# Collected Poems

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# Chapter 1

1934

# 1.1 Consciousness (Eszmélet)

I

Dawn unbinds sky from earth and at its clear, soft word beetles and children spin forth into the daylight; there is no moisture in the air, the bright levity floats!

Overnight they alighted on the trees like small butterflies, the leaves.

Földtől¹ eloldja² az eget³ a hajnal⁴ s tiszta⁵, lágy⁶ szavára³ a bogarak,⁵ a gyerekek kipörögnek⁰ a napvilágra¹⁰; a levegőben¹¹ semmi pára¹², a csilló³³ könnyűség lebeg.⁴¹⁴ Az éjjel¹⁵ rászálltak¹⁶ a fákra,¹⁵ mint¹⁵ kis¹⁰ lepkék,²⁰ a levelek.²¹

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"föld "earth" + ablative -től "without/from"
    <sup>2</sup>el- "away" + vb. stem old "to unbind" + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -ja
    ^{3}\acute{e}g "sky" + acc. -et \rightarrow eget
    4"dawn"
    5adj. "bright"
    6adj. "soft"
    ^{7}szó "voice", "word" + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -a \rightarrow szava + subl. -ra
"onto/by" → szavára
    ^8bog\acute{a}r "beetle" + pl. -(a)k \rightarrow bogarak
    <sup>9</sup>vb. stem kipörög "to spin" + 3rd pers. pl. ind. pres. indef. -nek
   "onap "sun/day" + világ "world" + subl. -ra "onto/by"
    "levegő "air" + innessive -ben "in"
    12"moisture", "mist"
    ^{13}vb. stem csillog "to glitter" + adj.-forming -o 	o csillo; usually csillogo
   <sup>14</sup>vb. stem lebeg "to float (in the air)", 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
    "15 éj "night" + instrumental -vel "with" 
ightarrow éjjel
   <sup>16</sup>pointed action rá- "on" + vb. stem száll "to fly/to land" + 3rd pers. sg.
past indef. -tak
   ^{17}fa "tree" + pl. -k + subl. -ra "onto/by" 
ightarrow fákra
    ¹8̃"like"
   19"small"
   ^{20} lepke "butterfly" + pl. -k 
ightarrow lepkék
   ^{21}level "leaf" + pl. -(e)k
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#### II

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

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

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<sup>22</sup> össze "together" + ken "smear" \rightarrow összeken + 3rd pers. sg. past indef. -t
   ^{23}kép "picture" + pl. -(e)k + acc. -et
   <sup>24</sup>vb. stem lát "to see" + short base -t, 1st pers. sg. past def. -tam
   ^{25}álom "dream" + 1st pers. sg. poss. -a + poss. pl. -i + 1st pers. sg. pers. -m
+ innessive -ban "in" \rightarrow álmaimban
   <sup>26</sup>vb. stem érez "to feel", 1st pers. sg. past def.
   <sup>27</sup>"order"
   <sup>28</sup>vb. stem száll "to fly" + pres. part. -ó
   <sup>29</sup>"a speck of dust"
   ^{30}vb. stem hibban "to become imbalanced", arch. + past part. -t
   <sup>31</sup>homály "blur" + essive formal -ként "as"
   3^2 tag "member" + 1st pers. sg. poss. -ja + poss. pl. -i + 1st pers. sg. pers.
-m + innessive -ban "in" → tagjaimban
   33"iron"
   34 nap "day" + instrumental -val "with"
   <sup>36</sup>vb. stem "to rise", 3rd pers. sg. pres. def., arch. alt. kel
   <sup>37</sup>pron. benne "inside smth/smb" + 1st pers. sg. pers. -m
   38"when"
   39"outside"
   40"night"
   <sup>41</sup>vb. stem "to roast/to shine", 3rd pers. sg. pres. indef.
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42 adv. ide "here" + bent "within"

