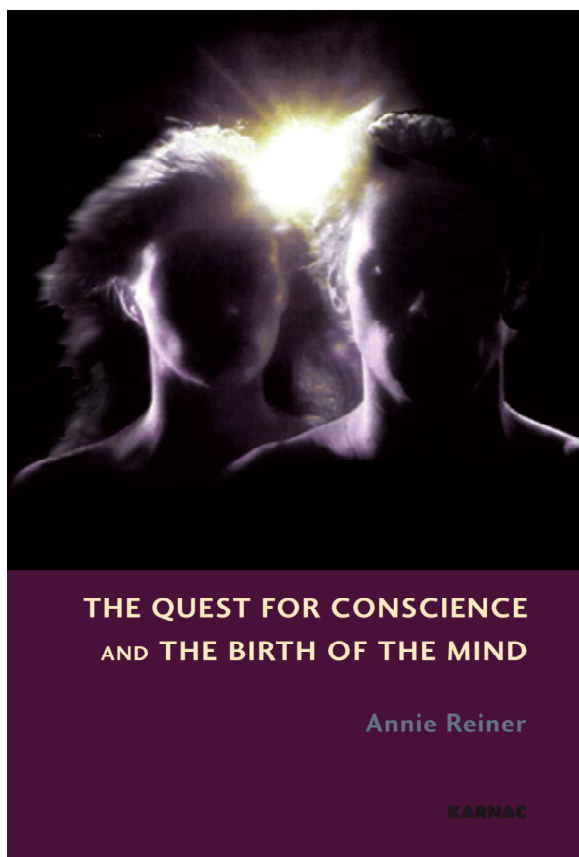


# THE QUEST FOR CONSCIENCE AND THE BIRTH OF THE MIND

Annie Reiner



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*The Quest for Conscience and the Birth of the Mind* examines conscience as an as-yet-unrealized human potential, but a potential toward which human beings are naturally driven. A "mature conscience", dependent on the development of an authentic self, is distinguished from classical ideas of the superego, postulating that the two may represent two separate lines of development. The more primitive superego is seen as an often pathological manifestation of this natural mental potential, while the development of a mature conscience is seen to have its foundation in the development of a true self. Detailed clinical material illustrates these ideas.

- Bion's ideas regarding the relationship between religious thought and a scientific perspective, and its relevance to psychoanalytic work
- Freud's and Bion's perspectives on religion are examined, revealing fundamental differences in their views of the mind
- Obstacles to the development of a healthy conscience

**About the author:** Annie Reiner is a member and associate faculty member of The Psychoanalytic Center of California (PCC) in Los Angeles, and a Fellow of the International Psychoanalytic Association. Her work was profoundly influenced by the ideas of Wilfred Bion, with whom she studied in the 1970s. Her psychoanalytic writings have been published in various journals and anthologies. In addition to her work and writings as a psychoanalyst, Dr. Reiner is an accomplished playwright, poet and painter. She is the author of four books of poems, a book of short stories, and four children's books, which she also illustrated. She maintains a private practice in Beverly Hills, California.

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