

Donor Pen Sketch and Goodwill Message

Donor Pen Sketch

Donor 1793

The earliest memory.

One of the earliest memories I recall is playing outside of our family house with my dad's young dog. She was all over me, licking me and we were rolling in dirt, and I just remember being so happy. It was very near a small cherry tree that I used to climb – another fond memory. I've loved animals ever since, particularly young English Pointers. I remember that I wanted to be a farmer, that was the earliest aspiration that I remember. To be perfectly honest most of my early aspirations were forged after watching a movie, so was this one. Of course, I would later wish to be an astronaut, just like most kids. As I was already living on a farm it was not too difficult to start acting out on at least one of the two dreams. I would harvest some clover for the pigs which my parents were rearing, and I chose a favourite among them. I also had a favourite hen whom I would often sneak into the house, to my mum's great despair.

Where am I now?

Fast forward to present day I can say that I'm savouring the little details of every moment, I laugh a lot, I try to spend time with people, when possible, I travel. I've been together with my partner for ■ years now. We make each other happy and take care of each other. We take walks together almost every day and talk a lot to each other. I enjoy making meals for her or surprising her or making her laugh. The little boy in me is very much alive when we are together. Over the years I've managed to make a nice little career for myself and earn what I need. I work in a niche field in which I enjoy both the technical challenge and the work with people. I could say that being a ■ engineer is middle ground between being a farmer and an astronaut, though quite a few occupations would be in that particular middle ground. For more than ■ years I have worked in companies. Now I am freelancing, mostly for flexibility's sake, though I miss the work camaraderie.

Where I'd like to be in the future?

Together with my partner I'm very much hoping to soon have children of our own. Perhaps we will have pets as well. I'm looking forward to parenthood and I hope that I will be a good parent. Most importantly I plan to be the best, least stressed, version of myself for my children. I am also determined to work less and not miss out on their childhood. Over the years I have noticed that what I work on or who I spend time with tends to influence a lot how I behave. I like myself most when I do things like teaching, so I will probably try and focus on something like that.

How I came to be where I am?

My own childhood was interrupted by a war that shook my region. I hate to lament over that, but it cannot be unmentioned. We moved from our small village to a big city. My father first served in the army and then had to work abroad after that – mum left alone with a lot to cope with. Changing circumstances meant that I had to grow up fast. Still, I've made new friends, some of them friends for life and I did good at school. Later I discovered kayaking as a way to improve my fitness and reading books as a pastime. I remember choosing my profession – I had interest in many fields, Geography, Biology, History, Law - to name a few. In the end I chose ■ Engineering as it was promising to be a combination of a lot of my favourite topics in a practical shape and also promised that someday I might earn well with it. I believe that I chose well – the sense of working on something that is tangible and part of real life is important to me, and it pays well. Later in my career I never did "proper engineering" jobs, yet I did work within the field, just focusing more on economics and the bigger picture. I don't like boring repetitive tasks – I would do what is needed, just rarely enjoyed it. I rather enjoyed a chance to get creative and solve problems. Being a mentor and trainer in engineering as well as being a consultant brought me fulfilment. There is also an entrepreneurial side to me, but I'm threading that path carefully as I do not want to get consumed by achievements and lose myself on the way. My family's woes made me determined to always be financially secure. I managed to achieve that to a certain extent at least. Part of it through my talent, hard work and perseverance, but big part of it thanks to everything that I received from my parents, some great teachers that I had, my partner and all the good friends who were part of my life as well as people that I have worked with.

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How do I look like?

Looks are incredibly important. That is for a sperm donor at least. I'm tall, my skin is fair but still tans, eventually. This fact tends to surprise people who first meet me during the winter and then meet me again once I've tanned, as most usually reckon that I wouldn't tan at all. My hair is dark - black or darkest shade of brown. I have a long face, a tall forehead, prominent brow ridge, strong and square jaw, fairly thin lips, and a matching large aquiline nose which is a defining feature of my face. My cheekbones are set high if not too prominent. In order to make this description better I've uploaded a few photos of mine to a website that uses some kind of software to find celebrity look-a-likes. The results were mixed and never much more than 30%. The people mentioned were a certain Pablo Schreiber, Jason Biggs, Robert Lewandowski and Mario Mandžukić. I look like them as much as they look like each other – not much, but at least they form some kind of a group. Very roughly though by looking at them you at least get the picture. No pun intended.