#### III

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

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

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43"slim", "thin", fig. "poor"
   <sup>44</sup>keny\acute{e}r "bread" + acc. -et \rightarrow kenyeret
   <sup>45</sup>vb. stem esz "to eat", rare without verbal pref., inf. enni + 1st pers. sg.
ind. pres. def. -em \rightarrow eszem
   <sup>46</sup>adv. "sometimes"
   <sup>47</sup>poetic abbrv. eme/ez "this"
   <sup>48</sup> improvident/idler"
   49 adj. "blethering"
   50 lélek "soul" + pl. -(e)k \rightarrow lelkek
    <sup>51</sup>post. "between/amid" from között: köz "interval" + locative -ött
   52 fig. arch. "in vain", usually "free of charge"
   53vb. stem keres "to seek" + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
   54 adj. bizonyos "certain" + comp. -abb "more" + acc. -t
   55"like"
   56"a die"
   <sup>57</sup>vb. stem "to press against", 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
   ^{58}vb. stem 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 	o szám + allative -hoz "to-
wards" → számhoz
   61 szivem "heart" + allative -hez "towards"
   62 kis "small" + gyerek "child"
   <sup>63</sup>vb. stem ügyesked "to be clever" + 3rd pers. sg. pres. potential -het
   <sup>64</sup>vb. stem "to hold", 3rd pers. sg. pers. indef.
   65"cat"
   66 adv. egyszer "at once" + ablative -re "onto"
   <sup>67</sup>adv. "outside"
   68 adv. "inside"
   ^{69}egér "mouse" + acc. -t → egeret
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## IV

Just like a pile of logs, the world lies in a jumble; each thing presses, weighs on, holds fast to another, and so everything is determined. Only what is not has a shrub, only that will be that flower; what is falls to pieces. Akár<sup>70</sup> egy halom<sup>71</sup> hasított<sup>72</sup> fa,<sup>73</sup> hever<sup>74</sup> egymáson<sup>75</sup> a világ,<sup>76</sup> szorítja,<sup>77</sup> nyomja,<sup>78</sup> összefogja<sup>79</sup> egyik<sup>80</sup> dolog<sup>81</sup> a másikát<sup>82</sup> s így"just so" mindenik<sup>83</sup> determinált.<sup>84</sup> Csak<sup>85</sup> ami<sup>86</sup> nincs, annak<sup>87</sup> van bokra,<sup>88</sup> csak ami lesz,<sup>89</sup> az a virág, ami van, széthull<sup>90</sup> darabokra.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>70</sup>conj. literary "just like"
    71"pile/heap"
   <sup>72</sup>vb. stem hasit "to cleave/to split" + past. part. -ott
    73"tree"
   <sup>74</sup>vb. stem "to lie", 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
    <sup>75</sup>pron. egymás "each other/one another" + superessive -on "on"
   76"world"
   <sup>77</sup>vb. stem szorít "to press/to constrict", inf. szorítani + 3rd pers. sg. ind.
pres. def. -ja
   ^{78}vb. stem nyom "to weigh" + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -ja
    <sup>79</sup>össze "together" + vb. stem fog "to hold" + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def.
-ja

<sup>80</sup>egy "one" + 3rd pers. pl. poss. -ik "of"
    81"thing"
    82 pron. másik "another" + acc. -at (-át?)
    83 adv. minden "everyone/everything"
    <sup>84</sup>Latin determinare + vb.-forming -ál "to determine" + past part. -t
    85"only"
    86 rel. pron. "which/that"
    <sup>87</sup>art. \overline{az} "that" + attr. poss. -nak \rightarrow annak
   <sup>88</sup> bokor "shrub/bush" + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -a
    <sup>89</sup>vb. stem "to become", 3rd pers. sg. ind. fut. indef.
   90 vb. stem "to fall apart", 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
    <sup>91</sup>adv. darab "piece/chunk" + pl. -ok + subl. -ra "into"
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#### V

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

A teherpályudvaron<sup>92</sup>
úgy<sup>93</sup> lapultam<sup>94</sup> a fa<sup>95</sup> tövéhez,<sup>96</sup>
mint<sup>97</sup> egy darab<sup>98</sup> csönd<sup>99</sup>; szürke<sup>100</sup> gyom<sup>101</sup>
ért<sup>102</sup> számhoz,<sup>103</sup> nyers,<sup>104</sup> különös-édes.
Holtan<sup>105</sup> lestem<sup>106</sup> az őrt,<sup>107</sup> mit<sup>108</sup> érez,<sup>109</sup>
s a hallgatag<sup>110</sup> vagónokon<sup>111</sup>
árnyát,<sup>112</sup> mely<sup>113</sup> ráugrott<sup>114</sup> a fényes,<sup>115</sup>
harmatos<sup>116</sup> szénre<sup>117</sup> konokon.<sup>118</sup>

