## Najim Hickmet

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Lullaby to my son A different lullaby



#### **Najim Hickmet: The creator**



Turkish poet and playwright.

He was born in Thessaloniki in 1902and died in Moscow in 1963

His works have been translated into many languages.

His poems exude optimism, faith in man, love of equality, freedom and justice.

He was imprisoned and exiled for his political ideas.

### The initial conditions of the poem

This is the lullaby I would like to hear from my son's mother when she puts him to sleep:





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Go to sleep my flesh and blood, Go to sleep, sleep tight ... An endless sea is coming in your sleep

Its white-crested waves, as huge as mountains,

rage on the foaming water







Go to sleep my flesh and blood, Go to sleep, sleep tight ...

A ship is coming in your sleep and you are on the captain's bridge On your right the raging wave And on your left ... Look at it - it's fighting against you... But do not care, my son, don't be afraid! The engines are working like your heart. The vessel is strong and you are at the helm...

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Go to sleep my flesh and blood,

Go to sleep, sleep tight ...

A huge aery bridge, is binding the shores

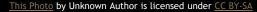
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You are gazing at its shiny beam

Look down, don't get dizzy. Look upwards,

Your head is almost touching the sky...





Go to sleep my flesh and blood, Go to sleep, sleep tight ... What a lot of books you have? Have you read all of them?

There are wrinkles on your forehead; your hair is all white.

Your eyes are the only ones on Earth that have comprehended

Your face is pretty like eternity

Don't doubt, don't be afraid, lest you haven't found what you were looking for

Read fighting, keep reading and don't distinguish it from battle...



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Go to sleep my flesh and blood,

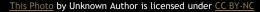
Go to sleep, sleep tight ...

Listen to the voices you hear. Look at the beautiful colours you see...

Your hands are caressing the marble

And look - they give it the steadiest and liveliest shape...





## the dreams

Go to sleep my flesh and blood, Go to sleep, sleep tight ...

Fearless like a mariner, a craftsman, a creator,

A philosopher, a savant and a brave artist - this is what you should become...

Go to sleep my flesh and blood, Go to sleep, sleep tight ...





# In the lullaby the poet expresses

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wish

#### exhortation

#### the future image of his son



Note: the song that is used from the fourth slide on is "The most beautiful sea" from the album political songs by Thanos Mikroutsikos. The lyrics are written by Najim Hikmet and the song is sung by Maria Dimitriadi.