Why did I donate?

Back to the inner child, or inner children of varying age. I'd say that for me the whole donation process was started off by my inner three-year-old who very much wanted to do this and couldn't say why. My adult self did not see harm in it and saw some good outcomes as well. What am I trying to say? One part of my motivation to donate is because I'm thankful for getting some intelligence, optimism, good nature (most of the time) and decent health genes. If somebody must get genetic material from a bank, then my donation may very likely bring them joy. Another part is acting on a primal procreational instinct. This part may not be up to most people's taste. I perfectly understand that, and I would probably not look so fondly on such a driver confessed by someone else. Still, I wish to be as honest as I can be about my motivation. For me it is part of learning about all my inner drivers and seeing how to accommodate them. If it can be done in an ethical way than I think that I will be happier doing it than not. The way I see it: it is yet another question of balance. Just as we need to balance our time between fun and work, or between focusing on ourselves and on others, we also have to balance the relationship with our own ego. Yes, partially I'm satisfying my ego. At the same time, I will be helping someone. I suppose that's good in the end. I'll be happier for this and even writing this letter was an incredibly useful exercise. I would regret dying one day and not doing this.

Features that run in my family. Genetics.

We're not one of those families with uniform looks. Moderate male baldness seems to be running in the family though. We are also mostly tall, apart from my maternal grandmother. My dad had black hair and light hazel eyes, he tanned easily. My mum has medium/light brown hair and blue eyes, she doesn't really tan much and had freckles in her youth. My hazel eyes are darker than my dad's, possibly owing to my maternal grandmother. My mum has a widow's peak and naturally large breast. I don't have a widow's peak myself though.

A bunch of things about me to help you decide.

People describe me as perseverant in what I do and coming across as confident. A lot of people that I've worked with praised my patience and optimism. My partner thinks that I have a strong will power, in spite of witnessing a little piece of chocolate beating that will power so often. I consider myself a good problem solver and I've got a good memory and ability to connect the dots. Reading comprehension and spatial and language abilities would always come high whenever I did ability tests, I'm not sure is that genetic or climbing trees and reading books helped there. When I was evaluated for compulsory military service, I was assigned duty as a military policeman. As national service was later discontinued, I never got to actually do that, but the fact says a lot about my physical fitness.

Some more things about me.

I'm an early bird. I'm more likely to dream than to worry. Procrastination is my greatest enemy. I'll do things at the last moment unless it is a problem-solving task in which I tend to get immersed or if it is about helping someone. I can usually get myself in shape quickly fitness wise. My love of dough and sweets can get me out of shape quickly. Food and travel are my two passions. I like salmon, lamb, beans, aubergines, Greek and Turkish food as well as Vietnamese.

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My favourite destinations are China, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and France. I hope to visit Nepal, Vietnam, Korea and Japan. I've visited more than 30 countries for work or for pleasure. I'm good at languages and I moved a lot having lived in 4 countries. Some of my favourite authors include Arikawa Hiro, Albert Camus, Eric Knight, James Clavel, Arthur Golden, Yoshikawa Eiji and Robert Merle. I source life wisdom from books by Daniel Kahneman, Nasim Taleb and Matthew Syed. I got covid vaccine as soon as it was possible for me. I believe in balance in everything, most of all in human relationships. I like both cats and dogs. I enjoy driving. I like music.

Personality tests

On the Big Five personality test I have scored 85% on Openness, 54% on Conscientiousness, 73% on both Extraversion and Agreeableness and finally 4% on Neuroticism.

Final word

Thank you for reading all this and good luck on your journey. I hope that I have given you plenty of information, to either choose me easily or dismiss me equally easily. Best of luck to you!

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Donor Goodwill Message to Offspring

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Hi there!

At this point your parent or your parents have decided it is time to share this message with you. I trust that they chose a good moment. You must be curious about every aspect of where you come from and how you came to be, including the donor that was chosen to provide a part of genetic material that makes you. This wish is only human and natural, and especially strong at some stages of life. You must be excited and the words from this letter will probably echo in your mind for a while. I will therefore use the opportunity to try and say some useful things to you. These might have an immediate impact on you or you might recall them later on in your life. You might have heard most of this before – any parent choosing me would most likely have similar views to me.

