## Collected Poems

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# Chapter 1

# 1925

| You are so silly.                                  | I   |
|--|-----|
| You run like the morning wind,                     | 2   |
| sometime you'll be knocked down by a car.          | 3   |
| By the way, I scrubbed clean my little table,      | 4   |
| and now the tender light of my bread shines purer. | 5   |
| Well, come back; if you want                       | 6   |
| I'll buy a blanket for my iron bed.                | 7   |
| A plain, grey blanket.                             | 8   |
| It will suit my Poverty, who loves you,            | 9   |
| and the Lord loves you also very much,             | IO  |
| and He also loves me.                              | II  |
| The Lord never comes in a blaze of glory,          | 12  |
| He doesn't want to ruin my eyes,                   | 13  |
| which long to see you,                             | 14  |
| and will look at you very beautifully.             | 15  |
| When you come back, I will kiss you carefully,     | 16  |
| I won't rip off your coat.                         | 17  |
| I will tell you all the many jokes,                | 18  |
| because I devised many since then,                 | 19  |
| and how merry you'll be and will blush,            | 20  |
| how you'll look down to the ground,                | 21  |
| and we will crack up,                              | 2.2 |
| and we will be heard by our neighbours             | 23  |
| and even by the taciturn, austere day labourers    | 2.4 |
| who, amidst their tired, shattered dreams,         | 25  |
| will then begin to smile too.                      | 26  |

Autumn

## French

| Ne sois pas si bête.                                      | I   |
|---|-----|
| Tu cours comme le vent matinal,                           | 2   |
| un jour tu seras renversée par une auto.                  | 3   |
| D'ailleurs, j'ai récuré ma petite table,                  | 4   |
| et maintenant la lumière suave de mon pain est plus pure. | 5   |
| Hé bien, reviens; si tu veux                              | 6   |
| j'achèterai une couverture pour mon lit de fer.           | 7   |
| Une couverture ordinaire, grise.                          | 8   |
| Elle conviendra à ma Pauvreté, qui t'aime,                | 9   |
| et le Seigneur t'aime aussi beaucoup                      | IO  |
| et Il m'aime aussi.                                       | II  |
| Le Seigneur ne vient jamais dans toute sa splendeur,      | 12  |
| Il ne veut pas abîmer mes yeux,                           | 13  |
| qui ont hâte de te voir                                   | 14  |
| et qui te regarderont avec beauté.                        | 15  |
| Quand tu reviendras, je t'embrasserai doucement,          | 16  |
| je n'arracherai pas ton manteau.                          | 17  |
| Je te raconterai toutes les nouvelles blagues,            | 18  |
| parce que j'en ai inventé beaucoup depuis,                | 19  |
| et que tu seras gaie et rougieras,                        | 20  |
| et tu baisseras les yeux vers le sol,                     | 21  |
| et nous éclaterons de rire,                               | 2.2 |
| et nos voisins nous entendrons                            | 23  |
| et jusqu'aux journaliers taciturnes et austères           | 2.4 |
| qui, parmi leurs rêves fatigués et brisés,                | 25  |
| esquisseront un sourire aussi.                            | 26  |

Automne

## Spanish

| No seas tonta.                                  | I   |
|---|-----|
| Corres como el viento de la madrugada,          | 2   |
| algún día te atropellará un coche.              | 3   |
| De hecho, fregué my mesita,                     | 4   |
| y ahora la luz suave de mi pan brilla más pura. | 5   |
| Pues regresa; si quieres                        | 6   |
| compraré una manta para mi cama de hierro.      | 7   |
| Una manta ordinaria, gris.                      | 8   |
| Le caerá bien a mi Pobreza, que te quiere,      | 9   |
| y el Señor también te ama,                      | IO  |
| y me ama también.                               | II  |
| El Señor nunca viene con gran esplendor,        | 12  |
| no quiere arruinar mis ojos,                    | 13  |
| que anhelan verte,                              | 14  |
| y que te mirarán con belleza.                   | 15  |
| Cuando regreses, te besaré con cuidado,         | 16  |
| no te arrancaré el abrigo.                      | 17  |
| Te contaré todos los nuevos chistes,            | 18  |
| porque hallé muchos desde entonces,             | 19  |
| y qué alegre te pondrás y te sonrojarás,        | 20  |
| y cómo mirarás al suelo,                        | 2.1 |
| y nos reiremos a carcajadas,                    | 2.2 |
| y nos oirán nuestros vecinos                    | 23  |
| y hasta los taciturnos y austeros jornaleros    | 2.4 |
| que, entre sus sueños cansados y quebrados,     | 25  |
| empezarán a sonreirse también.                  | 26  |

Otoño

Ι

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

IO

II

#### Original Hungarian

31 adj. 'grey'

<sup>32</sup> vb. 'to suit/match/fit' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

Olyan<sup>1</sup> bolond<sup>2</sup> vagy<sup>3</sup>

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szaladsz4
                                    akár<sup>5</sup> a reggeli<sup>6</sup> szél.<sup>7</sup>
                                   Még<sup>8</sup> elüt<sup>9</sup> valamelyik<sup>10</sup> autó.<sup>11</sup>
                                   Pedig<sup>12</sup> lesikáltam<sup>13</sup> kis<sup>14</sup> asztalomat<sup>15</sup>
                                   és most<sup>16</sup>
                                   tisztábban<sup>17</sup> világít<sup>18</sup> kenyerem<sup>19</sup> enyhe<sup>20</sup> fénye.<sup>21</sup>
                                   No<sup>22</sup> gyere<sup>23</sup> vissza,<sup>24</sup> ha<sup>25</sup> akarod<sup>26</sup>
                                   veszek<sup>27</sup> takarót<sup>28</sup> vaságyamra.<sup>29</sup>
                                    Egyszerű,30 szürke31 takarót.
                                   Illik32 az
     <sup>1</sup> arch. oly 'such' + deadj. adv.-forming -an \rightarrow 'such a/an'
    <sup>2</sup> adj. 'silly/foolish'
    <sup>3</sup> vb. van 'to be' + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
    4 vb. szalad 'to run' + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -sz
    5 lit. 'just like'
    <sup>6</sup> reggel 'morning' + adj.-forming -i
    7 'wind'
    8 adv. 'moreover/later/sometime'
    <sup>9</sup> vb. pref. el-'away' + vb. üt 'to hit' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
    <sup>10</sup> pron. pref. vala 'some-' + inter. myelik 'which/what' → 'one/any of'
    п 'car'
    12 conj. expressing contrast 'whereas/but/although' or addition 'and (by contrast)'
    <sup>13</sup> vb. pref. le- completion + vb. sikál 'to scrub/scour (out)' + 1st pers. sg. ind. past.def. -am
    14 adj. 'small'
    15 asztal 'table' + 1st pers. sg. single poss. -(o)m + acc. -(a)t
    16 adv. 'now'
    <sup>17</sup> adj. tiszta 'clean/clear' + comp. -bb + deadj. adv.-forming -am \rightarrow 'more clearly/cleanly'
    18 világ 'light (arch.)/world' + caus. vb.-forming -ít 'to make smth ...-like' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres.
indef. 'to make shine'
    19 kenyér 'bread' + 1st pers. sg. single poss. -em
   <sup>20</sup> enyh 'light/mild/tender/faint' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e 'of'
    <sup>21</sup> fény 'light' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e
    22 interj. 'well/now'
    <sup>23</sup> vb. jön 'to come' + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
   24 adv. 'back[wards]'
    25 conf. 'if' + cond. or 'when/once'
   <sup>26</sup> vb. akar 'to want' + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -od
   <sup>27</sup> vb. vesz 'to take/grab/buy/get/consider/put on' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -ek
   ^{28} vb. takar 'to cover (protect)' + pres. part. -\phi \to 'cover/blanket' + acc. -t
    <sup>29</sup> vas 'iron' + ágy 'bed' + 1st pers. sg. single poss. -am + all. -ra 'onto/on'
    <sup>30</sup> egy 'one' + -szerű '-like' → 'plain/simple/unadorned/humble (< 1945)'
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| szegénységemhez,33 aki34 szeret33 téged30  | 12  |
|--|-----|
| és az Úr <sup>37</sup> is szereti <sup>38</sup> nagyon <sup>39</sup>                                     | 13  |
| és engem <sup>40</sup> is szeret <sup>41</sup> az Úr   | 14  |
| nem jön <sup>42</sup> soha <sup>43</sup> nagy <sup>44</sup> fényességgel <sup>45</sup>                   | 15  |
| Nem akarja,46 hogy elromoljanak47  | 16  |
| szemeim, <sup>48</sup> akik <sup>49</sup>  | 17  |
| nagyon <sup>50</sup> kívánnak <sup>51</sup> látni <sup>52</sup> téged. <sup>53</sup>                     | 18  |
| És nagyon <sup>54</sup> szépen <sup>55</sup> néznek <sup>56</sup> majd <sup>57</sup> terád <sup>58</sup> | 19  |
| ha <sup>59</sup> visszajössz <sup>60</sup>   | 20  |
| vigyázva <sup>61</sup> foglak <sup>62</sup> megcsókolni, <sup>63</sup>                                   | 2.1 |
|  |     |

. 1 22 1 22 .

