

## ORIGIN OF MORALITY: FREUD ON

Like other myth-makers before him, Freud proposed his own myth on the origin of morality, which to him was originally indistinguishable from religion and a social sense: all three would originate in infantile

sexuality. "According to the hypothesis which I put forward in Totem and Taboo they were acquired phylogenetically out of the father-complex: religion and moral restraint through the process of mastering the Oedipus complex itself, and social feeling through the necessity for overcoming the rivalry that then remained between the members of the younger generation. The male sex seems to have taken the lead in all these moral acquisitions; and they seem to have then been transmitted to women by cross-inheritance" (1962 p. 27).

Freud, S. (1962) The Ego and the Id. London: Hogarth and Institute of Psycho-Analysis.

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