Friend Survey

Directions: Answer the items in whatever way you want; however you want.

* What is your favorite shape?

Wotan - A regular n-gon, where n is arbitrarily large. It's practically a circle, but without the pretension of being "perfect". It's more of an achievable ideal. Also it fits in with my theory about the superstition that the devil enters a room from the corners. While it is more likely that this has to do with the natural accumulation of shadows there, or the structural issues with having doors and windows on corners, I prefer to imagine that it is because of the identification of circles with God and the addition of corners to regular polygons as an attempt to reach that perfection, representing the arrogance and pride that the Christian mythos attributes to Lucifer in his attempt to overthrow God

* Say I told you right now you have to teach a class, twice a week for the next four weeks, starting today. What is your class?

Wotan - Introductory real analysis. It's super useful and interesting and wouldn't take that much effort for me to prep for it. Four weeks isn't enough time to get through the material regardless of how fast I went, so I wouldn't feel rushed, and could have as many digressions as I wanted into whatever topic I'm currently focused on

* What tradition or regional peculiarity do you not understand? Or one that just peeves you?

Wotan - The use of the term bubbler for water fountains. The term makes sense for water coolers, since they occasionally have bubbles, but not for fountains. The only way in which they even approach bubbles is the minute aeration caused by shooting the water through the air

* Do you legitimately believe in any “conspiracy theories”? If so, what and why?

Wotan - They're only called conspiracy theories if they're not true. The things I believe in are obviously true, otherwise I wouldn't believe them

* Communication comes in all forms, so what is your favorite example of a piece of communicative information? For example, I love the Greek letter eta () because of how it feels to write it. Other examples include sounds; ways words “feel” when spoken, ASL signs, etc.

Wotan - Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll. I enjoy the use of standard story tropes to create a narrative regardless of the lack of characterization or even actual words

* When you use a pair of headphones, where does it feel like the sound is coming from? Inside head, ears, outside of body, or somewhere else? Bonus: When picking out a pair of headphones, how do you want it to sound?

Wotan - Outside my body. I don't pick out headphones based on sound, but on fit. Every playback is going to have some level of imperfection, so I'd rather make sure that the sound doesn't cut out, rather than chasing an unacheivable level of tonal purity

* What sort of stories do you imagine you will be telling when you are in your 70’s?

Wotan - A combination of aggrandized anecdotes, and outright lies for the based on a true story type. More often, sharing the stories that were important to me growing up. Fiction is oftentimes more important than fact. "Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten" - Neil Gaiman

* Did you have a secret hiding place as a child?

Wotan - Yes. If I said what it was, then it wouldn't be secret anymore

* Without saying what it is, tell me why you think your favorite color is what it is.

Wotan - I had a popular favorite color, but then I made the decision to change it so that I would be able to choose that color when playing board games

* If you were the one making this list, what would you add?

Wotan - Do you think it is possible to truthfully know yourself, why or why not?

No. Memories and tastes and such are constantly changing things. Things that I think to be true about myself may be completely untrue, for instance, I used to not like chocolate or cake, but, over the weekend, I baked myself a chocolate cake for the fourth time in the past year. Was it an accurate assertion that I did not like these things in the past, or had I just experienced poor examples on which I made these assumptions. Did I ever dislike cake, or did I just not like bad cake? I assume that I am different because of this switch in tastes, but it may just be the same taste, only with more evidence to better define it. Similarly, many of the events from my childhood are only things that I assume to have happened based on stories told by others, likewise, other aspects are things that I have only my memories on which to base my beliefs. Neither of these are beyond reproach. I know that certain memories are fake, since I definitely did not travel the 18 miles to my highschool on the razor scooter that we sold years before I attended that school. Nevertheless, the memories of that event are as vivid as those for which I have photographic evidence, if not more so. Given this, can anything I believe about myself be true? It is entirely possible that I am just lying to myself, or worse, that I am incapable of determining whether or not I'm lying or telling the truth because even on a subconcious level, I don't know what is which.