

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

INTRODUCTION	25
1. PARENT-CHILD LOVE	31
Love	31
<i>The love of the child for the parent • The love of the parent for the child</i>	
Pseudo-Love	34
<i>“We have the greatest respect for our child’s natural impulses.” • “I can’t stand to let him cry.” • “I would never let my child use a pacifier.” • “I would never go to work and leave my children. What kind of a mother do you think I am?” • “I can’t stand for him to be angry at me.” • “He’s everything I have in the world.” • “But you promised.” • “You can never repay us for all the sacrifices we have made for you.” • “I want to give them everything I didn’t have when I was a child.” • “My son the doctor” • “My son the doctor is drowning!” • “Comes the Revolution, you’ll like wine.” • “The rich man’s son syndrome” • “He catches cold very easily.” • “My Joey would never do such a thing.” • “He’s a genius.” • “We’re like pals.” • “All I want is respect.” • “You’re not old enough to understand things like that.” • “Mother knows best.” • “I don’t know what I would</i>	

do without her.” • “Where did we go wrong, doctor?” • “When I studied psychology in college. . .”

The Effects of Pseudo-Love and Deprivation of Love 61

2. SELF-ESTEEM 63

“Johnny called me stupid.” • “We have great respect for his natural inclinations.” • “This is my daughter.” • “Can’t you do anything right?” • “How will my children respect me if I admit my faults to them?” • “I’m proud to be American (black, Jewish, Irish, Italian, etc.).” • “I wish her nose wasn’t so big.” • “I was swimming champ at my summer camp.” • The class clown • The briber • The cheater • “I never heard anyone say such terrible things.” • “Nice boys don’t fight.” • “Boys don’t cry.” • “She criticizes herself mercilessly.” • “Look ma, no hands!” • “What a beautiful picture. What is it?” • “You’ll be a great engineer someday, and we’ll all be proud of you.” • “Dad, can you help me with my homework?” • “The other kids probably cheated.” • “What a nice boy.” • The feeling of being needed • “I didn’t get the job because. . .” • “He keeps talking about how lousy he feels about himself.” • “He has such high standards.” • “Virtue is its own reward.” • “All I want is that my children should be happy.”

3. EATING AND OTHER ORAL GRATIFICATIONS 84

“I would never think of bottle feeding my child.” • “She’s a very stubborn baby. She keeps grabbing the spoon and making a mess.” • “I would never let my child use a pacifier.” • “Take your thumb out of your mouth.” • “Finish your spinach or you can’t have dessert.” • “Milk: the perfect food. Bread: the staff of life.” • “Martin, don’t forget to take your vitamins.” • “We never let our children eat candy and other junk.”

4. CHILDHOOD SEXUALITY AND THE OEDIPUS COMPLEX 94

The Freudian Stages of Psychosexual Development 94
The oral phase • The anal phase • The phallic phase and the Oedipus complex

Other Theories of the Oedipus Complex	99
<i>Carl Jung • Alfred Adler • Otto Rank • Karen Horney • Harry Stack Sullivan • Erich Fromm</i>	
The Oedipus Complex as I See It	103
The Unresolved Oedipus Complex as a Source of Psychological Disturbance	105
Further Comments on Childhood Sexuality	107
<i>“We believe most sexual differences to be artificially induced by male chauvinistic attitudes.” • “We never undress in front of the children.” • “We never let our kids come into our bed in the morning.” • “Last night Billy came into our bedroom while we were having intercourse.” • “Penis envy” and “castration anxiety” • Masturbation • “You show me yours and I’ll show you mine.”</i>	
The Resolution of the Oedipus Complex	121
5. GUILT	125
<i>Stages in the development of guilt • Guilt • Appropriate guilt • Exaggerated guilt • Fantasized guilt • Diminished or absent guilt</i>	
6. ANGER	132
Anger, Hostility, and Aggression	132
Anger, Rage, and Fury	133
Anger Inhibition	135
The Nightmare	136
Maladaptive Expression of Anger	137
Parental Anger toward One Another or Other Adults	138
<i>“We never fight in front of the children.” • “I know we don’t need a new vacuum cleaner, but I didn’t know how to say ‘no’ to the man.” • “Did you hear what happened to old man Burke? The idiot electrocuted himself with his electric hedge shears.” • “And then my father called my mother a witch</i>	

and then she called him a son of a bitch.” • “My father gave my mother a black eye after she threw a dish at him.”