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33 szegény 'poor' + noun-forming -ség (state of being) + 1st pers. sg. single poss. -em + all. -hez 'to'
   34 conj. 'who'
   35 vb. 'to love'+ 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
   <sup>36</sup> pron. te 'you' sg. + acc.
   <sup>37</sup> 'Lord' (the Christian god)
   <sup>38</sup> vb. szeret 'to love' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -i
   <sup>39</sup> adj. nagy 'great' + adv.-forming -on \rightarrow 'very (to a high degree)'
   <sup>40</sup> pron. \acute{e}n 'I' + acc. \rightarrow 'me'
   ^{\mbox{\tiny 4I}} vb. 'to love'+ 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
   <sup>42</sup> vb. 'to come' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
   43 adv. 'never'
   44 adj. 'great'
   45 fény 'light' + adj.-forming -es 'with/having' \rightarrow 'bright' + noun-forming -ség (state of being) \rightarrow
'brightness' + instr. -vel 'with' (-gel after consonant g) \rightarrow 'with brightness'
   46 vb. 'to want' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -ja
   <sup>47</sup> perfect. vb. pref. el- + vb. romlik 'to break down/deteriorate' + 3rd pers. pl. subj. indef. -janak
   <sup>48</sup> szem 'eye' + 1st pers. sg. mult. poss. -eim
   49 pron. 'who' + pl. -k
   <sup>50</sup> adj. nagy 'great' + adv.-forming -on \rightarrow 'very (to a high degree)'
   <sup>51</sup> vb. kíván 'to wish' + 3rd pers. pl. ind. pres. indef. -nak
   ^{52} vb. l\acute{a}t 'to see' + inf. -ni
   53 pron. te 'you' sg. + acc.
   <sup>54</sup> adj. nagy 'great' + adv.-forming -on \rightarrow 'very (to a high degree)'
   55 adj. szép 'beautiful'
   <sup>56</sup> vb. néznek 'to look at smth' + 3rd pers. pl. ind. pres. indef. -nek
   57 adv. 'sometime/later'
   <sup>58</sup> pron. sg. te 'you' (here emph.) + pron. rá + 2nd pers. sg. 'on/of you'
   59 conf. 'if' + cond. or 'when/once'
   60 vb. pref. vissza- 'back-' + vb. jön 'to come' + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -sz
   <sup>61</sup> vb. vigyáz 'to protect/pay attention' + adv. part. -va result of action or simultaneous actions
   62 vb. aux. fog 'to will' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. 2nd obj. -lak 'you'
   <sup>63</sup> perfect. vb. pref. meg-+ vb. csókol 'to kiss' + inf. -ni
```

22

23

24

25

26

nem tépem<sup>64</sup> le<sup>65</sup> rólad<sup>66</sup> a kabátot<sup>67</sup>

mert<sup>72</sup> sokat<sup>73</sup> kieszeltem<sup>74</sup> azóta,<sup>75</sup>

lenézel<sup>81</sup> a földre<sup>82</sup> és kacagunk<sup>83</sup>

hogy te<sup>76</sup> is<sup>77</sup> örülj,<sup>78</sup>

majd<sup>79</sup> elpirulsz,<sup>80</sup>

és elmondom<sup>68</sup> mind<sup>69</sup> a sok<sup>70</sup> tréfát,<sup>71</sup>

| hangosan, <sup>84</sup> hogy behallatszik <sup>85</sup> szomszédunkba <sup>86</sup>                            |    |
|--|----|
| a szótlan, <sup>87</sup> komoly <sup>88</sup> napszámosokhoz <sup>89</sup> is behallik <sup>90</sup>           |    |
| és fáradt, 91 összetört 92   |    |
| álmukban <sup>93</sup> majd <sup>94</sup> elmosolyodnak <sup>95</sup> ők <sup>96</sup> is. <sup>97</sup>       |    |
| annukban maju cimosoryounak ok is.   |    |
| Ősze   |    |
| <sup>64</sup> vb. <i>tép</i> 'to tear/rend' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. defem                                   |    |
| 65 comp. 'down'  |    |
| 66 pron. <i>róla</i> 'about/off her' + 2nd pers. sg.   |    |
| <sup>67</sup> kabát 'coat' + acc(0)t   |    |
| <sup>68</sup> vb. <i>elmond</i> 'to tell' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. def. <i>-om</i>                           |    |
| <sup>69</sup> pron. sg. 'all/each of'  |    |
| <sup>70</sup> adj. 'many'  |    |
| 71 $tréfá$ 'joke' + acc(a)t  |    |
| <sup>72</sup> conj. 'because'  |    |
| <sup>73</sup> sok 'many' + accat   |    |
| <sup>74</sup> vb. <i>kieszel</i> 'to devise' + 1st pers. sg. past. <i>-tem</i>                                 |    |
| 75 art. $az$ 'that' + $\delta ta$ 'since' $\rightarrow$ 'since then'   |    |
| <sup>76</sup> pron. sg. 'you'  |    |
| <sup>77</sup> doublet of <i>és</i> 'and', adv. 'also'  |    |
| <sup>78</sup> vb. <i>örül</i> 'to rejoice' + 2nd pers. sg. subj. indef <i>j</i>                                |    |
| <sup>79</sup> adv. 'sometime/later'  |    |
| 80 perfect. vb. pref. el- + vb. pirul 'to blush' + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. indefsz                            |    |
| 81 vb. 'to look down'+ 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. indefel  |    |
| 82 föld 'earth/ground' + sublre 'onto'   |    |
| <sup>83</sup> vb. <i>kacag</i> 'to laugh (a lot)' + 1st pers. pl. ind. pres. indef. <i>-unk</i>                |    |
| <sup>84</sup> adv. 'loudly'  |    |
| 85 vb. pref. be-'inwardly' + vb. hall 'to hear' + causat + vbforming -szik $\rightarrow$ 'to cause to sound in | ı' |
| 86 szomszéd 'neighbour' + 1st pers. pl. single possunk + illative -ba 'into'                                   |    |
| 87 szó 'word/voice' + privative adjforming -tlan '-less'   |    |
| 88 adj. 'severe/austere'   |    |
| <sup>89</sup> napszámos 'day labourer' + pl(o)k + allat. '-hoz 'towards'                                       |    |
| <sup>90</sup> syn. behallatszik  |    |
| <sup>91</sup> vb. <i>fárad</i> 'to tire' + past. part. <i>-t</i>   |    |
| <sup>92</sup> össze 'together' + vb. tör 'to break' + past. partt  |    |
| 93 álom 'dream' + 3rd pers. pl. single possuk + innesban 'in'  |    |
| 94 adv. 'sometime/later'   |    |
| <sup>95</sup> vb. inf. <i>elmosolyodni</i> 'to start to smile' + 3rd pers. ind. pres. indef.                   |    |
| 96 pron. 'they'  |    |
| <sup>97</sup> doublet of <i>és</i> 'and', adv. 'also'  |    |

## Chapter 2

## 1934

French

## Consciousness (Eszmélet)

I

Dawn unbinds sky from earth

| and upon its clear, soft word                  |     |
|--|-----|
| and upon 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!                      | (   |
| Overnight they alighted on the trees           | 7   |
| like small butterflies, the leaves.            | 8   |
| L'aube détache le ciel de la terre             | T   |
|  |     |
| et, à sa voix claire et douce,                 | 2   |
| scarabées et enfants virevoltent               | 3   |
| en entrant sur la scène du jour;               | 4   |
| l'air n'est pas humide,                        | 5   |
| la brillante légèreté flotte!                  | (   |
| Avec la nuit, elles se posèrent sur les arbres | 7   |
| comme de petits papillons, les feuilles.       | 8   |

Ι

#### Spanish

| El amanecer desata el cielo de la tierra | I |
|--|---|
| y, al son de su voz clara y suave,       | 2 |
| escarabajos y niños entran               | 3 |
| y giran en la luz del día;               | 4 |
| el aire no es húmedo,                    | 5 |
| ¡la brillante levedad flota!             | 6 |
| Con la noche se posaron en los árboles   | 7 |
| como pequeñas mariposas, las ojas.       | 8 |

#### Original Hungarian

