Collected Poems

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Chapter 1

1934

French

Consciousness (Eszmélet)

I

Dawn unbinds sky from earth

and upon its clear, soft word	2
beetles and children	3
spin forth into the daylight;	4
there is no moisture in the air,	4
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]
et, à sa voix claire et douce,	2
scarabées et enfants virevoltent	3
en entrant sur la scène du jour;	
l'air n'est pas humide,	
la brillante légèreté flotte!	(
Avec la nuit, elles se posèrent sur les arbres	7
comme de petits papillons, les feuilles.	:

Ι

Földtől¹ eloldja² az eget³	I
a hajnal ⁴ s ⁵ tiszta ⁶ , lágy ⁷ szavára ⁸	2
a bogarak, ⁹ a gyerekek	3
kipörögnek ¹⁰ a napvilágra ¹¹ ;	4
a levegőben¹² semmi pára¹³,	5
a csilló¹⁴ könnyűség¹⁵ lebeg!¹¹6	6
Az éjjel ¹⁷ rászálltak ¹⁸ a fákra, ¹⁹	7
mint ²⁰ kis ²¹ lepkék, ²² a levelek. ²³	8

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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)
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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>6</sup> adj. 'bright'
7 adj. 'soft'
 ^8 szó 'voice', 'word' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -a 	o szava + subl. -ra 'by' 	o szavára
<sup>9</sup> bogár 'beetle' + pl. -(a)k \rightarrow bogarak
10 vb. kipörög 'to spin' + 3rd pers. pl. ind. pres. indef. -nek
пар 'sun/day' + világ 'world' + subl. -ra 'onto'
12 levegő 'air' + innes. -ben 'in'
13 'moisture/mist'
<sup>14</sup> vb. csillog 'to glitter' + adj.-forming -o \rightarrow csillo; usually csillogó
15 könnyű 'simplicity/easiness' + noun-forming -ség (state of being)
<sup>16</sup> vb. lebeg 'to float (in the air)', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
^{17} éj 'night' + instr. -vel 'with' → éjjel
<sup>18</sup> pointed action rá- 'on' + vb. száll 'to fly/land/to come down' + 3rd pers. sg. past indef. -tak
<sup>19</sup> fa 'tree' + pl. -k + subl. -ra 'onto' \rightarrow f\acute{a}kra
<sup>20</sup> 'like'
21 'small'
<sup>22</sup> lepke 'butterfly' + pl. -k \rightarrow lepk\acute{e}k
^{23} level 'leaf' + pl. -(e)k
```

	CONTROLICATER	/ /
T T		(
1.1.	CONSCIOUSNESS	

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

5

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.

J'ai vu des tableaux barbouillés de bleu,	I
rouge et jaune dans mes rêves	2
et je sentis que tout était en ordre —	3
pas un seul grain de poussière qui vole agité.	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

```
Kék, piros, sárga, összekent<sup>24</sup>
                                                                                                                     Ι
képeket<sup>25</sup> láttam<sup>26</sup> álmaimban<sup>27</sup>
                                                                                                                     2
és úgy éreztem,28 ez a rend29 —
                                                                                                                     3
egy szalló<sup>30</sup> porszem<sup>31</sup> el<sup>32</sup> nem hibbant.<sup>33</sup>
                                                                                                                     4
Most homályként<sup>34</sup> száll<sup>35</sup> tagjaimban<sup>36</sup>
                                                                                                                     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
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Chiastic structure:

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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)
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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. lát '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. -ό
   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
   39 '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.
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1.1. CONSCIOUSNESS (ESZMÉLE

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	(
the mouse outdoors and the one indoors.	7

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.

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

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Sóvany<sup>47</sup> vagyok, csak kenyeret<sup>48</sup>
                                                                                                                          Ι
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,58 mint59 a kocska.60
                                                                                                                          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:

⁷³ egér 'mouse" + acc. -(e)t \rightarrow egeret

```
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
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```
47 '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
<sup>63</sup> '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'
```

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.

