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Lecture 24

Questions and Topics for discussion

1. Why doesn’t Marcel believe that Albertine and Andrée engaged in carnal relations?
2. How does the way Marcel grieves for Albertine differ from his reaction when his grandmother died?
3. Why does Proust say that “memory has no power of invention”?
4. What small item did Albertine give Marcel at Balbec just prior to refusing his request for a kiss?
5. What justifies Marcel’s belief that he murdered his grandmother and Albertine?
6. To the ballads of what composer does Marcel compare the sudden dénouement of his liaison with Albertine?
7. How do Albertine’s physical traits differ from those of Gilberte?
8. What is the “double twilight” that Albertine refers to in her letter to Marcel?
9. What paintings by Elstir does Marcel not want Albertine to see and why?
10. What chain of associations related to Marcel’s jealous obsession is set off by the title of Fauré’s melody Le Secret?