```
Földtől<sup>1</sup> eloldja<sup>2</sup> az eget<sup>3</sup>
                                                                                                                            Ι
a hajnal<sup>4</sup> s<sup>5</sup> tiszta<sup>6</sup>, lágy<sup>7</sup> szavára<sup>8</sup>
                                                                                                                             2
a bogarak,9 a gyerekek
                                                                                                                             3
kipörögnek<sup>10</sup> a napvilágra<sup>11</sup>;
                                                                                                                             4
a levegőben<sup>12</sup> semmi pára<sup>13</sup>,
                                                                                                                             5
a csilló<sup>14</sup> könnyűség<sup>15</sup> lebeg!<sup>16</sup>
                                                                                                                             6
Az éjjel<sup>17</sup> rászálltak<sup>18</sup> a fákra,<sup>19</sup>
                                                                                                                             7
mint<sup>20</sup> kis<sup>21</sup> lepkék,<sup>22</sup> a levelek.<sup>23</sup>
                                                                                                                             8
```

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<sup>1</sup> föld 'earth' + abl. -től 'without/from'
<sup>2</sup> vb. pref. el- 'away' + vb. old 'to unbind' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -ja
^{3} ég 'sky' + acc. -et \rightarrow eget
4 'dawn'
<sup>5</sup> poetic abbrv. es 'and' (does not count as a syllable)
```

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> adj. 'bright'

<sup>7</sup> adj. 'soft'

 $<sup>^8</sup>$  szó 'voice', 'word' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -a o szava + subl. -ra 'by' o szavára

 $<sup>^9</sup>$  bogár 'beetle' + pl. -(a)k → bogarak

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> vb. *kipörög* 'to spin' + 3rd pers. pl. ind. pres. indef. -nek

пар 'sun/day' + világ 'world' + subl. -ra 'onto'

<sup>12</sup> levegő 'air' + innes. -ben 'in'

<sup>13 &#</sup>x27;moisture/mist'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> vb. *csillog* 'to glitter' + adj.-forming - $o \rightarrow csillo$ ; usually *csillogó* 

<sup>15</sup> könnyű 'simplicity/easiness' + noun-forming -ség (state of being)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> vb. *lebeg* 'to float (in the air)', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

 $<sup>^{17}</sup>$  poetic  $\acute{ej}$  'night' + instr. -vel 'with'  $ightarrow \acute{ejjel}$ 

pointed action *rá-* 'on' + vb. *száll* 'to fly/land/to come down' + 3rd pers. sg. past indef. *-tak* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> fa 'tree' + pl. -k + subl. -ra 'onto'  $\rightarrow f\acute{a}kra$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> 'like'

<sup>21 &#</sup>x27;small'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> *lepke* 'butterfly' + pl.  $-k \rightarrow lepk\acute{e}k$ 

 $<sup>^{23}</sup>$  level 'leaf' + pl. -(e)k

## 2.1. CONSCIOUSNESS (ESZMÉLET)

II

Chiastic structure:

I-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)

## II

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

## **Cursory remark**

Verses 1-4 are about the night, verses 5-7 transition to the day, and verse 8 brings us back to the night — this cyclic structure supporting the mismatched, recurring alternance of days and nights.

#### **French**

| J'ai vu des tableaux barbouillés de bleu,               | Ι |
|---|---|
| rouge et jaune dans mes rêves                           | 2 |
| et je sentis que tout était en ordre —                  | 3 |
| pas un seul grain de poussière qui vole folement.       | 4 |
| Maintenant mon rêve descend, estompé, dans mes membres, | 5 |
| et le monde de fer est l'ordre.                         | 6 |
| Avec le jour, une lune point en moi et,                 | 7 |
| à la nuit tombée, un soleil brille ci-dedans.           | 8 |

## Spanish

| I |
|---|
| 2 |
| 3 |
| 4 |
| 5 |
| 6 |
| 7 |
| 8 |
|   |

| Kék, piros, sárga, összekent <sup>24</sup>   | I |
|--|---|
| képeket <sup>25</sup> láttam <sup>26</sup> álmaimban <sup>27</sup>   | 2 |
| és úgy éreztem, <sup>28</sup> ez a rend <sup>29</sup> —  | 3 |
| egy szalló³º porszem³¹ el³² nem hibbant.³³   | 4 |
| Most homályként³4 száll³5 tagjaimban³6   | 5 |
| álmom s a vas <sup>37</sup> világ a rend.  | 6 |
| Nappal <sup>38</sup> hold <sup>39</sup> kél <sup>40</sup> bennem <sup>41</sup> s ha <sup>42</sup> kinn <sup>43</sup> van | 7 |
| az éj <sup>44</sup> — egy nap süt <sup>45</sup> idebent. <sup>46</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)
```

46 adv. ide 'here' + bent 'within'

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<sup>24</sup> \ddot{o}ssze 'together' + ken 'smear' \rightarrow \ddot{o}sszeken + 3rd pers. sg. past indef. -t
   ^{25} kép 'picture' + pl. -(e)k + acc. -(e)t
   ^{26} vb. l\acute{a}t 'to see' + short base -t + 1st pers. sg. past def. -tam
   <sup>27</sup> álom 'dream' + 1st pers. sg. poss. -a + poss. pl. -i + 1st pers. sg. pers. -m + innes. -ban 'in' \rightarrow
álmaimban
   <sup>28</sup> vb. érez 'to feel', 1st pers. sg. past def.
   29 'order'
   <sup>30</sup> vb. száll 'to fly' + pres. part. -ó
   31 'a speck of dust'
   <sup>32</sup> el nem + past. part.; the verbal prefix el emphasises the completion of the action
   <sup>33</sup> vb. hibban 'to become imbalanced', arch. + past part. -t
   34 homály 'blur' + essive formal -ként 'as'
   35 vb. 'to land/to come down', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres.
   ^{36} tag 'member' + 1st pers. sg. poss. -(j)a + poss. pl. -i + 1st pers. sg. pers. -m + innes. -ban 'in' \rightarrow
tagjaimban
   <sup>37</sup> 'iron'
   ^{38} nap 'day' + instr. -val 'with' \rightarrow nappal
   <sup>39</sup> 'moon'
   40 vb. 'to rise', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def., arch. alt. kel
   <sup>41</sup> pron. benne 'inside smth/smb' + 1st pers. sg. pers. -m
   42 when'
   43 'outside'
   44 'night'
   45 vb. 'to roast/shine', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
```

## III

| I am thin, at times I only eat bread;        | I   |
|--|-----|
| 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 | e e |
| the mouse outdoors and the one indoors.      | 7   |

## **Cursory remark**

J cannot pursue his art and, at the same time, keep a job that would put real food on his table. Cuddling a small child to his heart is his metaphor for the creation of poetry. J is the cat in verses 6-7.

