

Marcel Proust questionnaire

Sergio Rossi



<i>What do you see as the greatest of all misfortunes?</i>	<i>Being left alone, without anybody who loves you.</i>
<i>Where would you like to live?</i>	<i>Always close to the sea.</i>
<i>What do you see as the most perfect earthly bliss?</i>	<i>Having my family and friends around me.</i>
<i>What defect do you find easiest to forgive?</i>	<i>Forgetfulness.</i>
<i>Who is your favourite fictional hero?</i>	<i>Den, from Richard Corben.</i>
<i>Who is your favourite historical character?</i>	<i>A person as dispersed in nature as me cannot have only one favourite historical figure; the ones I admire for various reasons are Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein and Leonardo da Vinci. And I very much liked the last of these since long before the Code came out!.</i>
<i>Who is your favourite real-world heroine?</i>	<i>All those who have worked in silence and without showiness to bring us what we now have.</i>
<i>Who is your favourite heroine in literature?</i>	<i>Sherezade.</i>
<i>Your favourite painter?</i>	<i>Hiëronymus Bosch.</i>
<i>Your favourite composer?</i>	<i>There are two, and I can't make up my mind between them: Igor Stravinski and Gustav Holtz.</i>
<i>What quality do you value most highly in a man?</i>	<i>Sincerity.</i>
<i>And in a woman?</i>	<i>Exactly the same.</i>
<i>What virtue do you rate most highly?</i>	<i>Royalty.</i>
<i>What's your favourite activity?</i>	<i>Reading and becoming in my mind the characters I read about in the books.</i>
<i>Who or what would you have liked to be?</i>	<i>Exactly what I am.</i>
<i>What is the main feature of your character?</i>	<i>Imagination.</i>
<i>What do you rate most highly in your friends?</i>	<i>Two, which are intrinsically linked in order to be perfect: loyalty and sincerity.</i>
<i>Your greatest failing?</i>	<i>I have so many, but maybe lack of concentration on just a few things; although that might also be considered a virtue, might it not?</i>
<i>Your dream of bliss?</i>	<i>To be able to continue living as I do now.</i>



<i>What would you like to be?</i>	<i>As might be guessed from my last reply, I don't have a great many aspirations. What I am doing and what I am is more than enough for me.</i>
<i>Your favourite colour?</i>	<i>The blue of the sea, as was only to be expected!</i>
<i>Your favourite flower?</i>	<i>The magnolia, perhaps one of the most primitive flowers.</i>
<i>Your favourite bird?</i>	<i>The albatross, so tireless ...</i>
<i>Your favourite writer?</i>	<i>For anybody who reads a bit that question can't be answered. However, as opposite poles of literature, though not of imagination, I'd keep Howard Philips Lovecraft and Gabriel García Márquez.</i>
<i>Your favourite poet?</i>	<i>I'd be fibbing if I claimed I read poetry.</i>
<i>Your present-day heroes?</i>	<i>Living ones? I can't think of anybody who deserves that label.</i>
<i>Your heroines from history?</i>	<i>All those that have helped me to progress, especially the ones that history hides in the shadow of some famous man.</i>
<i>Your favourite name?</i>	<i>Fabio for a man, and Flavia for a woman.</i>
<i>What do you detest above all else?</i>	<i>The conscious ignorance that is leading us towards collapse on a planetary scale.</i>
<i>What figures in history do you most abhor?</i>	<i>Each and every one of those that have placed sticks in the spokes of the wheels of progress and freedom — and the list is endless.</i>
<i>What figures in history do you most abhor?</i>	<i>Perhaps those that have been leading us towards the state of semi-freedom that we currently enjoy.</i>
<i>What reform do you most admire?</i>	<i>The moment when somebody gets the idea that we (the expendable masse) can also play (some little) part in leading our own destinies.</i>
<i>What natural gift would you like to have?</i>	<i>Flying.</i>
<i>How would you like to die?</i>	<i>Peacefully, and with my people around me.</i>
<i>How would you describe your frame of mind these days?</i>	<i>Stupidly euphoric, as always.</i>
<i>Your motto?</i>	<i>Carpe Diem ... what more straightforward and less pedantic way is there of saying that we should get on with life?</i>

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