Tout comme un tas de bûches,	I
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

Akár ⁷⁴ egy halom ⁷⁵ hasított ⁷⁶ fa, ⁷⁷	I
hever ⁷⁸ egymáson ⁷⁹ a világ, ⁸⁰	2
szorítja, ⁸¹ nyomja, ⁸² összefogja ⁸³	3
egyik ⁸⁴ dolog ⁸⁵ a másikát ⁸⁶	4
s így ⁸⁷ mindenik ⁸⁸ determinált. ⁸⁹	S
Csak ⁹⁰ ami ⁹¹ nincs, annak ⁹² van bokra, ⁹³	l
csak ⁹⁴ ami lesz, ⁹⁵ az a virág,	7
ami van, széthull ⁹⁶ darabokra. ⁹⁷	8

```
1-4: 0-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)
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<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.
<sup>96</sup> vb. 'to fall apart', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
97 adv. darab 'piece/chunk' + pl. -ok + subl. -ra 'into'
```

V

At the freight train station,	I
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 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.

À la gare de fret,	I
je m'étalai ainsi derrière le pied de l'arbre,	2
comme un morceau de silence;	3
une herbe grise atteignit ma bouche,	4
crue, étrange-sucrée.	5
Faisant le mort, je regardais le garde, suspectant quoi,	6
et son ombre qui, sur les wagons silencieux,	7
s'entêtait à bondir sur les charbons reluisants,	8
couverts de rosée.	9

```
A teherpályaudvaron<sup>98</sup>
                                                                                                                Ι
úgy99 lapultam100 a fa101 tövéhez,102
                                                                                                                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-édes.
                                                                                                                4
Holtan<sup>III</sup> lestem<sup>II2</sup> az őrt, <sup>II3</sup> mit<sup>II4</sup> érez, <sup>II5</sup>
                                                                                                                5
s a hallgatag<sup>116</sup> vagónokon<sup>117</sup>
                                                                                                                6
árnyát, 118 mely 119 ráugrott 120 a fényes, 121
                                                                                                                7
harmatos<sup>122</sup> szénre<sup>123</sup> konokon. 124
                                                                                                                8
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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)
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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
   t\ddot{o} 'base of the stem of a plant' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e 'of' 	o t\ddot{o}ve + allat. -hez 'towards' 	o
tövéhez
   103 'like'
  104 'piece'
  105 '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.
  <sup>109</sup> száj 'mouth' + 1st pers. sg. single poss. -m \rightarrow szám + allat. 'towards' -hoz \rightarrow számhoz
   по adj. 'raw'
   iii holt 'dead' + adv.-forming -an
   ^{\text{II}2} vb. les 'to spy' + 1st pers. sg. past indef. -tem
   ^{\text{II}3} őr 'guard' + acc. -t
   114 inter. 'what'
   115 vb. 'to feel/smell/taste', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
   п6 vb. hallgat 'to remain silent/to listen' + adj.-forming -ag
   "7 vagón 'wagon' + pl. -ok + super. -on 'on'
   ^{118} árny 'shadow/ghost' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -a + acc. -t 
ightarrow -\acute{a}t
   119 literary, 'which/that'
   pointed action ra- 'at' + vb. ugrik 'to leap/jump' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. past. indef. -ott 	o ugrott
   ^{\text{\tiny 121}} fény 'light/glitter' + adj.-forming -es 
ightarrow 'bright'
   122 adj. 'dewy'
   123 szén 'coal' + subl. -re 'onto'
   <sup>124</sup> adj. konok 'stubborn' + super. -on 'on (that manner)'
```

13

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
then you are free if it indulges	ϵ
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.

pourtant l'explication se trouve à l'extérieur.
podituit i expileation se trouve a resterieur.
Ta blessure est le monde — en feu, s'échauffant —
et tu sens ton âme, la fièvre.
Tu es captif tant que ton cœur se révolte —
ainsi tu es libre s'il se complaît
à ne plus bâtir pour toi une maison
où un propriétaire vient demeurer.

Im ¹²⁵ itt a szenvedés ¹²⁶ belül, ¹²⁷	I
ám ¹²⁸ ott kívül ¹²⁹ a magyarázat. ¹³⁰	2
Sebed ¹³¹ a világ — ég, ¹³² hevül ¹³³	3
s te ¹³⁴ lelkedet ¹³⁵ érzed, ¹³⁶ a lázat. ¹³⁷	4
Rab ¹³⁸ vagy, amíg ¹³⁹ a szíved ¹⁴⁰ lázad ¹⁴¹ —	5
úgy ¹⁴² szabadulsz, ¹⁴³ ha ¹⁴⁴ kényedül ¹⁴⁵	6
nem raksz ¹⁴⁶ magadnak ¹⁴⁷ olyan ¹⁴⁸ házat, ¹⁴⁹	7
melybe ¹⁵⁰ háziúr ¹⁵¹ települ. ¹⁵²	8