#### French

| Je suis maigre, parfois je ne mange que du pain;        | I |
|---|---|
| entouré par ces âmes oisives et bavardes,               | 2 |
| je cherche en vain plus de certitude, comme le dé.      | 3 |
| Aucun rôti de palette ne trouve ma bouche               | 4 |
| quand j'étreins un enfant sur mon cœur —                | 5 |
| aussi fûté soit-il, le chat ne peut attrapper d'un coup | 6 |
| la souris dehors et celle dedans.                       | 7 |

## Spanish

| Estoy flaco, a veces sólo como pan;                      | I |
|--|---|
| rodeado por esas almas ociosas y facundas,               | 2 |
| busco en vano más certidumbre, como el dado.             | 3 |
| Ninguna paleta asada halla mi boca                       | 4 |
| cuando ciño a un niño sobre mi corazón —                 | 5 |
| por muy astuto que sea, el gato no puede pillar a la vez | 6 |
| el ratón de afuera y el de adentro.                      | 7 |

| Sóvany <sup>47</sup> vagyok, csak kenyeret <sup>48</sup>   | I |
|--|---|
| eszem <sup>49</sup> néha, <sup>50</sup> e <sup>51</sup> léha, <sup>52</sup> locska <sup>53</sup> | 2 |
| lelkek <sup>54</sup> közt <sup>55</sup> ingyen <sup>56</sup> keresek <sup>57</sup>               | 3 |
| bizonyosabbat, <sup>58</sup> mint <sup>59</sup> a kocska. <sup>60</sup>                          | 4 |
| Nem dörgölődzik <sup>61</sup> sült <sup>62</sup> lopcska <sup>63</sup>                           | 5 |
| számhoz <sup>64</sup> s szivemhez <sup>65</sup> kisgyerek <sup>66</sup> —                        | 6 |
| ügyeskedhet, <sup>67</sup> nem fog <sup>68</sup> a macska <sup>69</sup>                          | 7 |
| egyszerre <sup>70</sup> kint <sup>71</sup> s bent <sup>72</sup> egeret. <sup>73</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>47</sup> 'slim/thin', fig. 'poor'
<sup>48</sup> kenyér 'bread' + acc. -(e)t \rightarrow kenyeret
<sup>49</sup> vb. esz 'to eat', rare without verbal pref., inf. enni + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -em \rightarrow eszem
50 adv. 'sometimes'
 51 poetic abbrv. eme/ez 'this'
52 'improvident/idler'
53 adj. 'blethering'
54 lélek 'soul' + pl. -(e)k \rightarrow lelkek
55 post. 'between/amid' from között: köz 'interval' + loc. -ött
56 fig. arch. 'in vain'; usually 'free of charge'
<sup>57</sup> vb. keres 'to seek' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
58 adj. bizonyos 'certain' + comp. -abb 'more' + acc. -t
59 'like'
60 'a die'
<sup>61</sup> vb. 'to press against', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
62 vb. sül 'to roast' + past part. -t
63 'chuck' (shoulder meat cut, probably pork)
<sup>64</sup> száj 'mouth' + 1st pers. sg. single poss. -m \rightarrow szám + allat. -hoz 'towards' \rightarrow számhoz
65 szivem 'heart' + allat. -hez 'towards'
66 kis 'small' + gyerek 'child'
<sup>67</sup> vb. ügyesked 'to be clever' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. potential -het
<sup>68</sup> vb. 'to hold', 3rd pers. sg. pers. indef.
<sup>70</sup> adv. egyszer 'at once' + abl. -re 'onto'
71 adv. 'outside'
72 adv. 'inside'
<sup>73</sup> egér 'mouse' + acc. -(e)t \rightarrow egeret
```

## IV

| Just like a pile of logs,        | I |
|----------------------------------|---|
| the world lies in a jumble;      | 2 |
| each thing presses, weighs on,   | 3 |
| holds fast to the next,          | 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 |

## Cursory remark

'To be or not to be' is usually construed as the dichotomy between life and death. J tells us that not-to-be is potential beauty, whereas to-be is actual death.

#### French

| Tout comme un tas de bûches,        | Ι |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| le monde gît en vrac;               | 2 |
| chaque chose presse, pèse,          | 3 |
| s'arrime à l'autre,                 | 4 |
| et ainsi tout est déterminé.        | 5 |
| Seul ce qui n'est pas a un arbuste, | 6 |
| seul cela sera cette fleur;         | 7 |
| ce qui est tombera en pièces.       | 8 |
|                                     |   |

## Spanish

| Así como un montón de leña,         | I |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| el mundo yace a granel;             | 2 |
| cada cosa aprieta, pesa,            | 3 |
| se arrima a la próxima,             | 4 |
| y así todo está determinado.        | 5 |
| Sólo lo que no es tiene un arbusto, | 6 |
| sólo eso será esta flor;            | 7 |
| lo que es caera a pedazos.          | 8 |

| Akár <sup>74</sup> egy halom <sup>75</sup> hasított <sup>76</sup> fa, <sup>77</sup>      | I |
|--|---|
| hever <sup>78</sup> egymáson <sup>79</sup> a világ, <sup>80</sup>                        | 2 |
| szorítja, <sup>81</sup> nyomja, <sup>82</sup> összefogja <sup>83</sup>                   | 3 |
| egyik <sup>84</sup> dolog <sup>85</sup> a másikát <sup>86</sup>                          | 4 |
| s így <sup>87</sup> mindenik <sup>88</sup> determinált. <sup>89</sup>                    | 5 |
| Csak <sup>90</sup> ami <sup>91</sup> nincs, annak <sup>92</sup> van bokra, <sup>93</sup> | 6 |
| csak <sup>94</sup> ami lesz, <sup>95</sup> az a virág,                                   | 7 |
| ami van, széthull <sup>96</sup> darabokra. <sup>97</sup>                                 | 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>74</sup> conj. literary 'just like'
75 'pile/heap'
<sup>76</sup> vb. hasít 'to cleave/split' + past. part. -ott
<sup>78</sup> vb. 'to lie', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
<sup>79</sup> pron. egymás 'each other/one another' + super. -on 'on'
80 'world'
<sup>81</sup> vb. szorít 'to press/constrict', inf. szorítani + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -ja
^{82} vb. nyom 'to weigh' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -ja
<sup>83</sup> össze 'together' + vb. fog 'to hold' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -ja
84 egy 'one' + 3rd pers. pl. mult. poss. -ik 'of'
85 'thing'
<sup>86</sup> adj. m\acute{a}s 'other' + noun-forming -ik \rightarrow 'another' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -a + acc. -t \rightarrow -\acute{a}t
87 'just so'
88 adv. minden 'everyone/everything'
<sup>89</sup> Latin determinare + vb.-forming -ál 'to determine' + past part. -t
90 adv. 'only'
91 rel. pron. 'which/that'
^{92} art. az 'that' + attr. poss. -nak \rightarrow annak
93 bokor 'shrub/bush' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -a
94 adv. 'only'
95 vb. 'to become', 3rd pers. sg. ind. fut. indef.
96 vb. 'to fall apart', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
97 adv. darab 'piece/chunk' + pl. -ok + subl. -ra 'into'
```

## $\mathbf{V}$

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

## **Cursory remark**

This is likely a memory from J's childhood, when his family was so poor that he would occasionally steal lumps of coal from the wagons at the freight train station nearby his home.

#### **French**

| A la gare de fret,  | I |
|---|---|
| je m'étalai ainsi derrière le pied de l'arbre,                      | 2 |
| comme une masse de silence;   | 3 |
| une herbe grise atteignit ma bouche,                                | 4 |
| crue, étrange-sucrée.   | 5 |
| Faisant le mort, je regardais le garde, ressentant quoi,            | 6 |
| et son ombre qui, sur les wagons silencieux,                        | 7 |
| s'entêtait à bondir sur les charbons reluisants, couverts de rosée. | 8 |

## Spanish

| A la estación de tren de carga,                                    | I |
|--|---|
| me tumbé así detrás del pie del árbol,                             | 2 |
| como una masa de silencio;   | 3 |
| una hierba gris alcanzó mi boca,                                   | 4 |
| cruda, extraña-dulce.  | 5 |
| Haciendome el muerto, miraba al guardia, que sentía qué,           | 6 |
| y, sobre los quietos vagones, a su sombra                          | 7 |
| que se empeñaba a saltar sobre los relucientes, rociados carbones. | 8 |

| A teherpályaudvaron <sup>98</sup>   | I |
|---|---|
| úgy <sup>99</sup> lapultam <sup>100</sup> a fa <sup>101</sup> tövéhez, <sup>102</sup>                         | 2 |
| mint <sup>103</sup> egy darab <sup>104</sup> csönd <sup>105</sup> ; szürke <sup>106</sup> gyom <sup>107</sup> | 3 |
| ért <sup>108</sup> számhoz, <sup>109</sup> nyers, <sup>110</sup> különös <sup>111</sup> -édes. <sup>112</sup> | 4 |
| Holtan <sup>113</sup> lestem <sup>114</sup> az őrt, <sup>115</sup> mit <sup>116</sup> érez, <sup>117</sup>    | 5 |
| s a hallgatag <sup>118</sup> vagónokon <sup>119</sup>   | 6 |
| árnyát, 120 mely 121 ráugrott 122 a fényes, 123   | 7 |
| harmatos <sup>124</sup> szénre <sup>125</sup> konokon. <sup>126</sup>   | 8 |

