

Dani Szűcs's Dream  
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1955

Early in the morning  
The bright sun of July  
Looks on the Bakony hills  
With a happy smile.

A building is constructed  
Tall, with not just one floor  
In the middle of the forest  
What on earth is it for?

Construction of school resort.  
32/5 Construction company

In the meadow nearby  
Pioneers are playing  
Life is merry in the Summer  
They're happy to be camping.

Can you guess what they  
Decided to do one fine day?  
To help build the resort  
Without pay of any sort!

This little guy lying here  
Is Dani Szűcs, a lazy boy.  
Although he is a pioneer,  
He prefers rest and joy.

The Sun is setting now,  
So our boys are returning  
To their pioneer camp,  
Cheerfully singing.

"Boys, you've done right,"

Says their commander  
“Each of you is a true,  
good, worthy pioneer.”

“Therefore you well deserve  
To be praised for your work.”  
But a voice Dani Szűcs hears  
“You don’t deserve a word!”

The camp is now quieter  
As the night descends  
With moon glow brightly glitter  
The many little tents.

From the small tent in the night  
Loud snoring can be heard  
Dani is now sleeping fast  
Like all of the small herd.

Dani’s sleeping like a log.  
His favorite story book  
Lies at the side of his cot  
He sees a strange dream, look!

The lion has somehow  
Crawled off the pages!  
Calling his friends now,  
He roars and he rages!

Giraffes and monkeys bounce,  
The lion’s sending his troops,  
The drawings turn into animals:  
Elephants, bears and kangaroos.

“All my friends, listen to me!”  
So the lion speaks  
“This lazy young boy Dani  
Has brought shame on me!”

“Come on, let’s show him  
What real honor means!”  
“To the construction!”  
The congregation screams.

“Tools and bricks we have.  
The teams may start to work.  
I’ll be at the heart of it  
To watch how you exert.”

Onwards! Walls should stand!  
Plaster, paint goes on them fast!  
The hardest work is in demand,  
Because the task is vast!

Camels carry beams  
In between their humps  
Carried by the dozens,  
They have loads to dump.

Crocodiles make gravel  
Out of huge, hard rocks,  
Which giraffes then shovel  
To the needed spots.

The task of the kangaroo  
Is to carry heavy bricks.  
This is the wishful scene  
That Dani’s dream depicts.

“Quickly, give me bricks!”  
Yells the big bear, laughing  
“No one should say of me  
That I’m here idling!”

They need a lot of water  
To make mortar and concrete  
Two pelicans carry all  
In their huge, strong beaks.

The roof is almost ready,  
The structure stands high  
Two storks flying up there  
Cover it with tiles.

The fox uses his tail  
To finish up the walls  
He splashes on the paint  
With great flings and squalls.

The work day is over:  
The horn is blown.  
Let’s take a shower  
And go back home.

Those who are in the mood  
For a wash or for a bath  
Are here met by raccoons  
At the cleaning task.

Little chimp loves  
A thorough and cold shower  
To like that is smart,  
To hate it, much dumber.

Washing felt mellow,  
They also take a swim  
The only one to bellow  
Is the lion king.

Jumping in the water,  
The bear makes a splash  
He did a good job earlier,  
Has reason to be glad.

At the sound of a whistle  
They all come out of the water  
Quickly grab the towels  
So they get dry sooner.

They march through thickets,  
Bushes, trees, and shrubs.  
The sound of their trumpets  
Makes the rabbits run.

But see this wild stampede  
They start getting insane,  
Their loud and scary shrieks  
Make the whole world complain.

Oh, goodness, they're here!  
What now? God Almighty!  
The elephant hovers over  
Dani Szűcs' small body.

... And Dani, his eyes open,  
Trembling from fright.  
It's his bad conscience  
That woke him in alarm...

He gets dressed with no delay  
Hurries to the captain:  
“I was lazy yesterday,  
Never again will I be!”

We believe you shall  
Your vow keep honestly,  
You spoke to our hearts,  
Our good comrade, Dani!