adj. “dewy”

<sup>119</sup>*szén* “coal” + subl. *-re* “onto”

<sup>120</sup>adj. *konok* “stubborn” + superessive *-on* “on (that manner)”

I-4: a-o(8)/é-e(9)/e-o(8)/é-e(9)  
5-8: é-e(9)/o-o(8)/é-e(9)/o-o(8)

## VI

Behold the anguish inside,	1
yet the explanation lies outside.	2
Your wound is the world — on fire, burning up —	3
and <i>you</i> feel your soul, the fever.	4
You are captive as long as your heart rebels —	5
then you are free if it indulges	6
not building for yourself a house	7
where a landlord settles in.	8

<i>Im</i> <sup>121</sup> <i>itt a szenvedés</i> <sup>122</sup> <i>belül</i> , <sup>123</sup>	1
<i>ám</i> <sup>124</sup> <i>ott kívül</i> <sup>125</sup> <i>a magyarázat</i> . <sup>126</sup>	2
<i>Sebed</i> <sup>127</sup> <i>a világ — ég</i> , <sup>128</sup> <i>bevil</i> <sup>129</sup>	3
<i>s te lelkedet</i> <sup>130</sup> <i>érezed</i> , <sup>131</sup> <i>a lázat</i> . <sup>132</sup>	4
<i>Rab</i> <sup>133</sup> <i>vagy, amíg</i> <sup>134</sup> <i>a szíved</i> <sup>135</sup> <i>lázad</i> <sup>136</sup> —	5
<i>úgy</i> <sup>137</sup> <i>szabadulsz</i> , <sup>138</sup> <i>ha</i> <sup>139</sup> <i>kényedül</i> <sup>140</sup>	6
<i>nem raksz</i> <sup>141</sup> <i>magadnak</i> <sup>142</sup> <i>olyan</i> <sup>143</sup> <i>házat</i> , <sup>144</sup>	7
<i>melybe</i> <sup>145</sup> <i>háziúr</i> <sup>146</sup> <i>települ</i> . <sup>147</sup>	8

Chiastic structure:

1-4: e-ül(8)/á-at(9)/e-ül(8)/á-at(9)

5-8: á-ad(9)/e-ül(8)/á-at(9)/e-ül(8)

<sup>121</sup>literary, abbrev. *íme* “here is/ behold”

<sup>122</sup>vb. *szenved* “to suffer” + noun-forming -*és*

<sup>123</sup>“inside”

<sup>124</sup>poetic, interj. contrad. “but”

<sup>125</sup>adv. “outdoor/outside”

<sup>126</sup>vb. *magyaráz* “to explain” + noun-forming -*at*

<sup>127</sup>*seb* “wound” + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -*ed*

<sup>128</sup>vb. “to be on fire”, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>129</sup>vb. “to grow hot”, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>130</sup>*lélek* “soul” + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -*ed* → *lelked* + acc. -*et*

<sup>131</sup>vb. *érez* “to feel”, 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. def.

<sup>132</sup>*láz* “fever” + acc. -*at*

<sup>133</sup>“captive”

<sup>134</sup>adv. “as long as”; “until” if followed by negated verb

<sup>135</sup>*szíved* “heart” + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -*ed*

<sup>136</sup>vb. *to rebel*, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>137</sup>*úgy ... ha ...* “then ... if ...”

<sup>138</sup>*szabad* “free” + vb.-forming -*ul* + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -*sz*

<sup>139</sup>“if”

<sup>140</sup>literary, vb. “to indulge”, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>141</sup>vb. *rak* “to set up/to build”, 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -*sz*

<sup>142</sup>*maga* “oneself” + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -*d* + dat. -*nak*

<sup>143</sup>pron. “such/that kind of thing”

<sup>144</sup>*ház* “house” + acc. -*at*

<sup>145</sup>literary, arch. *mely* which” + illative -*be* “into (the inside of)”

<sup>146</sup>*ház* “house” + adj.-forming “of the” -*i* + *úr* “master”

<sup>147</sup>vb. “to settle (somewhere)”, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

**VII**

I looked up from beneath the evening	1
to the cogwheels of the heavens —	2
from the glittering threads of chance	3
the loom of the past wove the law;	4
and I looked up again onto the sky	5
from beneath the steam of my dreams,	6
and I saw the fabric of the law	7
always tearing up somewhere.	8



