

IN RELIGION

without that inheritance of inescapable fear which is the unconscious curse of so much of our modern piety.

This, however, is by no means the whole of the problem. There is still the curse of the evil self to be lifted. That possession begins, in the child, with the first revolt of the instinct of self-assertion, which is usually disobedience to the parent; and disobedience being concealed because of the fear of punishment, the child is afflicted with the sense of secret guilt. Here, possibly, is the origin of the idea of the evil self among primitive peoples, too, but with them, as with the growing child, it is all confused with the idea of the sex self—perhaps because the instinct of sex is nature's lever for breaking the child away from the parent, in order to establish a new family; and the revolt of sex is consequently the revolt against the parent, and, therefore, the source of "original sin."

This is where Doctor X's complaint of "faulty education" begins. The child is taught that to disobey his parents is a sin, and the first stirrings of his instinct of self-assertion are thereby marked as sinful—as the stirrings of his evil self. His first instinctive curiosity about sex is similarly branded, and his sex self becomes part of