Before I say anything else I'd like to say that I hope with all my heart that you had a happy childhood. I know that your parent or your parents wanted you very much. I hope that they have been able to be there for you, to love you unconditionally and to accept you the way you are. Hopefully they have created a loving environment in which you were free to explore and enjoy the world, and this was only limited by your own safety and not by your parents worries. Most of all I hope that you were given a chance to be yourself, and not something your parents wanted for you instead. I'm sure they have given you all that they could, most people do and luckily nowadays not too many people are misguided about parenting. In any case whatever was with you until now, it is from now on that you have all of your life in front of you, to use anyhow you want. And on this beautiful planet, with so many good people! Isn't that great?

Now to the part where I share what I have learned. One part of us is how we were born. Tall, short, talented for maths or talented for acting, good at basketball or good at gymnastics. Liking boys or liking girls. For this part the key word is acceptance. It's as simple as figuring yourself out and then accepting yourself. It's easier said than done, though, and you should use any help you may find available to fulfil this important mission. However, even without those answers, there is already so much that we know about ourselves! How come you may ask?

Perhaps the most important part of what makes us is actually not what is unique to us but what we have in common with every other human. Empathy, cruelty, humility, pride... We all have seeds of all those qualities within us. As we grow, we become more aware of them and of the fact that we can steer ourselves in a certain direction and grow certain parts of us inside us. For this we have the responsibility. As we grow older, this steering is more and more in our hands, especially in modern times. When we were little our parents, our friends and our surroundings may have already steered us somewhat. However, we can learn about ourselves and about life and steer ourselves further. That way we can make use of what life gives to us. For me, the most rewarding path in life was to collect the courage and allow to myself to grow empathy within me. To try and put myself in other's shoes and to not allow my own defences to prevent me from doing that. Feeling for someone else's pain can improve so much how you look at the world and how you look at yourself. Ultimately that is the thing that gives you the courage and motivation to improve yourself. But that was me, whatever works for you and wherever you need improvement is what you should focus on. If you lack confidence, for example, you need to start building it step by step by doing small but gradually bigger and bigger steps in a safe environment.

Whatever it is for you, this quote can be quite useful I believe. It is from a book called *Memoirs of a Geisha*. It talks about rising from poverty, but it could be about anything, as long as it is about taking control of your own life:

"I wish I could believe that life really is something more than a stream that carries us along, belly-up"

"Alright, if it's a stream, you're still free to be in this part of it or that part, aren't you? The water will divide again and again. If you bump, and tussle, and fight, and make use of whatever advantages you might have-"

"Oh, that's fine, I'm sure, when you have advantages."

"You'd find them everywhere, if you ever bothered to look!"

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To sum up life and identity in as few words as possible: we are born looking like our parents, we die looking like our decisions. Anything else, zodiac signs, race, nationality, these don't make us unique individuals. On the contrary these are excuses for the less courageous to never face themselves.

As identity is what you are likely to be looking for, I've felt it right to point out that it really lies within us and is ours to create.

In case you'd like to meet with me I'll do my best to be available to meet. I would be happy to share anything about family history and about myself. I am also hoping to raise children with my partner. I am pretty sure they will be interested in meeting you too. You should be about the same age.

Should we be forming a relationship? You will have your parent or parents who raised you and I hope I will raise children myself by then. Those should be the primary relationships, I strongly believe. I'm afraid that growing a relationship beyond a single meeting would compete with those relationships in an unhealthy way and that it is best not attempted. Luckily, this path comes naturally. Building relationships takes effort, not building them is the default state. In case we don't meet for any reason I would like to end this with the smartest and most useful quote that I know of:

This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

P.S.: World is beautiful, and most people are good and wish good. However, if anyone ever hurts you intentionally do not give them another chance. Not ever. There are plenty of other people on Earth and you have a primary duty to protect yourself. Simple as that. You do not have any duty toward anyone who has deliberately hurt you nor any reason to let them close. Move on from them, it is for the best. If they are a better person, they can be that for someone else.