

Jacques Yves Cousteau

Around the world, swimmers dive beneath the waves to fly ... (1) spirits through an ancient kingdom. That humans are here at ... (2), exploring a world forbidden to man for thousands of years, is largely because of the work of a farsighted Frenchman ... (3) Jacques-Yves Cousteau. He is the Columbus of the submarine world, at ... (4) the pioneer, prophet, poet -and foremost advertiser- of the deep. As the developer of the aqua-lung, he set divers ... (5) to roam to their heart's ... (6). As captain of the Calypso, he became an internationally recognised exponent of marine conservation. As an author and expert in underwater photography, he became the avatar of ocean exploration.

Cousteau has said "From ... (7), man carries the weight of gravity on his ... (8). But man has ... (9) to sink ... (10) the surface and he is free. Buoyed by water, he can fly in any direction -up, down, sideways- by ... (11) flipping his hand. Under water, man becomes an archangel". Such raptures ... (12) the deep could only come from the mouth of an aesthete or an ascetic - and Cousteau is somewhere in ... (13). His 1.8 metre body has ... (14) been lean. His face, hollow-cheeked, cleft ... (15) the lean curve of a noble nose and full of deep lines, ... (16) have been carved by the sea ... (17).

Young Cousteau ... (18) second in his class from France's naval academy, and after a car crash ... (19) his arms badly injured, he ... (20) hours regaining his strength by swimming in the Mediterranean. There in 1936 a fellow naval officer gave him a pair of goggles used by pearl fishermen.