Chiastic structure:

I-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)

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125 literary, abbrv. íme 'here is/behold'
126 vb. szenved 'to suffer' + noun-forming -és
127 'inside'
128 poetic, interj. contrad. 'but'
129 adv. 'outdoor/outside'
<sup>130</sup> vb. magyaráz 'to explain' + noun-forming -at
131 seb 'wound' + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -ed
132 vb. 'to be on fire', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
133 vb. 'to grow hot', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
134 inform. sg. 'you'
<sup>135</sup> lélek 'soul' + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -ed \rightarrow lelked + acc. -(e)t
136 vb. érez 'to feel', 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. def.
<sup>137</sup> láz 'fever' + acc. -(a)t
138 'captive'
139 adv. 'as long as'; 'until' if followed by negated verb
140 szíved 'heart' + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -ed
<sup>141</sup> vb. to rebel, 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
<sup>142</sup> úgy ... ha ... 'then ... if ...'
143 szabad 'free' + vb.-forming -ul + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -sz
<sup>145</sup> literary, vb. 'to indulge', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
^{146} vb. rak 'to set up/to build', 2rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -sz
<sup>147</sup> maga 'oneself' + 2nd pers. sg. single poss. -d + dat. -nak
148 pron. 'such/that kind of thing'
149 ház 'house' + acc. -(a)t
150 literary, arch. mely which' + illative -be 'into (the inside of)'
<sup>151</sup> ház 'house' + adj.-forming 'of the' -i + \mu r 'master'
152 vb. 'to settle (somewhere)', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
```

15

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,	6
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.)

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

Én fölnéztem ¹⁵³ az est ¹⁵⁴ alól ¹⁵⁵	I
az eget ¹⁵⁶ fogaskerekére ¹⁵⁷ —	2
csillo ¹⁵⁸ véletlen ¹⁵⁹ szálaiból ¹⁶⁰	3
törvényt ¹⁶¹ szőtt ¹⁶² a mult ¹⁶³ szövőszéke ¹⁶⁴	4
és megint ¹⁶⁵ fölnéztem az égre ¹⁶⁶	5
álmaim ¹⁶⁷ gőzei ¹⁶⁸ alól	6
s láttam, ¹⁶⁹ a törvény szövedéke ¹⁷⁰	7
mindig ¹⁷¹ fölfeslik ¹⁷² valahol. ¹⁷³	8

Chiastic structure:

173 'somewhere'

```
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)
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<sup>153</sup> vb. pref. föl- 'upwards'+ vb. néz 'to look' + 1st pers. sg. past. def. -tem
154 arch. '(in the) evening'
155 al 'lower part' + abl. -l 'from'
156 ég 'sky' + acc. -(e)t
<sup>157</sup> fogas 'tooth' + kerék 'wheel': 'cogwheel' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e + subl. -re 'towards'
<sup>158</sup> vb. csillog 'to glitter' + adj.-forming -o \rightarrow csillo; usually csillogo
159 'chance'
<sup>160</sup> szál 'thread' + 3rd pers. sg. poss. -a + poss. pl. -i + elative -ból 'from/out of'
<sup>161</sup> törveny 'law/principle' + acc. -t
<sup>162</sup> vb. sző 'to weave', past part.
163 múlt? rare, past part. 'past', inf. múlik
<sup>164</sup> szövő 'weaver' + szék 'chair': 'loom' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e
165 meg 'again' (short action) + adv.-forming -int
<sup>166</sup> ég 'sky' + subl. sg. -re 'onto'
^{167} álom 'dream' + 1st pers. sg. poss. -a + poss. pl. -i + 1st pers. sg. pers. -m
^{168} gőz 'steam, vapour' + 3rd pers. sg. poss. -e + pl. poss. -i
<sup>169</sup> vb. lát 'to see' + short base -t, 1st pers. sg. past def. -tam
<sup>170</sup> szövedék 'fabric/cloth/web' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e
<sup>171</sup> mind 'always' (repetition) + term. 'until' -ig
<sup>172</sup> vb. pref. föl- 'upwards'+ arch., poetic, vb. feslik 'to come unstitched', 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. indef.
```

1.1. CONSCIOUSNESS (<i>ESZMÉLET</i>)
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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

Ι
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

17

Fülelt ¹⁷⁴ a csend ¹⁷⁵ — egyet ¹⁷⁶ ütött ¹⁷⁷	I
Fölkereshetnéd ¹⁷⁸ ifjúságod; ¹⁷⁹	2
nyirkos ¹⁸⁰ cementfalak ¹⁸¹ között ¹⁸²	3
képzelhetsz ¹⁸³ egy kis sabadságot ¹⁸⁴ —	4
gondoltam.¹85 S hát¹86 amint¹87 fölállok¹88	S
a csillagok, ¹⁸⁹ a Göncölök ¹⁹⁰	C
úgy fénylenek ¹⁹¹ fönt, ¹⁹² mint a rácsok ¹⁹³	7
a hallqataq ¹⁹⁴ cella ¹⁹⁵ fölött. ¹⁹⁶	8

Chiastic structure:

