

Apart from my mother's tales the most serious influence on my life came from a book which I read when I was 10 years old. It was a Hungarian classic, taught in the schools, "The Tragedy of Man." I read it much too prematurely and it had a great influence on me, perhaps just because I read it prematurely. Because I read it, I grasped early in life that "it is not necessary to succeed in order to persevere."

But from my tenth year I was sent to a public school. For some reason or other, throughout the eight years which I spent at the public school until I reached the age of eighteen, I have always been a favorite of the class. Just precisely what this was due to, I couldn't say. I suppose it was somehow the reaction of the class to my personality, and I somehow cut a favorite figure from the point of view of a set of values which were at that time prevalent in the city of Budapest. There were others who had better marks in school even though I had pretty good marks, but these others obviously strove to get good marks, and this was resented by the class. My good marks simply came from the fact that I had no difficulty in keeping ahead. I was interested in science, I was interested in mathematics and I knew languages because we had governesses at home, first in order to learn German, and second in order to learn French.

Perhaps my popularity was also due to my frankness which was coupled with a lack of aggression. One of the favorite sports of the class was at that time the playing of soccer. I was not a good soccer player, but because I was liked there was always a rivalry between the two teams, on whose side I will be. I was sort of a mascot. They discovered early that I was, from an objective point of view, no asset to the team, and it didn't take them long to discover that I could do least damage by being the goalkeeper. So up to the age of fifteen, when I finally refused, I played every soccer game of the class on one or the other side, very often on the losing side. In thinking back, I have a

feeling of gratitude for the affection which went so far that my classmates did not mind occasionally losing a game for the sake of having me on their team.

2. Adolescence 1908-1914 (1)

Henriette IV a.s.  
5-14-1960 (alone)

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