

during latency. An analogous course to be postulated in the resolution of the dyadic isogender ("negative") complex is neither convincing nor clinically supportable; indeed, a question was left open here which keeps our curiosity still on the alert. The hiatus in our comprehension of this particular issue has its roots in the fact that the isogender ("negative") complex in the boy is usually equated in psychoanalytic writing with passivity and homosexuality. While this correspondence applies more properly to the triadic constellation, it certainly has no sweeping analogue in the boy's dyadic father attachment, even though passive trends are undoubtedly woven into this early bonding. Their descent from the infant's passive position of infantile maternal caretaking is easy to ascertain in the small child's behavior. On the other hand, we observe a gradual modulation of attachment behavior when the little boy shares, imitates, and displays actively the father's masculine posture in its polarity to the mother. The terminology we use in speaking of these phenomena tends to confuse the issue, because the male's "positive" complex is considered to be implicitly active and his "negative" complex implicitly passive.

The adolescent process of the male offered a fertile ground to observe and study clinically the issues just mentioned. I therefore want to report an observation from adolescent analysis which, by its sheer repetitiveness in several cases, brought to my attention the fact that the resolution of the isogender ("negative") complex is often followed by an intense positive father transference.* A patient's search for a model becomes distinctly recognizable. The mere fact of choosing a new model indicates that father deidealization is on its way. To this modulation of the positive transference between male adolescent and male analyst we might apply Winnicott's (1969) term "the use of an object" in order to conceptualize a developmentally normative forward move in adolescent psychic restructuring. There comes a time in adolescent analysis when the patient wishes to relate to the analyst as a real person. We detect in this changing attitude the overture to a changing perception of the paternal imago. The boy begins to perceive his father without the distortions of idealization or vilification; concomitantly, the patient's object relations in his present life become more individualized, less stereotyped and repetitive. I could ascertain a more stable and dependable ego organization. This change became demonstrable by a comparative assessment of his ego functioning during the term of the analytic work.

My critical attention in assessing adolescent change always roams over a wide behavioral repertoire, a few items of which should be named, such as the adolescent's capricious excitability; diffuse and erratic shift-

* Notice in this sentence the confusing and awkward vocabulary which has evolved from the broadening conception of "the complete Oedipus complex."

ness of attention or fanatical constrictedness of interests; excessive idealization or cynical degradation of people and ideas; and, last but not least, a proclivity to random and transient identifications and counteridentifications. All these particularities yield slowly, if all goes well, to a personality of reasonable predictability and stability as to purpose, direction, and goal. With the rising clarity and firmness of "who I am" emerges simultaneously "who I am not." Erikson (1981) has been particularly interested in this aspect of the human personality and put the issue into the following words: "These habitual rejections, in turn, have helped to give a clearer outline of one's own 'true self' or to those variant 'selves' which are either proudly or fatalistically accepted as a self-description within the contemporary world of roles" (p. 331). If I understand Erikson correctly, I would conclude that the integration of these inclusive and exclusive determinations shapes and sustains the sense of identity and that they are the building blocks of the emerging adult character. In giving permanent structure to this internal inclusiveness and exclusiveness, the individual establishes, at the terminal stage of childhood, the awareness of a generational uniqueness between past and future.

With the narrowing down of the possible self-realizations in life, or the surrender of the wide array of choices and the commitment to a selected few, there emerges the emotive state of mourning the passing of childhood. The stark realization of the loss of childhood affords the growing individual a sense of the human condition as well as a sense of the tragic. The protective envelope of childhood, having been discarded, the safekeeping of purpose and meaning of life passes over into the guardianship of the self. I conceive the dynamics of this personality change in the male as intrinsically related to the resolution of the dyadic father relationship, which becomes increasingly divested of infantile bonding or attachment needs. This resolution cannot be effected by object displacement, but only by the formation of a new psychic institution, which is to say by a structural innovation, the adult ego ideal (Blos, 1974).

I think I have made it clear—perhaps redundantly clear—that in my opinion the boy faces in his adolescence the task of renouncing the libidinal bond that he had once formed and experienced in relation to the dyadic and triadic, i.e., preoedipal and oedipal, father. What attracts our special attention are the vicissitudes of the "negative" complex from adolescence onward throughout a man's life. Behavioral observation has taught us that the adolescent boy possesses a particular sensitivity to social situations or interactions which contain potential entrapments into submissiveness to males or dependency on them. The same emotional reactions in his relation to females are common knowledge because he often expresses them with remarkable frankness. We know of the many ways submissiveness or dependency, real or imagined, are fought off by the adolescent boy, but we should not overlook the many ways in which