```
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)
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¹⁹⁶ *föl-* 'up/upwards' + loc. *-ött*: 'above', alt. *elett*

```
<sup>174</sup> fül 'ear' + vb.-forming -el: 'to listen (intently)' + 3rd pers. ind. past indef. -t
   <sup>175</sup> 'silence'. alt. csönd
  ^{176} egy + acc. -t
  <sup>177</sup> vb. \ddot{u}t 'to strike' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. past indef. -(\ddot{o})tt
   <sup>178</sup> föl- 'upwards' + keres 'to seek': 'to visit' + pot. 'may/might' -het + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. cond.
-ned, alt. felkeres
   <sup>179</sup> adj. ifjú 'young' + noun-forming -ság (state of being): 'youth' + 2nd pers. informal sg. poss. single
poss. -od: 'your childhood' (informal)
   180 adj. 'humid/damp'
   <sup>181</sup> cement 'cement'+ fal 'wall' + pl. -ak
   <sup>182</sup> post. 'between/amid', köz 'interval' + loc. -ött
  ^{183} \acute{k}\acute{e}p 'image' + vb.-forming -(z)el: 'to imagine' + pot. -het + 2nd pers. sg. ind. pres. -sz
  <sup>184</sup> szabad 'free' + -ság (state of being): 'freedom' + acc. -(a)t
   185 vb. gondol 'to think/plan/guess/worry' + 1st pers. sg. ind. past -tam
  186 'back body', 'well...', 'then/and/but' (questioning back), 'surely'
   <sup>187</sup> az + mint 'like': 'as soon as', literary 'as'
  188 föl- 'upwards' + vb. láll 'to stand' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -ok, alt. felállok
  ^{189} csillag 'star' + pl. -ak
  190 Göncöl + pl. -ök: 'the Great Bear' (constellation)
   <sup>191</sup> fény 'light' + freq. vb.-forming -lik: 'to glitter' + 3rd pers. pl. ind. pres. indef. -ek
   192 adv. 'above/up/awake/upstairs', alt. fent
   <sup>193</sup> rács 'grid/grille' + pl. -ok
  194 vb. hallgat 'to remain silent/to listen' + adj.-forming -ag
```

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 —	e
why should I also forge a weapon	7
out of you, golden self-awareness!	8

19

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.

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 —	ϵ
pourquoi devrais-je aussi forger une arme	7
de toi, for intérieur doré!	8

