

YOUR QUESTIONS TO SOPHIA BALESTRI
about her first novel

- How did the idea for “La Plume et l’Envol” come to you? (question from Laure Deprez)

It was during a journey in Asia that I had taken to rejuvenate myself that the initial idea came to light. At this time I was plunged into a meditative state of mind, and it emerged in a rather unexpected way – in the form of a song. This experience overwhelmed me because even when I had chosen the words, the origin of this text remained to me, a sort of mystery in which I felt deeply involved.

Over the course of a few days, while I tried to fully understand the idea, the inspiration brought me to write other texts and so to compose a story. For a few years, I thought of putting this text to music though collaboration with other people, before deciding to let this verve pull me into the great adventure of a first novel.

- Where is the presence of God in your story? (question from Antoine Escoffier)

Everywhere; at the source of every element, in the lunar halo, the ponds, the ground, and in all this burgeoning nature that I had the pleasure to present.

They are omnipresent in this landscape, they are also the fire which lives in both lovers, in their faith in Love, which transcends them.

They also embody their thirst of freedom and their quest absolute happiness.

- Are you, yourself represented in the novel? (question from Elisabeth Marquand-Villiers)

Not directly. Nevertheless, certain character archetypes probably did slide into my quill, because I wrote this story very freely, by involving myself totally.