Parental Anger toward the Child 142

“Anyone who hates children and dogs can’t be all bad.” • “My daughter is turning into a tramp.” • “Just because you go to college, you think you’re smarter than your parents.” • “He takes after his father—the same stubborn streak, the same laziness.” • “A zadeh you call a ‘shithead’? Fuck you!” • “The first thing you have to do is attract his attention.”

The Child’s Anger toward the Parent 145

“He has the worst temper tantrums. They can drive you crazy.” • “I can’t stand to see him so angry at me.” • “I’ll never get used to his long hair. From the back he looks just like a girl.” • “Who do you think you’re talking to? Your mother?” • “To a zadeh you say, ‘Fuck you’?”

Anger within the Child and Anger between Children 150

“You must have been very angry when the coach had you sit out the whole game on the bench.” • “How did you feel when Gail broke your doll?” • “Hardly a week goes by when he doesn’t have a terrible fight on the way home from school.” • “Nice boys don’t fight.” • “My father can beat up your father.”

Anger between Siblings 154

“They never seem to stop fighting, doctor.” • “Don’t touch that.” “Stay away from that,” etc. • “A fight a day keeps the psychiatrist away.” • “You always give him the biggest piece of cake.” • “The oldest was always a hellion.” • “We restrain our praises of Bob because it makes Jane feel so bad.” • “In our home, everything is shared. No one owns anything.” • “Billy says I’m a sneak (baby, tattletale, etc.).” • “Their fighting is a constant drain on us.” • “Who started it?” • “I can see how that makes you angry, but you still can’t flush her fish down the toilet.” • “Thank God we only have one child.”

Principles of Discipline and Punishment, Advisable and Inadvisable 165

“Let the punishment fit the crime.” • “It’s up to you.” • “How can you punish me if you don’t know I did it?” • “I never have to punish my children. When they do something wrong, we just discuss it.” • “What will the neighbors think?” • “We keep a united front.” • “Just wait until your father comes home.” • “Why can’t you be like Howard?” • “My Joey would never do such a thing.” • “If you admit you did it, I won’t punish you.” • “If you don’t say you’re sorry, I’ll punish you.” • “If you don’t say ‘Thank you’ you can’t have the present.” • “When I was your age. . .” • “How can you do this to me?” • “God punished you.” • “If you don’t go, none of us will go.” • Playing one parent against the other • “Shut up this minute and go to sleep.” • “All is forgiven” and “saving face”

Kinds of Disciplinary Measures, Advisable and Inadvisable 184

The basic disciplinary measure: threatened loss of parental affection • “Solitary confinement” • Going to sleep early (with or without supper) • “You can’t watch anymore television tonight.” • “Ten cents off your allowance for that.” • “You can’t go out and play.” • The demerit system • “We never spank our children.”

Concluding Comments 190

8. CHILDREN’S PLAY 193

“She loves playing peekaboo.” • “He never goes anywhere without his blanket.” • “Who wants to be Snow White in the play?” • “Daddy, look what I drew!” • “Bang, bang. You’re dead.” • “I never let my children play with guns.” • “Let’s play house.” • “Let’s play doctor.” • “Let’s play dentist.” • “Daddy, you just sat on my friend Judy!” • “Mommy, buy me a toy.” • “That must have made you very angry. I think you’ll feel better if you pound some clay.” • “I believe competitive games are harmful to children.” • “Should I let him

win?" • "Timmy's such a sore loser." • "How about a game of checkers?"

9. EDUCATION 212

"Gee, Dad, when I grow up I want to be like you." • "I don't trust my kids with those 'highbrow' and 'Commie' teachers." • "He has a defiant attitude toward all authority—the teachers, the principal, and especially my husband and me." • "Very nice report card, Bobby; now take out the garbage." • "It's not what you know, but who you know." • "What percentage of graduates from this school get into Ivy League colleges?" • "Ma, I have a stomach ache. I don't feel like going to school today." • "If you don't send me to an out-of-town college, I won't go at all." • "He has the worst luck with teachers." • "She's afraid to go to school. The doctor says she has a 'school phobia.'" • "She just can't get through biology." • "My father never even hits me." • "She's such a perfectionist." • "No one likes the 'class brain.'" • "Men don't like smart girls." • "He's totally removed himself from his studies. He says he's having an 'identity crisis.'" • "We don't believe in grades in this school." • "No baseball till you practice the piano."

10. TELEVISION 239

The advertisers • The world of unreality • Television and violence • Television and sex • "Scary programs" • Television addiction • Television's benefits: present and future(?)

EPILOGUE 249

INDEX 251