<i>Én fölnéztem</i> <sup>148</sup> <i>az est</i> <sup>149</sup> <i>alól</i> <sup>150</sup>	1
<i>az eget</i> <sup>151</sup> <i>fogaskerekére</i> <sup>152</sup> —	2
<i>csilló</i> <sup>153</sup> <i>véletlen</i> <sup>154</sup> <i>szálaiból</i> <sup>155</sup>	3
<i>törvényt</i> <sup>156</sup> <i>szótt</i> <sup>157</sup> <i>a mult</i> <sup>158</sup> <i>szövőszéke</i> <sup>159</sup>	4
<i>és megint</i> <sup>160</sup> <i>fölnéztem az égre</i> <sup>161</sup>	5
<i>álmaim</i> <sup>162</sup> <i>gőzei</i> <sup>163</sup> <i>alól</i>	6
<i>s láttam</i> <sup>164</sup> <i>a törvény szövédéke</i> <sup>165</sup>	7
<i>mindig</i> <sup>166</sup> <i>fölfeslik</i> <sup>167</sup> <i>valahol</i> <sup>168</sup>	8

Chiastic structure:

1-4: a-ól(8)/é-e(9)/a[i]-ól(9)/é-e(9)

5-8: é-e(9)/[i]a-ól(8)/é-e(9)/a-ol(8)

<sup>148</sup>vb. pref. *föl-* “up/upwards” + vb. *néz* “to look” + 1st pers. sg. past. def. *-tem*

<sup>149</sup>arch. “(in the) evening”

<sup>150</sup>*al* “lower part” + abl. *-l* “from”

<sup>151</sup>*ég* “sky” + acc. *-(e)t*

<sup>152</sup>*fogas* “tooth” + *kerék* “wheel”: “cogwheel” + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. *-e* + subl. *-re* “towards”

<sup>153</sup>vb. *csillog* “to glitter” + adj.-forming *-o* → *csilló*; usually *csillogó*

<sup>154</sup>“chance”

<sup>155</sup>*szál* “thread” + 3rd pers. sg. poss. *-a* + poss. pl. *-i* + elative *-ból* “from/out of”

<sup>156</sup>*törvény* “law/principle” + acc. *-t*

<sup>157</sup>vb. *sző* “to weave”, past part.

<sup>158</sup>*mult*? rare, past part. “past”, inf. *mulik*

<sup>159</sup>*szövő* “weaver” + *szék* “chair”: “loom” + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. *-e*

<sup>160</sup>*meg* “again” (short action) + adv.-forming *-int*

<sup>161</sup>*ég* “sky” + subl. sg. *-re* “onto”

<sup>162</sup>*álom* “dream” + 1st pers. sg. poss. *-a* + poss. pl. *-i* + 1st pers. sg. pers. *-m*

<sup>163</sup>*gőz* “steam, vapour” + 3rd pers. sg. poss. *-e* + pl. poss. *-i*

<sup>164</sup>vb. *lát* “to see” + short base *-t*, 1st pers. sg. past def. *-tam*

<sup>165</sup>*szövédék* “fabric/cloth/web” + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. *-e*

<sup>166</sup>*mind* “always” (repetition) + term. “until” *-ig*

<sup>167</sup>vb. pref. *föl-* “up/upwards” + arch., poetic, vb. *feslik* “to come unstitched”, 3rd pers. sg. pres. indef.

<sup>168</sup>“somewhere”

**VIII**

The silence listened intently — One struck.	1
You could visit your childhood;	2
between the damp cement walls	3
you could imagine a bit of freedom —	4
I thought. And as soon as I stood up,	5
the stars, the Great Bear	6
indeed were glittering above,	7
like the grilles up in the silent cell.	8