Hallottam ¹⁹⁷ sírni ¹⁹⁸ a vasat, ¹⁹⁹	I
hallottam az esőt ²⁰⁰ nevetni. ²⁰¹	2
Láttam, ²⁰² hogy ²⁰³ a mult ²⁰⁴ meghasadt ²⁰⁵	3
s csak ²⁰⁶ képzetet ²⁰⁷ lehet ²⁰⁸ feledni; ²⁰⁹	4
s hogy ²¹⁰ nem tudok ²¹¹ mást, ²¹² mint ²¹³ szeretni, ²¹⁴	5
görnyedve ²¹⁵ terheim ²¹⁶ alatt ²¹⁷ —	6
minek ²¹⁸ is ²¹⁹ kell ²²⁰ fegyvert ²²¹ veretni ²²²	7
belőled, ²²³ arany ²²⁴ öntudat! ²²⁵	8

```
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)
```

```
197 vb. hall 'to hear' + 1st pers. sg. ind. past def. -ottam
198 vb. sír 'to cry/weep' + inf. -ni
199 vas 'iron' + acc. -(a)t
vb. es, inf. esik + pres. part. -\ddot{o} + acc. -t
<sup>201</sup> vb. nevet 'to laugh', inf. nevetni
<sup>202</sup> vb. lát 'to see' + short base -t, 1st pers. sg. past def. -tam
203 adv. 'how'
204 múlt? rare, past part. 'past', inf. múlik
^{205} perfective meg- + vb. hasad 'to crack/split apart' + past part. -t
<sup>207</sup> képzet 'idea/image/notion' + acc. -t
<sup>208</sup> pot. vb. van/lesz: 'may be/may become', 3rd pers. sg. ind.
<sup>209</sup> lit. vb. feled 'to forget', alt. felejt
210 adv. 'how'
^{2\Pi} vb. tud 'to know'/aux. 'can + inf.' + 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. indef. -ok
<sup>212</sup> adj. más 'other/different' + acc. -t
<sup>213</sup> comp. different degrees 'than'
214 inf. vb. szeret 'to love'
<sup>215</sup> vb. görnyed 'to bend (under a burden)' + adv.-forming -ve
^{216} teher 'freight/burden' + 1st pers. sg. poss. mult. poss. -eim \rightarrow terheim
<sup>217</sup> post. al- 'lower part'+ loc. -(a)tt
^{218} mi + dat. -nek: 'for what'
<sup>219</sup> doublet of és 'and', adv. 'also'
<sup>220</sup> aux. vb. 'must/need to/have to + inf.'
<sup>22.I</sup> fegyever 'weapon' + acc. -t
<sup>222</sup> inf. vb. 'to hammer', alt. veretés
<sup>223</sup> pron. belőle 'out of him/her/it' + 2nd pers. sg. -d
<sup>224</sup> 'gold/golden'
<sup>225</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 so much life	3
that it will kill him, and that he returns it	4
any time, like a found object	5
— therefore he treasures it,	ϵ
he who is neither a god nor a priest,	7
neither to himself nor to others	8

21

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.

```
Az meglett<sup>226</sup> ember<sup>227</sup>, akinek<sup>228</sup>
                                                                                                                       Ι
szívében<sup>229</sup> nincs se anyja,<sup>230</sup> apja,<sup>231</sup>
                                                                                                                       2
ki^{232} tudja, 233 hogy 234 az életet 235
                                                                                                                       3
halálra<sup>236</sup> ráadásul<sup>237</sup> kapja<sup>238</sup>
                                                                                                                       4
s mint<sup>239</sup> talált<sup>240</sup> tárgyat<sup>241</sup> visszaadja<sup>242</sup>
                                                                                                                       5
bármikor<sup>243</sup> — ezért<sup>244</sup> őrzi<sup>245</sup> meg,<sup>246</sup>
                                                                                                                       6
ki<sup>247</sup> nem istene<sup>248</sup> és nem papja<sup>249</sup>
                                                                                                                       7
se<sup>250</sup> magának, <sup>251</sup> sem senkinek. <sup>252</sup>
                                                                                                                       8
```

```
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)
```

```
226 obs. 'adult'
<sup>227</sup> 'person'
<sup>228</sup> pron. aki 'who' + attr. poss. -nek
<sup>229</sup> szív 'heart' + poss. 'his' -e + innes. 'in' -ben
<sup>230</sup> anya 'mother' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -(j)a
<sup>23I</sup> apa 'father' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -(j)a
<sup>232</sup> pron. rel. arch. 'he who', alt. aki
<sup>233</sup> vb. tud 'to know' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -ja
<sup>234</sup> conj. 'so that'
^{235} élet 'life' + acc. -(e)t
<sup>236</sup> vb. hal 'to die' + arch. noun-forming -\dot{a}l \rightarrow 'death' + subl. 'on/for' -ra \rightarrow 'to death (by excess)'
<sup>237</sup> ráadás 'addition/extra' + essive 'as/with the intention of -ul
^{238} vb. kap 'to receive' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pers. def. -ja
239 'like'
<sup>240</sup> vb. talált 'to find' + past part.
<sup>241</sup> tárgy 'object/thing/subject' + acc. -(a)t
<sup>242</sup> vb. visszaad 'to give back' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -ja
<sup>243</sup> b\acute{a}r 'any' + adv. mikor 'when' \rightarrow 'any time'
<sup>244</sup> conj. 'therefore'
^{245} vb. "oriz" to guard' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. pres. def. -i
<sup>246</sup> arch. emph.
247 'he who'
<sup>248</sup> isten 'god' + 3rd pers. sg. sing. poss. -e
<sup>249</sup> pap 'priest' + 3rd pers. sg. sing. poss. -(j)a
250 alt. sem, sem ..., sem ... 'neither ... nor ...'
<sup>251</sup> pron. refl. 3rd pers. 'himself'
<sup>252</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 once at me —	6
To this day I see how hesitantly	7
the sunlight toyed with its bristles.	8