#### Chiastic structure:

```
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)
```

```
98 teher 'freight' + pálya 'track' + udvar 'courtyard' + super. -on 'on'
   99 adv. 'so (in this/that manner)'
  100 vb. lapul 'to lie low' + 1st pers. sg. past indef. -tam
  <sup>102</sup> t\ddot{o} 'base of the stem of a plant' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e 'of' \rightarrow t\ddot{o}ve + allat. -hez 'towards' \rightarrow
tövéhez
  103 'like'
  104 'piece'
  ios 'silence', alt. csend
  106 adj. 'grey'
  107 'weed'
  <sup>108</sup> vb. ért 'to reach', arch. 'to touch', fig. 'to understand', 3rd pers. sg. past indef.
  ^{109} száj 'mouth' + 1st pers. sg. single poss. -m 	o szám + allat. 'towards' -hoz 	o számhoz
   по adj. 'raw'
   III 'strange'
   112 'sweet'
   113 holt 'dead' + adv.-forming -an
   "4 vb. les 'to spy' + 1st pers. sg. past indef. -tem
   "5 őr 'guard' + acc. -t
   116 inter. 'what'
   <sup>117</sup> vb. 'to feel/smell/taste', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
   118 vb. hallgat 'to remain silent/to listen' + adj.-forming -ag
   "9 vagón 'wagon' + pl. -ok + super. -on 'on'
  ^{120} árny 'shadow/ghost' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -a + acc. -t \rightarrow -\acute{a}t
   121 literary, 'which/that'
   pointed action ra- 'at' + vb. ugrik 'to leap/jump' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. past. indef. -(o)tt 	o ugrott
   <sup>123</sup> fény 'light/glitter' + adj.-forming -es \rightarrow 'bright'
  124 adj. 'dewy'
   125 szén 'coal' + subl. -re 'onto'
   <sup>126</sup> adj. konok 'stubborn' + super. -on 'on (that manner)'
```

## VI

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

## Cursory remark

We are not captives of the world, but of our own heart, which invited the world (the landlord) in for us to contend with. The inner struggle is felt as anguish and yields a feverish soul.

#### **French**

| Voici le tourment intérieur,                      | I |
|---|---|
| pourtant l'explication se trouve à l'extérieur.   | 2 |
| Ta blessure est le monde — en feu, s'échauffant — | 3 |
| et tu sens ton âme, la fièvre.                    | 4 |
| Tu es captif tant que ton cœur se révolte —       | 5 |
| ainsi tu seras libre s'il se complait             | 6 |
| à ne pas bâtir pour toi une maison                | 7 |
| où un propriétaire vient demeurer.                | 8 |

## Spanish

| He aquí el tormento interior,                  | I |
|--|---|
| aunque la explicación yace afuera.             | 2 |
| Tu herida es el mundo — en llamas, caldeando — | 3 |
| y sientes tú alma, la fiebre.                  | 4 |
| Quedas cautivo mientras tu corazón se rebela — | 5 |
| así estarás libre si él se complace            | 6 |
| en no edificarte una casa                      | 7 |
| donde un dueño se asenta.                      | 8 |

| Im <sup>127</sup> itt a szenvedés <sup>128</sup> belül, <sup>129</sup>                      | I |
|---|---|
| ám <sup>130</sup> ott kívül <sup>131</sup> a magyarázat. <sup>132</sup>                     | 2 |
| Sebed <sup>133</sup> a világ — ég, <sup>134</sup> hevül <sup>135</sup>                      | 3 |
| s te <sup>136</sup> lelkedet <sup>137</sup> érzed, <sup>138</sup> a lázat. <sup>139</sup>   | 4 |
| Rab <sup>140</sup> vagy, amíg <sup>141</sup> a szíved <sup>142</sup> lázad <sup>143</sup> — | 5 |
| úgy <sup>144</sup> szabadulsz, <sup>145</sup> ha <sup>146</sup> kényedül <sup>147</sup>     | 6 |
| nem raksz <sup>148</sup> magadnak <sup>149</sup> olyan <sup>150</sup> házat, <sup>151</sup> | 7 |
| melybe <sup>152</sup> háziúr <sup>153</sup> települ. <sup>154</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>127</sup> literary, abbrv. íme 'here is/behold'
<sup>128</sup> vb. szenved 'to suffer' + noun-forming -és
```

<sup>129 &#</sup>x27;inside'

<sup>130</sup> poetic, interj. contrad. 'but'

<sup>131</sup> adv. 'outdoor/outside'

<sup>132</sup> vb. magyaráz 'to explain' + noun-forming -at

<sup>133</sup> seb 'wound' + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -ed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>134</sup> vb. 'to be on fire', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>135</sup> vb. 'to grow hot', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>136</sup> inform. sg. 'you'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>137</sup> *lélek* 'soul' + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -ed  $\rightarrow$  *lelked* + acc. -(e)t

<sup>138</sup> vb. érez 'to feel', 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. def.

<sup>139</sup> láz 'fever' + acc. -(a)t

<sup>140 &#</sup>x27;captive'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>141</sup> adv. 'as long as'; 'until' if followed by negated verb

<sup>142</sup> szíved 'heart' + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -ed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>143</sup> vb. *to rebel*, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>144</sup> úgy ... ha ... 'then ... if ...'

 $<sup>^{145}</sup>$  szabad 'free' + vb.-forming -ul + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -sz

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>147</sup> literary, vb. 'to indulge', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

<sup>148</sup> vb. rak 'to set up/to build', 2rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -52

 $<sup>^{149}</sup>$  maga 'oneself' + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -d + dat. -nak

<sup>150</sup> pron. 'such/that kind of thing'

 $h\acute{a}z$  'house' + acc. -(a)t

<sup>152</sup> literary, arch. mely which' + illative -be 'into (the inside of)'

<sup>153</sup>  $h\acute{a}z$  'house' + adj.-forming 'of the' -i +  $u\'{r}$  'master'

<sup>154</sup> vb. 'to settle (somewhere)', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

#### VII

| I looked up from beneath the evening  | I          |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 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,  | $\epsilon$ |
| and I saw the fabric of the law       | 7          |
| always tearing up somewhere.          | 8          |

#### Cursory remark

Whereas verses 1-2 echo the ancient mechanical understanding of the firmament as concentric spheres, and verses 2-4 hearken back at the mythological Fates (Parcæ), verses 5-8 evoke the image of an aerostat, whose aeronaut is J, where J's dreams are the steam that tries to lift him up, and the law is the envelope, whose tears are J's constant misfortune. (The metaphor is a little off, as balloons use hot air, not steam.)

#### **French**

| Par dessous le soir,                       | I |
|--|---|
| j'ai levé les yeux aux rouages des cieux — | 2 |
| des fils scintillants de la chance         | 3 |
| le métier du passé avait tissé la loi;     | 4 |
| par dessous la vapeur de mes rêves,        | 5 |
| j'ai regardé à nouveau dans les cieux      | 6 |
| et j'ai vu le tissu de la loi              | 7 |
| toujours se déchirer quelque part.         | 8 |

#### Spanish

| Por debajo del atardecer,                              | I |
|--|---|
| levanté los ojos a las ruedas dentadas de los cielos — | 2 |
| de los hilos brillantes de la suerte                   | 3 |
| el telar del pasado había tejado la ley;               | 4 |
| por debajo del vapor de mis sueños,                    | 5 |
| miré de nuevo en los cielos                            | 6 |
| y vi el tejido de la ley                               | 7 |
| siempre destramarse en algún lugar.                    | 8 |

| Én fölnéztem <sup>155</sup> az est <sup>156</sup> alól <sup>157</sup>                        | Ι |
|--|---|
| az eget <sup>158</sup> fogaskerekére <sup>159</sup> —  | 2 |
| csilló <sup>160</sup> véletlen <sup>161</sup> szálaiból <sup>162</sup>                       | 3 |
| törvényt <sup>163</sup> szőtt <sup>164</sup> a mult <sup>165</sup> szövőszéke <sup>166</sup> | 4 |
| és megint <sup>167</sup> fölnéztem az égre <sup>168</sup>                                    | 5 |
| álmaim <sup>169</sup> gőzei <sup>170</sup> alól  | 6 |
| s láttam, 171 a törvény szövedéke 172  | 7 |
| mindig <sup>173</sup> fölfeslik <sup>174</sup> valahol. <sup>175</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)