<i>Fülett</i> <sup>169</sup> <i>a csend</i> <sup>170</sup> — <i>egyet</i> <sup>171</sup> <i>ütött</i> <sup>172</sup>	1
<i>Fölkereshetnéd</i> <sup>173</sup> <i>ifjúságod</i> <sup>174</sup>	2
<i>nyirkos</i> <sup>175</sup> <i>cementfalak</i> <sup>176</sup> <i>között</i> <sup>177</sup>	3
<i>képzelhetsz</i> <sup>178</sup> <i>egy kis szabadságot</i> <sup>179</sup> —	4
<i>gondoltam</i> . <sup>180</sup> <i>S bár</i> <sup>181</sup> <i>amint</i> <sup>182</sup> <i>fölálllok</i> <sup>183</sup>	5
<i>a csillagok</i> , <sup>184</sup> <i>a Göncölök</i> <sup>185</sup>	6
<i>úgy fénylenek</i> <sup>186</sup> <i>fönt</i> , <sup>187</sup> <i>mint a rácsok</i> <sup>188</sup>	7
<i>a hallgatag</i> <sup>189</sup> <i>cella</i> <sup>190</sup> <i>fölött</i> . <sup>191</sup>	8

## Chiastic structure:

- <sup>169</sup>*fül* “ear” + vb.-forming *-el*: “to listen (intently)” + 3rd pers. ind. past indef. *-t*
- <sup>170</sup>“silence”. alt. *csönd*
- <sup>171</sup>*egy* + acc. *-t*
- <sup>172</sup>vb. *üt* “to strike” + 3rd pers. sg. ind. past indef. *-(ö)tt*
- <sup>173</sup>*föl*- “up/upwards” + *keres* “to seek”: “to visit” + pot. “may/might” *het* + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. cond. *-ned*, alt. *felkeres*
- <sup>174</sup>adj. *ifjú* “young” + noun-forming *-ság* (state of being): “youth” + 2nd pers. informal sg. poss. single poss. *-od*: “your childhood” (informal)
- <sup>175</sup>adj. “humid/damp”
- <sup>176</sup>*cement* “cement” + *fal* “wall” + pl. *-ak*
- <sup>177</sup>post. “between/amid”, *köz* “interval” + locative *-ött*
- <sup>178</sup>*kép* “image” + vb.-forming *-(z)el*: “to imagine” + pot. *-het* + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. *-sz*
- <sup>179</sup>*szabad* “free” + *-ság* (state of being): “freedom” + acc. *-at*
- <sup>180</sup>vb. *gondol* “to think/plan/guess/worry” + 1st pers. sg. ind. past indef./def. *-tam*
- <sup>181</sup>“back body”, “well...”, “then/and/but” (questioning back), “surely/of course”
- <sup>182</sup>*az* + *mint* “like”: “as soon as”, literary “as”
- <sup>183</sup>*föl*- “up/upwards” + vb. *láll* “to stand” + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. *-ok*, alt. *felálllok*
- <sup>184</sup>*csillag* “star” + pl. *-ak*
- <sup>185</sup>*Göncöl* + pl. *-ök*: “the Great Bear” (constellation)
- <sup>186</sup>*fény* “light” + freq. vb.-forming *-lik*: “to glitter” + 3rd pers. pl. ind. pres. indef. *-ek*
- <sup>187</sup>adv. “above/up/awake/upstairs”, alt. *fent*
- <sup>188</sup>*rács* “grid/grille” + pl. *-ok*
- <sup>189</sup>vb. *hallgat* “to remain silent/to listen” + adj.-forming *-ag*
- <sup>190</sup>“cell”
- <sup>191</sup>*föl*- “up/upwards” + loc. *-ött*: “above”, alt. *elett*

1-4: ü-ö[tt](8)/á-o(9)/ö-ö[tt](8)/á-o(9)

5-8: á-o[k](9)/ö-ö(8)/á-o[k](9)/ö-ö[tt](8)

## IX

I heard iron weeping,	1
I heard rain laughing.	2
I saw that the past was cracked	3
and that only memories may be forgotten,	4
and how I cannot but love,	5
bending under my burdens —	6
why would I need to forge a weapon	7
out of you, golden self-awareness!	8

**Cursory commentary**

J is watching a blacksmith working in his workshop. The “iron weeping” (verse 1) and “rain laughing” (verse 2) refer to the sounds of iron being forged and quenched in water. The blacksmith is fixing a crack which evokes in J a past event, possibly a break up. Verses 3-6 form a chiasm: verse 5 is J’s reaction to verse 4: to avoid his love fading away, he will keep loving; verse 6 answers verse 3: instead of hammering the crack to make it disappear, J bends under it. Then there is no need to forge a sword blade to become strong. J’s self-consciousness is golden, like the glow that illuminates all the interior of a kiln.

