Lecture 26

Questions and Topics for discussion

1. What is the real name of Sanilon who writes Marcel to congratulate him on the publication of his article in *Le Figaro*? He used to be the grocery boy at Combray. When he returns to Combray, what is his position?

2. Regarding the entry of the United States in World War 1, how does Charlus refer to America?

3. What, according to the duc de Guermantes, is the formula that Saint-Loup uses in his telegrams to Gilberte to explain why he will be unable to come to Tansonville?

4. What work by Balzac is Gilberte reading when Marcel visits her at Combray? How is the theme of this work related to a major theme of Proust’s?

5. To which museum does Mme Verdurin give the portrait of the Cottard family by Elstir? Why did she give the painting away?

6. Which work by Chateaubriand praise for its pages “of infinite greater value” and how does this work relate to Proust’s own ideas about literature and memory?

7. What is the prince d’Agrigente’s nickname?

8. Who is the decorator of the Marquis de Polginac’s house? Why does Mme Verdurin object to his style?

9. How does Saint-Loup always refer to the Kaiser and why does this annoy Bloch?

10. Which work by Wagner is Saint-Loup so looking “forward to hearing after the war”? How does its theme connect to Saint-Loup’s own profession?