The Missing Question from Foucault's 'Confessions of the Flesh' Interview
Translated by Stuart Elden

Editor's Note: This is a translation of the first question from the interview 'Confessions of the Flesh.' That interview has been translated and published in full elsewhere, but without the first question; thus, Stuart Elden translated said question and its response, which I have included here. The original is accessible at: https://progressivegeographies.com/2013/12/30/the-missing-question-from-foucaults-confession-of-the-flesh-interview-a-translation/

Shortly after the publication of *The Will to Knowledge* [*History of Sexuality Volume I*] we invited Michel Foucault to spend an evening with us. From a relaxed conversation, we provide some excerpts here. A.G.

A. Grosrichard: It is time to turn to this *History of Sexuality* of which we have the first volume, and which you have announced will comprise six.

M. Foucault: Yes, I would first like to say that I am very happy to be here with you. This is partly why I wrote this book in this form. Up until now, I wrapped things up – I spared no citation, no reference, and threw rather heavy cobblestones [*et j'avais lancé des pavés un peu lourds*], which remained for the most part unanswered. From this came the idea of the book programme, a sort of *gruyère* cheese, with holes which could be filled in. I did not want to say 'this is what I think,' because I am still very unsure of what I put forward. But I would like to see if it could be said, and how far it could be said, and, of course, that risks being very disappointing for you. And that there are uncertainties in what I have written is certainly uncertain. There is no trick, no rhetoric. And I'm not certain either what I will write in the following volumes. That is why I wanted to hear the effect of this hypothetical discourse, in overview. It seems to me that this is the first time I have met people who want to play the game that I propose in my book.

A. Grosrichard: Certainly. [The published English translation continues from here].