```
155 vb. pref. föl- 'upwards' + vb. néz 'to look' + 1st pers. sg. past. def. -tem
156 arch. '(in the) evening'
157 al 'lower part' + abl. -l 'from'
^{158} ég 'sky' + acc. -(e)t
159 fogas 'tooth' + kerék 'wheel': 'cogwheel' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e + subl. -re 'towards'
vb. csillog 'to glitter' + adj.-forming -o 	o csillo; usually csillog\acute{o}
161 'chance'
162 szál 'thread' + 3rd pers. sg. poss. -a + poss. pl. -i + elative -ból 'from/out of'
<sup>163</sup> törveny 'law/principle' + acc. -t
<sup>164</sup> vb. sző 'to weave', past part.
165 múlt? rare, past part. 'past', inf. múlik
<sup>166</sup> szövő 'weaver' + szék 'chair': 'loom' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e
167 meg 'again' (short action) + adv.-forming -int
<sup>168</sup> ég 'sky' + subl. sg. -re 'onto'
^{169} álom 'dream' + 1st pers. sg. poss. -a + poss. pl. -i + 1st pers. sg. pers. -m
^{170} gőz 'steam, vapour' + 3rd pers. sg. poss. -e + pl. poss. -i
<sup>171</sup> vb. lát 'to see' + short base -t, 1st pers. sg. past def. -tam
<sup>172</sup> szövedék 'fabric/cloth/web' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e
<sup>173</sup> mind 'always' (repetition) + term. 'until' -ig
<sup>174</sup> vb. pref. föl- 'upwards'+ arch., poetic, vb. feslik 'to come unstitched', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
175 'somewhere'
```

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## VIII

| The silence listened intently — One struck. | I |
|---|---|
| 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 |

## Cursory remark

This is likely a memory of J's imprisonment in 1931.

## French

| Le silence écoutait attentivement — Une heure sonna. | I |
|--|---|
| Tu pourrais visiter ton enfance;                     | 2 |
| entre les murs de ciment humide                      | 3 |
| ru pourrais imaginer un peu de liberté —             | 4 |
| ne dis-je. Et dès que je fus sur pied,               | 5 |
| es étoiles, la Grande Ourse                          | 6 |
| scintillaient en effet au-dessus,                    | 7 |
| comme les grilles en haut dans ma cellule.           | 8 |
|  |   |

| Fülelt <sup>176</sup> a csend <sup>177</sup> — egyet <sup>178</sup> ütött <sup>179</sup>    | I |
|---|---|
| Fölkereshetnéd <sup>180</sup> ifjúságod; <sup>181</sup>                                     | 2 |
| nyirkos <sup>182</sup> cementfalak <sup>183</sup> között <sup>184</sup>                     | 3 |
| képzelhetsz <sup>185</sup> egy kis sabadságot <sup>186</sup> —                              | 4 |
| gondoltam. <sup>187</sup> S hát <sup>188</sup> amint <sup>189</sup> fölállok <sup>190</sup> | 5 |
| a csillagok,191 a Göncölök192   | 6 |
| úgy fénylenek <sup>193</sup> fönt, <sup>194</sup> mint a rácsok <sup>195</sup>              | 7 |
| a hallgatag <sup>196</sup> cella <sup>197</sup> fölött. <sup>198</sup>                      | 8 |

#### Chiastic structure:

```
I-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)
```

```
<sup>176</sup> fül 'ear' + vb.-forming -el: 'to listen (intently)' + 3rd pers. ind. past indef. -t
  177 'silence'. alt. csönd
  ^{178} egy + acc. -t
  <sup>179</sup> vb. \ddot{u}t 'to strike' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. past indef. -(\ddot{o})tt
  180 föl- 'upwards' + keres 'to seek': 'to visit' + pot. 'may/might' -het + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. cond.
-ned, alt. felkeres
   adj. ifjú 'young' + noun-forming -ság (state of being): 'youth' + 2nd pers. informal sg. poss. single
poss. -od: 'your childhood' (informal)
   182 adj. 'humid/damp'
   183 cement 'cement' + fal 'wall' + pl. -ak
  <sup>184</sup> post. 'between/amid', köz 'interval' + loc. -ött
   ^{185} \hat{k}\acute{e}p 'image' + vb.-forming -(z)el: 'to imagine' + pot. -het + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. -sz
  <sup>186</sup> szabad 'free' + -ság (state of being): 'freedom' + acc. -(a)t
  <sup>187</sup> vb. gondol 'to think/plan/guess/worry' + 1st pers. sg. ind. past -tam
  188 'back body', 'well...', 'then/and/but' (questioning back), 'surely'
  <sup>189</sup> az + mint 'like': 'as soon as', literary 'as'
  190 föl- 'upwards' + vb. áll 'to stand' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -ok, alt. felállok
   <sup>191</sup> csillag 'star' + pl. -ak
  <sup>192</sup> G\ddot{o}nc\ddot{o}l + pl. - \ddot{o}k: 'the Great Bear' (constellation)
   193 fény 'light' + freq. vb.-forming -lik: 'to glitter' + 3rd pers. pl. ind. pres. indef. -ek
  194 adv. 'above/up/awake/upstairs', alt. fent
   195 rács 'grid/grille' + pl. -ok
  196 vb. hallgat 'to remain silent/to listen' + adj.-forming -ag
   <sup>198</sup> föl- 'up/upwards' + loc. -ött: 'above', alt. elett
```

#### IX

| I heard iron weeping,                    | I |
|--|---|
| 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 should I also forge a weapon         | 7 |
| out of you, golden self-awareness!       | 8 |

#### Cursory remark

Verses 1-2 refer to the sounds of iron being forged and quenched in water. The blacksmith is fixing a crack, which reminds J of a painful past event, possibly a breakup. Verses 3-6 form a chiasm: verse 5 echoes 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 the kiln.

#### French

| T) . 1 1 C 1                                  |   |
|---|---|
| J'ai entendu le fer sangloter,                | I |
| j'ai entendu la pluie rire.                   | 2 |
| Je vis que le passé était craquelé            | 3 |
| et que seuls les souvenirs peuvent s'oublier, | 4 |
| et comment je ne peux qu'aimer,               | 5 |
| pliant sous mes fardeaux —                    | 6 |
| pourquoi devrais-je aussi forger une arme     | 7 |
| de toi, for intérieur doré!                   | 8 |
|   |   |

| Hallottam <sup>199</sup> sírni <sup>200</sup> a vasat, <sup>201</sup>  | I |
|--|---|
| hallottam az esőt <sup>202</sup> nevetni. <sup>203</sup>   | 2 |
| Láttam, <sup>204</sup> hogy <sup>205</sup> a mult <sup>206</sup> meghasadt <sup>207</sup>                        | 3 |
| s csak <sup>208</sup> képzetet <sup>209</sup> lehet <sup>210</sup> feledni; <sup>211</sup>                       | 4 |
| s hogy <sup>212</sup> nem tudok <sup>213</sup> mást, <sup>214</sup> mint <sup>215</sup> szeretni, <sup>216</sup> | 5 |
| görnyedve <sup>217</sup> terheim <sup>218</sup> alatt <sup>219</sup> —   | 6 |
| minek <sup>220</sup> is <sup>221</sup> kell <sup>222</sup> fegyvert <sup>223</sup> veretni <sup>224</sup>        | 7 |
| belőled, <sup>225</sup> arany <sup>226</sup> öntudat! <sup>227</sup>   | 8 |

#### Chiastic structure:

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)

