

Fernando Pessoa

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The earliest literary food of my childhood was in the numerous novels of mystery and of horrible adventure. Those books, which are called boy's books and deal with exciting experiences I cared little for. With a healthy and natural life I was out of sympathy. My craving was not for the probable, but for the incredible, not even for the impossible by the degree, but for the impossible by nature.

My childhood was quiet ( . . . ), my education was good. But since I have consciousness of myself, I have perceived in myself an inborn tendency to mystification to artistic lying. Add to this a great love of the spiritual, of the mysterious, of the obscure, which, after all, was but a form and a variation of that other characteristic of mine, and my personality is, to intuition, complete.

1906?

Páginas Íntimas e de Auto-Interpretação. Fernando Pessoa. (Textos estabelecidos e prefaciados por Georg Rudolf Lind e Jacinto do Prado Coelho.) Lisboa: Ática, 1966: 11.