

Najim Hickmet

Lullaby to my son
A different lullaby

Najim Hickmet: The creator



- Turkish poet and playwright.
- He was born in Thessaloniki in 1902 and 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:



The first two stanzas

The most beautiful sea

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...

Go to sleep my flesh and
blood,

Go to sleep, sleep tight ...

A huge aery bridge, is
binding the shores

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...



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
stadiest 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 ...



Κυριάκος Κατζουράκης, Τρία πορτρέτα

In the lullaby the poet expresses

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.

