

Clinic we are faced with this problem: a mother of three wants to adopt a derelict five-year-old-boy, of whom she is the temporary foster-mother, but has doubts because the child is often cruel and vicious and she thinks he may have 'criminal tendencies'. We find that until very recently this child was 'brought up' by a mother (estranged from her alcoholic husband) who half-starved the boy and savagely beat him almost continually since birth. If the foster-mother, who would make an excellent adoptive parent, doesn't take him he will probably remain in the care of different institutions and foster-parents indefinitely. What would strengthen you as a clinician even as it . . . etc. etc?)

Erikson has shown us in great detail where the Good Life lies and no-one will want to quarrel with him over its broad outlines, but neither his formulae nor anyone else's can help us solve such ethical predicaments; to meet them in good faith means inevitably to be plunged into what the existentialists call 'anguish'.

Finally, a word about Erikson the writer. I think he must be the most literary of psychoanalysts since Freud. He doesn't always have Freud's lucidity of exposition, but he does avoid the dreary, cliché-ridden jargon of many post-Freudians. However, he sometimes adopts a very condensed, abstract, epigrammatic style which can be quite daunting and which takes several readings to digest. I have indicated only a small part of the richness which is to be found in this book, and if ever you feel inclined to grapple with the conceptions of a formidably equipped man, a virtuoso of his profession, you couldn't do better than study 'Insight and Responsibility'.

## A. Abramovitz

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### The Running Has To Stop

I retreat.  
Hide behind, this wall of my mind.  
I am not as yet one, with myself.  
  - with the world.  
Angry teeth, they snarl in my face.

An intruder,  
Breaks through, this wall of my mind.  
His feelings reach mine -  
A first link.  
The world and I, we write.  
I loose myself to it.

Brenda J. Warren