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<sup>92</sup>teher "freight" + pálya "track" + udvar "courtyard" (pályaudvar "train
station") + superessive -on "on"
   93 adv. "so (in this/that manner)"
   94vb. stem lapul "to lie low" + 1st pers. sg. past indef. -tam
   95"tree"
   ^{96}t\ddot{o} "base of the stem of a plant" + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e "of" \rightarrow t\ddot{o}ve
+ allative -hez "towards" \rightarrow tövéhez
   97"like"
   98"piece"
   99" silence", alt. csend
  100 adj. "grey"
  ю weed"
   <sup>102</sup>vb. stem ért "to reach/to understand", arch. "to touch", 3rd pers. sg.
   <sup>103</sup>száj "mouth" + 1st pers. sg. single poss. -m \rightarrow szám + allative "towards"
-hoz → számhoz
  104 adj. "raw"
   105 holt "dead" + adv.-forming -an
  106 vb. stem les "to spy" + 1st pers. sg. past indef. -tem
  <sup>107</sup> őr "guard" + асс. -t
  108 inter. "what"
  109 vb. stem "to feel/to smell/to taste", 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
   по vb. stem hallgat "to remain silent/to listen" + adj.-forming -ag
   <sup>пи</sup>vagón "wagon" + pl. -ok + superessive -on "on"
   "2 árny "shadow/ghost" + acc. -at (-át?)
   "3literary, "which/that"
   "4 pointed action ra-"at" + vb. stem ugrik "to leap/to jump" + 3rd pers.
sg. ind. past. indef. -ott \rightarrow ugrott
   115 adj. "bright"
   п6 adj. "dewy"
   п7 szén "coal" + subl. -re "onto"
   <sup>118</sup>adj. konok "stubborn" + superessive -on "on (that manner)"
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## VI

Behold the anguish inside, yet the explanation lies outside.
Your wound is the world — on fire, burning up — and you feel your soul, the fever.
You are captive as long as your heart rebels — then you are free if it indulges not building for yourself a house where a landlord settles in.

Im<sup>119</sup> itt a szenvedés<sup>120</sup> belül,<sup>121</sup>
ám<sup>122</sup> ott kívül<sup>123</sup> a magyarázat.<sup>124</sup>
Sebed<sup>125</sup> a világ — ég,<sup>126</sup> hevül<sup>127</sup>
s te lelkedet<sup>128</sup> érzed,<sup>129</sup> a lázat.<sup>130</sup>
Rab<sup>131</sup> vagy, amíg<sup>132</sup> a szíved<sup>133</sup> lázad<sup>134</sup> — úgy<sup>135</sup> szabadulsz,<sup>136</sup> ha<sup>137</sup> kényedül<sup>138</sup>
nem raksz<sup>139</sup> magadnak<sup>140</sup> olyan<sup>141</sup> házat,<sup>142</sup> melybe<sup>143</sup> háziúr<sup>144</sup> települ.<sup>145</sup>

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119 literary, abbrv. ime "here is/behold"
<sup>120</sup>vb. stem szenved "to suffer" + noun-forming -és
121"inside"
122 poetic, interj. contrad. "but"
123 adv. "outdoor/outside"
<sup>124</sup>vb. stem magyaráz "to explain" + noun-forming -at
125 seb "wound" + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -ed
126 vb. stem "to be on fire", 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
127 vb. stem "to grow hot", 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
^{128} lélek "soul" + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -ed \rightarrow lelked + acc. -et
129 vb. stem érez "to feel", 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. def.
<sup>130</sup> láz "fever" + acc. -at
131"captive"
132 adv. "as long as"; "until" if followed by negated verb
133 szíved "heart" + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -ed
<sup>134</sup>vb. stem to rebel, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
<sup>135</sup>úgy ... ha ... "then ... if ..."
136 szabad "free" + vb.-forming -ul + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -sz
138 literary, vb. stem "to indulge", 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
139 vb. stem rak "to set up/to build", 2rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -52
^{140} maga "oneself" + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -d + dat. -nak
<sup>141</sup>pron. "such/that kind of thing"
<sup>142</sup> ház "house" + acc. -at
<sup>143</sup>literary, arch. mely which" + illative -be "into (the inside of)"
"44 ház "house" + adj.-forming "of the" -i + \mu r "master"
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<sup>145</sup>vb. stem "to settle (somewhere)", 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.

