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PREPARATION

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1. What must men and women abandon before the natural awareness of divinity, of which Calvin writes in this section, becomes of any use to them? (44, 24)
 - a. *...natural haughtiness*
2. It is asserted that, *religion was invented by the subtlety and craft of a few to hold the simple folk in thrall*. What concession does Calvin make to this assertion? (44, 30ff)
 - a. *I confess, indeed, that in order to hold men's minds in greater subjection, clever men have devised very many things in religion by which to inspire the common folk with reverence and to strike them with terror.*
3. Does this undermine Calvin's assertion that men and women naturally have a sense of the divine? (45, 3ff)
 - a. *...they (ie, the 'clever man') would never have achieved this if men's minds had not already been imbued with a firm conviction about God, from which the inclination towards religion springs as a seed.*
4. No comment required from me but it would be interesting to see if an internet search threw up evidence that supports Calvin's assertions in this section.

FOR REFLECTION

1. Do you agree with Calvin that the existence of a natural awareness of divinity is, *beyond controversy*?