23

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'.

Láttam ²⁵³ a boldogságot ²⁵⁴ én, ²⁵⁵	I
lágy ²⁵⁶ volt, ²⁵⁷ szőke ²⁵⁸ és másfél ²⁵⁹ mázsa. ²⁶⁰	2
Az udvar ²⁶¹ szigorú ²⁶² gyöpén ²⁶³	3
imbolygott ²⁶⁴ göndör ²⁶⁵ mosolygása. ²⁶⁶	4
Ledőlt ²⁶⁷ a puha, ²⁶⁸ langy ²⁶⁹ tócsába, ²⁷⁰	S
hunyorgott, ²⁷¹ röffent ²⁷² még ²⁷³ felém ²⁷⁴ —	C
ma^{275} is^{276} $látom,^{277}$ $mily^{278}$ $tétovázva^{279}$	7
babrált ²⁸⁰ pihéi ²⁸¹ közt ²⁸² a fény. ²⁸³	8

```
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>253</sup> vb. lát 'to see' + short base -t, 1st pers. sg. past def. -tam
<sup>254</sup> adj. boldog 'happy' + noun-forming -ság (state of being) + acc. -(o)t
<sup>255</sup> pron. 'I'
256 adj. 'soft'
<sup>257</sup> vb. van 'to be'+ 3rd pers. sg. ind. past indef.
<sup>258</sup> adj. sző 'blonde' + dim. -ke
^{259} más 'other/different' + f\acute{e}l 'half' 
ightarrow 'one and a half'
<sup>260</sup> 'quintal'
<sup>261</sup> 'yard'
<sup>262</sup> adj. 'severe/strict'
<sup>263</sup> gyep 'lawn/grass' + super. -én
<sup>264</sup> vb. imbolyog 'to sway'+ 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e
<sup>265</sup> adj. 'curly'
<sup>266</sup> mosolygása 'smile' + 3rd pers. sg. single poss. -e
^{267} vb. ledo\"ol 'to fall down' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. past indef. -t
268 'soft/squishy'
<sup>269</sup> arch. poetic langyos 'tepid'
<sup>270</sup> tócsa 'puddle' + illative -ba 'into'
<sup>271</sup> vb hunyorg 'to squint' + 3rd pers. sg. ind. past. indef. -rgott
<sup>272</sup> röffen 'to grunt once (of a pig)'
<sup>273</sup> adv. 'still/moreover'
<sup>274</sup> post. felé 'to/towards' + 1st pers. sg. poss -m \rightarrow pron. 'towards me'
<sup>275</sup> adv. 'today'
<sup>276</sup> doublet of és 'and', adv. 'also'
<sup>277</sup> vb. lát 'to see'+ 1st pers. sg. ind. pres. def.
<sup>278</sup> poetic 'how ...(!)'
<sup>279</sup> vb. tétova 'to hesitate' (inf. tétovazik) \rightarrow adv. part. 'doing smth hesitantly'
<sup>280</sup> vb. babrál 'to fiddle'
<sup>281</sup> pihe 'down, fluff' + adj.-forming -i
<sup>282</sup> post. 'between/amid' from között: köz 'interval' + loc. -ött
<sup>283</sup> 'light/glitter', fig. 'happiness/joy'
```

XII

Vasútnál lakom. Erre sok	I
vonat jön-megy és el-elnézem,	2
hogy'szállnak fényes ablakok	3
a lengedező szösz-sötétben.	4
Így iramlanak örök éjben	5
kivilágított nappalok	6
s én állok minden fülke-fényben,	7
én könyöklök és hallgatok.	8