#### VII

I looked up from beneath the evening to the cogwheels of the heavens — from the glittering threads of chance the loom of the past wove the law, and I looked up again onto the sky from beneath the steam of my dreams, and I saw the fabric of the law always tearing up somewhere.

Én fölnéztem<sup>146</sup> az est<sup>147</sup> alól<sup>148</sup> az eget<sup>149</sup> fogaskerekére<sup>150</sup> — csilló<sup>151</sup> véletlen<sup>152</sup> szálaiból<sup>153</sup> törvényt<sup>154</sup> szőtt<sup>155</sup> a mult<sup>156</sup> szövőszéke<sup>157</sup> és megint<sup>158</sup> fölnéztem az égre<sup>159</sup> álmaim<sup>160</sup> gőzei<sup>161</sup> alól s láttam,<sup>162</sup> a törvény szövedéke<sup>163</sup> mindig<sup>164</sup> fölfeslik<sup>165</sup> valahol.<sup>166</sup>

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146 vb. pref. föl- "up/upwards" + vb. stem néz "to look" + 1st pers. sg. past.
def. -tem
  147 arch. "(in the) evening"
  148 al "lower part" + abl. -l "from"
  ^{149}\acute{e}g "sky" + acc. -(e)t
  <sup>150</sup> fogas "tooth" + kerék "wheel": "cogwheel" + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e
+ subl. -re "towards"
   <sup>151</sup>vb. stem csillog "to glitter" + adj.-forming -o \rightarrow csillo; usually csillogo
   152 "chance"
   "thread" + 3rd pers. sg. poss. -a + poss. pl. -i + elative -b\acute{o}l
"from/out of"
  <sup>154</sup>törveny "law/principle" + acc. -t
  155 vb. stem sző "to weave", past part.
  156 múlt? rare. past part. "past", inf. múlik
  157 szövő "weaver" + szék "chair": "loom" + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e
  158 meg "again" (short action) + adv.-forming -int
  <sup>159</sup>ég "sky" + subl. sg. -re "onto"
  "dream" + 1st pers. sg. poss. -a + poss. pl. -i + 1st pers. sg. pers. -m
  ^{161}gőz "steam, vapour" + 3rd pers. sg. poss. -e + pl. poss. -i
  <sup>162</sup>vb. stem lát "to see" + short base -t, 1st pers. sg. past def. -tam
  ^{163}szövedék "fabric/cloth/web" + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e
  <sup>164</sup>mind "always" (repetition) + term. "until" -ig
  165 vb. pref. föl- "up/upwards"+ arch., poetic, vb. stem feslik "to come
unstitched", 3rd pers. sg. pres. indef.
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166"somewhere"

## VIII

The silence listened intently — One struck. You could visit your childhood; between the damp cement walls you could imagine a bit of freedom — I thought. And as soon as I stood up, the stars, the Great Bear indeed were glittering above, like bars above the silent cell.

Fülelt<sup>167</sup> a csend<sup>168</sup> — egyet<sup>169</sup> ütött<sup>170</sup> Fölkereshetnéd<sup>171</sup> ifjúságod;<sup>172</sup> nyirkos<sup>173</sup> cementfalak<sup>174</sup> között<sup>175</sup> képzelhetsz<sup>176</sup> egy kis sabadságot<sup>177</sup> — gondoltam.<sup>178</sup> S hát<sup>179</sup> amint<sup>180</sup> fölállok<sup>181</sup> a csillagok,<sup>182</sup> a Göncölök<sup>183</sup> úgy fénylenek<sup>184</sup> fönt,<sup>185</sup> mint a rácsok<sup>186</sup> a hallgatag<sup>187</sup> cella<sup>188</sup> fölött.<sup>189</sup>

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

I heard the iron weep,
I heard the rain laugh.
I saw that the past was cracked
and that only a memory can be forgotten;