

Leseprobe



Frisch, Max

Questionnaire

Englischsprachige Ausgabe Aus dem Deutschen von Geoffrey Skelton

© Insel Verlag
Insel-Bücherei 1435
978-3-458-19435-4



Max Frisch

QUESTIONNAIRE

Translated by Geoffrey Skelton

Insel Verlag

Insel-Bücherei No. 1435

© Insel Verlag Berlin 2017

QUESTIONNAIRE 1

1.

Are you sure you are really interested in the preservation of the human race once you and all the people you know are no longer alive?

2.

State briefly why.

3.

How many of your children do not owe their existence to deliberate intention?

4.

Whom would you rather never have met?

5.

Are you conscious of being in the wrong in relation to some other person (who need not necessarily be aware of it)? If so, does this make you hate yourself — or the other person?

6.

Would you like to have perfect memory?

7.

Give the name of a politician whose death through illness, accident, etc., would fill you with hope. Or do you consider none of them indispensable?

8.

Which person or persons, now dead, would you like to see again?

9.

Which not?

10.

Would you rather have belonged to a different nation (or civilization)? If so, which?

11.

To what age do you wish to live?

12.

If you had the power to put into effect things you consider right, would you do so against the wishes of the majority? (Yes or no)

13.

Why not, if you think they are right?

14.

Which do you find it easier to hate, a group or an individual? And do you prefer to hate individually or as part of a group?

15.

When did you stop believing you could become wiser — or do you still believe it? Give your age.

16.

Are you convinced by your own self-criticism?

17.

What in your opinion do others dislike about you, and what do you dislike about yourself? If not the same thing, which do you find it easier to excuse?

18.

Do you find the thought that you might never have been born (if it ever occurs to you) disturbing?

19.

When you think of somebody now dead, would you like him to speak to you, or would you rather say something more to him?

20.

Do you love anybody?

21.

How do you know?

22.

Let us assume that you have never killed another human being. How do you account for it?

23.

What do you need in order to be happy?

24.

What are you grateful for?

25.

Which would you rather do: die or live on as a healthy animal? Which animal?

QUESTIONNAIRE 2

1.

Do you still find marriage a problem?

2.

When are you more in favor of marriage as an institution, when you consider your own marriage or when you consider other people's?

3.

Have you more frequently advised others:

- a. to separate? or
- b. not to separate?

4.

Do you know of reconciliations that have *not* left a scar on one or both of the partners?

5.

What problems are solved by a happy marriage?

6.

How long on average can you live with your partner without losing your self-integrity (meaning that you no longer venture even in secret to hold views that could shock your partner)?

7.

How do you explain to yourself the urge, when

contemplating a separation, to look for blame — either in yourself or your partner?

8.

Would you of your own accord ever have invented marriage?

9.

Do you feel in harmony with the mutual habits of your present marriage? If not, do you believe your partner is happy with them, and on what do you base your assumption?

10.

When do you find marriage most of a strain:

- a. in everyday matters?
- b. on journeys?
- c. when you are alone?
- d. in company with others?
- e. when just the two of you are together?
- f. in the evenings?
- g. in the mornings?

11.

Does marriage produce common tastes (as the furnishing of the marital home seems to suggest), or does

the purchase of a lamp, a carpet, a vase, etc., always mean a silent capitulation on your part?

12.

If you have any children, do you feel a sense of guilt toward them when a separation occurs? That is to say, do you believe that children have a right to unhappy parents? If so, up to what age?

13.

What induced you to marry:

- a. a desire for security?
- b. a child?
- c. the social disadvantages of an irregular union, for example, difficulties in hotels, gossip, the tactlessness of others, complications with officials or neighbors?
- d. custom?
- e. simplification of household arrangements?
- f. consideration for your families?
- g. the experience that irregular unions can equally lead to habit, boredom, disenchantment, etc?
- h. the prospect of an inheritance?
- i. a trust in miracles?
- j. the feeling that it is only a formality anyway?

14.

Would you like to add anything to the marriage oath as used in church or registry office ceremonies:

a. as a woman?

b. as a man?

(Please give precise wording)

15.

If you have been married more than once, at what point did your marriages most closely resemble one another, at the beginning or at the end?

16.

If you find after separation that your former partner does not cease blaming you, do you conclude from this that you were more loved than you had realized, or do you feel relieved?

17.

What do you usually say when one of your friends gets a divorce, and why didn't you say it to the person concerned before?

18.

Can you be equally frank with both partners in a marriage when they themselves are not frank with each other?

19.

If your present marriage can be called happy, state briefly to what you attribute this.

20.

If you had to choose between leading a happy marriage and following a call that might endanger your marital happiness, which would you consider more important:

a. as a man?

b. as a woman?

21.

Why?

22.

Do you think you know how your present partner would answer this questionnaire? If not:

23.

Would you like to see your partner's answers?

24.

Conversely, would you want your partner to know how you have answered this questionnaire?

25.

Do you consider that having no secrets from each

other is a necessary part of marriage, or do you feel that it is precisely the secret between two human beings that binds them?

QUESTIONNAIRE 3