<i>Hallottam</i> <sup>192</sup> <i>sírni</i> <sup>193</sup> <i>a vasat</i> , <sup>194</sup>	1
<i>hallottam az esőt</i> <sup>195</sup> <i>nevetni</i> . <sup>196</sup>	2
<i>Láttam</i> , <sup>197</sup> <i>hogy</i> <sup>198</sup> <i>a mult</i> <sup>199</sup> <i>meghasadt</i> <sup>200</sup>	3
<i>s csak</i> <sup>201</sup> <i>képzetet</i> <sup>202</sup> <i>lehet</i> <sup>203</sup> <i>feledni</i> ; <sup>204</sup>	4
<i>s hogy</i> <sup>205</sup> <i>nem tudok</i> <sup>206</sup> <i>mást</i> , <sup>207</sup> <i>mint</i> <sup>208</sup> <i>szeretni</i> , <sup>209</sup>	5
<i>görnyedve</i> <sup>210</sup> <i>terheim</i> <sup>211</sup> <i>alatt</i> <sup>212</sup> —	6
<i>minek</i> <sup>213</sup> <i>is</i> <sup>214</sup> <i>kell</i> <sup>215</sup> <i>fegyvert</i> <sup>216</sup> <i>veretni</i> <sup>217</sup>	7
<i>belőled</i> , <sup>218</sup> <i>arany</i> <sup>219</sup> <i>öntudat!</i> <sup>220</sup>	8

## Chiastic structure:

- 
- <sup>192</sup>vb. *hall* “to hear” + 1st pers. sg. ind. past def. *-ottam*  
<sup>193</sup>vb. *sír* “to cry/weep” + inf. *-ni*  
<sup>194</sup>*vas* “iron” + acc. *-(a)t*  
<sup>195</sup>vb. *es*, inf. *esik* + pres. part. *-ő* + acc. *-t*  
<sup>196</sup>vb. *nevet* “to laugh”, inf. *nevetni*  
<sup>197</sup>vb. *lát* “to see” + short base *-t*, 1st pers. sg. past def. *-tam*  
<sup>198</sup>adv. “how”  
<sup>199</sup>*mult*? rare, past part. “past”, inf. *múlik*  
<sup>200</sup>vb. pref. perfective *meg-* + vb. *hasad* “to crack/split apart” + past part.  
*-t*  
<sup>201</sup>adv. “only”  
<sup>202</sup>*képzet* “idea/image/notion” + acc. *-t*  
<sup>203</sup>pot. vb. *van/lesz*: “may be/may become” + 3rd pers. sg. ind.  
<sup>204</sup>lit. vb. *feled* “to forget”, alt. *felejt*  
<sup>205</sup>adv. “how”  
<sup>206</sup>vb. *tud* “to know” or aux. “can + inf.” + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.  
*-ok*  
<sup>207</sup>adj. *más* “other/different” + acc. *-t*  
<sup>208</sup>comp. different degrees “than”  
<sup>209</sup>inf. vb. *szeret* “to love”  
<sup>210</sup>vb. *görnyed* “to bend (under a burden)” + adv.-forming *-ve*  
<sup>211</sup>*teher* “freight/burden” + 1st pers. sg. poss. mult. poss. *-eim* → *terheim*  
<sup>212</sup>post. *al-* “lower part” + loc. *-(a)tt*  
<sup>213</sup>*mi* + dat. *-nek*: “for what”  
<sup>214</sup>doublet of *és* “and”  
<sup>215</sup>aux. vb. “must/need to/have to + inf.”  
<sup>216</sup>*fegyver* “weapon” + acc. *-t*  
<sup>217</sup>inf. vb. “to hammer”, alt. *veretés*  
<sup>218</sup>pron. *belőle* “out of him/her/it” + 2nd pers. sg. *-d*  
<sup>219</sup>“gold/golden”  
<sup>220</sup>“self-awareness”

1-4: a-a[t](8)/e[t]-[n]i(9)/a-a[dt](8)/e[d]-[n]i(9)  
 5-8: e[t]-[n]i(9)/a-a[tt](8)/e[t]-[n]i(9)/u-a[t](8)