```
199 vb. hall 'to hear' + 1st pers. sg. ind. past def. -ottam
200 vb. sír 'to cry/weep' + inf. -ni
vas 'iron' + acc. -(a)t
vb. es, inf. esik + pres. part. -\ddot{o} + acc. -t
<sup>203</sup> vb. nevet 'to laugh', inf. nevetni
<sup>204</sup> vb. lát 'to see' + short base -t, 1st pers. sg. past def. -tam
<sup>205</sup> adv. 'how'
206 múlt? rare, past part. 'past', inf. múlik
<sup>207</sup> perfective meg- + vb. hasad 'to crack/split apart' + past part. -t
<sup>209</sup> képzet 'idea/image/notion' + acc. -t
pot. vb. van/lesz: 'may be/may become', 3rd pers. sg. ind.
<sup>211</sup> lit. vb. feled 'to forget', alt. felejt
212 adv. 'how'
<sup>213</sup> vb. tud 'to know'/aux. 'can + inf.' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -ok
^{214} adj. m\acute{a}s 'other/different' + acc. -t
<sup>215</sup> comp. different degrees 'than'
inf. vb. szeret 'to love'
<sup>217</sup> vb. görnyed 'to bend (under a burden)' + adv.-forming -ve
<sup>218</sup> teher 'freight/burden' + 1st pers. sg. poss. mult. poss. -eim \rightarrow terheim
<sup>219</sup> post. al- 'lower part'+ loc. -(a)tt
<sup>220</sup> mi + dat. -nek: 'for what'
<sup>221</sup> doublet of és 'and', adv. 'also'
<sup>222</sup> aux. vb. 'must/need to/have to + inf.'
<sup>223</sup> fegyever 'weapon' + acc. -t
<sup>224</sup> inf. vb. 'to hammer', alt. veretés
<sup>225</sup> pron. belőle 'out of him/her/it' + 2nd pers. sg. -d
<sup>226</sup> 'gold/golden'
<sup>227</sup> 'self-awareness'
```

#### $\mathbf{X}$

| He is a grown man he who has                 | I |
|--|---|
| neither mother nor father in his heart,      | 2 |
| he who knows that he receives life           | 3 |
| as an extra to death, and that he returns it | 4 |
| any time, like a found object                | 5 |
| — therefore he treasures it,                 | 6 |
| he who is neither a god nor a priest,        | 7 |
| neither to himself nor to others.            | 8 |

## Cursory remark

An integral man (the Hungarian language is actually gender neutral) knows that his parents cannot protect him anymore from the truth of mortality. This truth is not treasured by gods, as they are immortal, nor Christian priests, who preach eternal life.

#### **French**

| Il est un homme accompli celui qui n'a          | I |
|---|---|
| ni mère ni père en son cœur,                    | 2 |
| celui qui sait qu'il reçoit la vie              | 3 |
| tel un supplément à la mort, et qu'il la rendra | 4 |
| à tout moment, comme un objet trouvé            | 5 |
| — par conséquent il la garde précieusement,     | 6 |
| celui qui n'est ni un dieu ni un prêtre,        | 7 |
| ni pour lui-même, ni pour autrui.               | 8 |
|   |   |

| Az meglett <sup>228</sup> ember <sup>229</sup> , akinek <sup>230</sup>                       | I |
|--|---|
| szívében <sup>231</sup> nincs se anyja, <sup>232</sup> apja, <sup>233</sup>                  | 2 |
| ki <sup>234</sup> tudja, <sup>235</sup> hogy <sup>236</sup> az életet <sup>237</sup>         | 3 |
| halálra <sup>238</sup> ráadásul <sup>239</sup> kapja <sup>240</sup>                          | 4 |
| s mint <sup>241</sup> talált <sup>242</sup> tárgyat <sup>243</sup> visszaadja <sup>244</sup> | 5 |
| bármikor <sup>245</sup> — ezért <sup>246</sup> őrzi <sup>247</sup> meg, <sup>248</sup>       | 6 |
| ki <sup>249</sup> nem istene <sup>250</sup> és nem papja <sup>251</sup>                      | 7 |
| se <sup>252</sup> magának, <sup>253</sup> sem senkinek. <sup>254</sup>                       | 8 |

#### Chiastic structure:

```
1-4: [k]i-[n]e[k](8)/a[p]-[j]a(9)/e-e(8)/a[p]-[j]a(9)
5-8: a[d]-[j]a(9)/i-e(8)/a[p]-[j]a(9)/[k]i-[n]e[k](8)
```

```
228 obs. 'adult'
229 'person'
<sup>230</sup> pron. aki 'who' + attr. poss. -nek
<sup>23I</sup> szív 'heart' + poss. 'his' -e + innes. 'in' -ben
<sup>232</sup> anya 'mother' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -(j)a
<sup>233</sup> apa 'father' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -(j)a
<sup>234</sup> pron. rel. arch. 'he who', alt. aki
<sup>235</sup> vb. tud 'to know' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -ja
<sup>236</sup> conj. 'so that'
<sup>237</sup> élet 'life' + acc. -(e)t
<sup>238</sup> vb. hal 'to die' + arch. noun-forming -\acute{a}l \rightarrow 'death' + subl. 'on/for' -ra \rightarrow 'to death'
<sup>239</sup> ráadás 'addition/extra' + essive 'as/with the intention of -ul
^{240} vb. kap 'to receive' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pers. def. -ja
241 'like'
<sup>242</sup> vb. talált 'to find' + past part.
<sup>243</sup> tárgy 'object/thing/subject' + acc. -(a)t
<sup>244</sup> vb. visszaad 'to give back' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -ja
^{245} b\acute{a}r 'any' + adv. mikor 'when' 
ightarrow 'any time'
<sup>246</sup> conj. 'therefore'
^{247} vb. "oriz" to guard" + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -i
<sup>248</sup> arch. emph.
<sup>249</sup> 'he who'
<sup>250</sup> isten 'god' + 3rd pers. sg. sing. poss. -e
<sup>251</sup> pap 'priest' + 3rd pers. sg. sing. poss. -(j)a
<sup>252</sup> alt. sem, sem ..., sem ... 'neither ... nor ...'
<sup>253</sup> pron. refl. 3rd pers. 'himself'
<sup>254</sup> pron. senki 'no one/nobody'
```

#### XI

| I saw happiness; it was soft, bright       | I |
|--|---|
| and one and half a quintal.                | 2 |
| On the coarse grass of the farmyard        | 3 |
| its curly smile swayed.                    | 4 |
| It plopped into the squishy, tepid puddle, | 5 |
| squinted, further grunted at me once —     | 6 |
| To this day I see how hesitantly           | 7 |
| the sunlight toyed with its bristles.      | 8 |
|  |   |

#### Cursory remark

While this seems a rather descriptive poem, the first and last two verses are subjective. Also the last verse echoes the first, in the fashion of a chiasm: verse I is about seeing happiness, and the last features light and playfulness: the Hungarian uses *fény* for 'light', but it could figuratively also mean 'joy', hence my translation: 'the sunlight toyed'.

#### **French**

| J'ai vu le bonheur; il était doux, brillant            | I |
|--|---|
| et un quintal et demi.                                 | 2 |
| Sur la mauvaise herbe de la cour de ferme              | 3 |
| son sourire courbé se balançait.                       | 4 |
| Il se laissa tomber dans la marre tiède et spongieuse, | 5 |
| plissa ses yeux, puis me grogna une fois —             | 6 |
| Jusqu'à ce jour, je vois avec quelle hésitation        | 7 |
| la lumière du jour jouait avec ses poils.              | 8 |
| , , , <b>1</b>   |   |

| Láttam <sup>255</sup> a boldogságot <sup>256</sup> én, <sup>257</sup>  | I |
|--|---|
| lágy <sup>258</sup> volt, <sup>259</sup> szőke <sup>260</sup> és másfél <sup>261</sup> mázsa. <sup>262</sup> | 2 |
| Az udvar <sup>263</sup> szigorú <sup>264</sup> gyöpén <sup>265</sup>   | 3 |
| imbolygott <sup>266</sup> göndör <sup>267</sup> mosolygása. <sup>268</sup>                                   | 4 |
| Ledőlt <sup>269</sup> a puha, <sup>270</sup> langy <sup>271</sup> tócsába, <sup>272</sup>                    | 5 |
| hunyorgott, <sup>273</sup> röffent <sup>274</sup> még <sup>275</sup> felém <sup>276</sup> —                  | 6 |
| ma <sup>277</sup> is <sup>278</sup> látom, <sup>279</sup> mily <sup>280</sup> tétovázva <sup>281</sup>       | 7 |
| babrált <sup>282</sup> pihéi <sup>283</sup> közt <sup>284</sup> a fény. <sup>285</sup>                       | 8 |

#### Chiastic structure:

1-4: 0-é(8)/á-a(9)/ö-é(8)/á-a(9) 5-8: á-a(9)/e-é(8)/á-a(9)/a-é(8)

