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'THE MODERN
SADO-MASOCHISTIC SYNDROME'

DEAR SIR,

We have spent several years in trying to help people with their marital problems. Recently we have been struck by the similarity of a particular reaction which we have called 'The Modern Sado-Masochistic Syndrome'. If one is aware of what the husband is 'doing' to his wife and vice versa, it helps.

Below we outline this 'syndrome'; we wonder if it might help some of your readers to follow the apparent vagaries in their problems of husbands and wives:

The husband has to overcome the 'masculinity' of his wife. That is, to destroy the image of his own father within her. If he is successful he can then 'make love' to his 'mother'. Once the love is over he must restore her to being the symbol of his father once again—but *only* if she is desirous of achieving this role, or he gives her the go-ahead to be the male.

The wife has to destroy the 'mother' within her husband; she does this by denigrating him. He then becomes the aggressive overpowering 'father' and she allows him to make love to her, bitterly disappointed, however, that he still is not her 'mother', so she restores him to his role as quickly as possible, particularly if he should desire to be the feminine member.

GORDON AMBROSE.

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