

# Adolescence

## Chapter XI

### Adolescent Love,

While this Chapter is called Adolescent Love it is in reality the evolution of love from its earliest stages thru adolescence, into maturity and on to its highest and noblest ends. It is really an essay on love.

Children are like Adam and Eve before they partook of the forbidden fruit. "Though naked, not ashamed," but with the dawn of Adolescence the consciousness of sex is awakened and they became aware of their nakedness. If there is sufficient excuse for uncovering the body and exposing the person many a youth and maiden will do so "Ad maiorem Dei gloriam".

In earlier stages of racial development men and women were nude and did not seem to care, but as they moved from warm to cold climates where they needed

Clothes to protect the body they began to look upon nakedness as wrong. From this has grown up our idea of the indecency of exposing the person.

Love between boys and girls under eight years is a reversion of the type to a time when the sexual organs developed at a much earlier stage than at present and should not be encouraged. There is no consciousness of real love, sexual at least, at this age. At the age of from eight to twelve or fourteen we have another set of love affairs. Here he describes the antics of the male to attract the female and the coyness of the latter to the former. There is more consciousness here. Then he takes up the love of older persons by younger ones and shows how this may be used to an advantage in developing the younger as well as restraining the <sup>acts of the</sup> older. It is no best to repress healthy thoughts of sex at the proper stage. In fact "it is\* one of the Cardinal sins against youth

to repress healthy thoughts of sex at the proper age."

He opens his session on Adolescent love with a poem in prose on budding sexual qualities in nature and the mating-time with birds and animals. Following this is the social tendencies of the male to fight for the female, to display his love in crude primitive ways and how woman in only a woman's way stands as coach, judge and final recipient of this love. Through this stage we are led through the different stages in the evolution of love—Chivalry and all its attendants and finally our modern refined Courtships.

Following this is a list of things that appeal to one and thus stimulate love, also those things that are disliked. If we see in an individual many of the things we like and few of the things we dislike we fall in love. "The instinct to cover" is strongest in woman. Fear, shyness, coyness and reluctance, Characteristics of women,

Come from her physical periods.  
 "Modesty is at root mode, and woman  
 is its mistress".

All of our higher, nobler emotions  
 Come out of properly regulated and directed  
 adolescent love. The sexual function  
 should be postponed until complete  
 maturity and thus develop the best  
 in man. "Primary sexual facts  
 normally come in the later stages of  
 adolescence after secondary have become  
 familiar to consciousness". This is his  
 theory. "When this is done "Love can  
 include the whole body." When this age  
 is reached people should marry; for then  
 they can live the truest and fullest life  
 possible on earth. With children  
 in the home "Marital is enlarged to  
 filial love, and the affections are slowly  
 pivoted over into alignment with  
 the race and its interests. The struggle  
 for the life of others, which has taken the  
 place of that for individual existence,  
 now includes the family and is triumphant".  
 From such love comes the  
 highest religion, the religion of love  
 "God is love!"

Art and the higher things in mental life have their roots in Adolescent love. Art is not for its own sake but for love. Love is the secret of romance and the heart of literature. He has a section on Ethics and Morals and gives the development as follows: (a) love of self, (b) love of opposite sex, (c) love of children, (d) love of ones Community or State, (e) love of the race or altruism. Knowledge at its best is only a form of love. In fact he would make you believe there is nothing in life worth while but love. While I agree in the main with his views I am not sure that it is good psychology to make all of man one of his functions.

R. N. Wright