```
<sup>255</sup> vb. lát 'to see' + short base -t, 1st pers. sg. past def. -tam
<sup>256</sup> adj. boldog 'happy' + noun-forming -ság (state of being) + acc. -(o)t
257 pron. 'I'
<sup>258</sup> adj. 'soft'
<sup>259</sup> vb. van 'to be'+ 3rd pers. sg. ind. past indef.
<sup>260</sup> adj. sző 'blonde' + dim. -ke
^{261} más 'other/different' + fél 'half' 
ightarrow 'one and a half'
<sup>262</sup> 'quintal'
<sup>263</sup> 'yard'
<sup>264</sup> adj. 'severe/strict'
<sup>265</sup> gyep 'lawn/grass' + super. -én
<sup>266</sup> vb. imbolyog 'to sway'+ 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e
<sup>267</sup> adj. 'curly'
<sup>268</sup> mosolygása 'smile' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e
<sup>269</sup> vb. ledoől 'to fall down' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. past indef. -t
270 'soft/squishy'
<sup>271</sup> arch. poetic langyos 'tepid'
<sup>272</sup> tócsa 'puddle' + illative -ba 'into'
<sup>273</sup> vb hunyorg 'to squint' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. past. indef. -rgott
<sup>274</sup> röffen 'to grunt once (of a pig)'
<sup>275</sup> adv. 'still/moreover'
<sup>276</sup> post. felé 'to/towards' + 1st pers. sg. poss -m \rightarrow pron. 'towards me'
<sup>277</sup> adv. 'today'
<sup>278</sup> doublet of és 'and', adv. 'also'
<sup>279</sup> vb. lát 'to see'+ 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. def.
280 poetic 'how ...(!)'
vb. tétova 'to hesitate' (inf. tétovazik) \rightarrow adv. part. 'doing smth hesitantly'
282 vb. babrál 'to fiddle'
<sup>283</sup> pihe 'down, fluff' + adj.-forming -i
<sup>284</sup> post. 'between/amid' from között: köz 'interval' + loc. -ött
<sup>285</sup> 'light/glitter', fig. 'happiness/joy'
```

## XII

je m'accoude et garde le silence.

French

| I live by a railroad.                                      | I |
|--|---|
| Many a train comes and goes,                               | 2 |
| and I watch from afar                                      | 3 |
| how the bright windows fly by                              | 4 |
| in the wavering, fluffy darkness.                          | 5 |
| So the lit-up days rush into the eternal night,            | 6 |
| and I stand in the light from the compartments,            | 7 |
| I rest on my elbow and remain silent.                      | 8 |
| In via mula du abamin da fan                               |   |
| Je vis près du chemin de fer.<br>Nombreux sont les trains  | I |
|  | 2 |
| qui viennent et vont, et j'observe de loin                 | 3 |
| comment les fenêtres illuminées défilent                   | 4 |
| dans l'obscurité fluctuante et peluchée.                   | 5 |
| Ainsi les jours clairs se pressent dans la nuit éternelle, | 6 |
| et je me tiens dans la lumière des compartiments,          | 7 |

8

| Vasútnál <sup>286</sup> lakom. <sup>287</sup> Erre <sup>288</sup> sok <sup>289</sup>                         | I |
|--|---|
| vonat <sup>290</sup> jön <sup>291</sup> -megy <sup>292</sup> és el <sup>293</sup> -elnézem, <sup>294</sup>   | 2 |
| hogy' <sup>295</sup> szállnak <sup>296</sup> fényes <sup>297</sup> ablakok <sup>298</sup>                    | 3 |
| a lengedező <sup>299</sup> szösz <sup>300</sup> -sötétben. <sup>301</sup>                                    | 4 |
| Így <sup>302</sup> iramlanak <sup>303</sup> örök <sup>304</sup> éjben <sup>305</sup>                         | 5 |
| kivilágított <sup>306</sup> nappalok <sup>307</sup>  | 6 |
| s én <sup>308</sup> állok <sup>309</sup> minden <sup>310</sup> fülke <sup>311</sup> -fényben, <sup>312</sup> | 7 |
| én könyöklök <sup>313</sup> és hallgatok. <sup>314</sup>   | 8 |

#### Chiastic structure:

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

```
<sup>286</sup> vas 'iron' + ut 'way/road' + adess. -nal 'at/by'
  ^{287} vb. lak 'to dwell', inf. lakik, 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. -(o)m
  <sup>288</sup> pron. ez 'this/it' + subl. sg. -re 'onto/to'
  289 much/many
  <sup>290</sup> vb. von 'to pull/to draw' + noun-forming -at \rightarrow 'train'
   <sup>291</sup> vb. 'to come' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
  <sup>292</sup> vb. 'to go/travel/pass by (of time)' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
  <sup>293</sup> adv./conj. 'afar/far away'
  <sup>294</sup> vb. pref. el 'continuity over a long time' + vb. nez 'to look at'
  <sup>295</sup> short. bogyan? 'how'
  <sup>296</sup> vb. száll 'to fly/land/to come down' + 3rd pers. pl. ind. pres. indef.
  <sup>297</sup> fény 'light/glitter' + adj.-forming -es → 'bright'
  <sup>298</sup> ablak 'window' + pl. -(0)k
  <sup>299</sup> vb. leng 'to swing/sway/wave' + freq. vb.-forming -edezik (unrounded front-vowel) + pres. part. -ő
\rightarrow 'swinging/waving'
  300 'harl/fluff'
   301 adj./subst. sötét 'dark[ness]' + iness. sg. -ben 'in'
  302 'just so'
   <sup>303</sup> ir 'movement' + rare instr. vb.-forming -amlik (inf.) \rightarrow 'to rush/hurry' + 3rd pers. pl. ind. pres.
indef. -(a)nak
   304 'perpetual/eternal'
   <sup>305</sup> poetic éj 'night' + innes. 'in' -ben
  <sup>306</sup> vb. pref. ki 'outwardly' + vil\acute{a}g 'light (arch.)/world' \rightarrow arch. 'illumination' + caus. vb.-forming -it
'to make smth ...-like' \rightarrow 'to illuminate' + past part. -ott
   <sup>307</sup> nap 'day' + instr. -val 'with' \rightarrow nappal + pl. -(o)k
  <sup>308</sup> pron. 'I'
  <sup>309</sup> vb. áll 'to stand' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -ok
   310 det. 'every'
   ^{3\Pi} fül 'semi-circular obj./shape' + dim. -ke \rightarrow 'compartment'
   <sup>312</sup> fény 'light/glitter' + innes. -ben 'in'
   313 könyök 'elbow' + vb.-forming -\ddot{o}l \rightarrow 'to rest on one's elbow' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pers. -\ddot{o}k
   314 vb. hallgat 'to remain silent/to listen' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -ok
```

# Chapter 3

# 

| Majd megöregszel és bánni fogod,           | I  |
|--|----|
| nogy bántasz, - azt, amire büszke vagy ma. | 2  |
| A lelkiismeret majd bekopog                | 3  |
| s nem lesz emlék, melyben magadra hagyna.  | 4  |
| Lesz vén ebed s az melléd települ.         | 5  |
| Nappal pihensz majd, széken szunyókálva,   | 6  |
| mert éjjel félni fogsz majd egyedül.       | 7  |
| Árnyak ütnek a rezgő anyókára.             | 8  |
| Az öreg kutya néha majd nyafog,            | 9  |
| de a szobában csend lesz, csupa rend lesz; | Ю  |
| nanem valaki hiányozni fog                 | II |
| a multból ahhoz a magányos csendhez.       | 12 |
| Majd tipegsz s ha eleget totyogott         | 13 |
| ossz lábod, leülsz. Fönn aranykeretben     | 14 |
| íll ifju képed. Hozzá motyogod:            | 15 |
| 'Nem öleltem meg, hiszen nem szerettem."   | 16 |
| 'Mit is tehettem volna?" - kérdezed,       | 17 |
| de fogatlan szád már nem válaszolhat;      | 18 |
| s ki a nap előtt lehunyod szemed,          | 19 |
| alig várod, hogy feljöjjön, a holdat.      | 20 |
| Mert ha elalszol, ugrál majd az ágy,       | 21 |
| mint a csikó, hogy a hámot levesse.        | 22 |
| S a félelem tünődik, nem a vágy,           | 23 |
| a fejedben: Szeress-e, ne szeress-e.       | 24 |
| Magadban döntöd el. Én fájlalom,           | 25 |
| nogy nem felelhetek, ha kérded: él-e.      | 26 |

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| Mert elfárad bennem a fájdalom,        | 27 |
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| elalszik, mint a gyermek s én is véle. | 28 |

1936. nov.