

THE SECRET SPRINGS

him was a sin; and she clearly remembers her first conception of God, in an armchair, watching her as her father watched. Such memories are rare. But in the subconscious mind of the race—as it expresses itself in primitive religions and hero myths—the working of the instinct has long been evident and recognized. It shows in its simplest form in early ancestor worship. It operates in the Greek legends of those dead tribal heroes who were seen as stars above their people; and in the belief of the Romans that their emperors, after death, became protecting gods; and so down to the almost modern tenet of the divine right of kings. The primitive devotee stretches out his arms to heaven, as a child holds out his arms to his parent. God is the heavenly Father. "Pope" is a form of "papa." Priests are called "fathers"; and the word "priest" itself is from the Greek word for "elder." Even the Tsar was "the Little Father," and we have our own "Father of His Country" as our national hero, and Lincoln was "Father Abraham"—for this instinct operates in hero worship as in religion.

In ancient times, the father had the power of life and death over his children. The primitive religions were almost wholly religions of fear. A jealous and angry god