

By virtue of the authority invested in me¹

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The experience of working as an analyst is still very new to me - just a year in a counseling institution. I noticed that as an analyst I am not “me”, I am not the shy, restrained person that “I” usually “am”. What I am talking to my patients comes from another place. And the more I can surrender myself to this place, the more I feel free in the way I work. I realize that this place is influenced by the experience of my own analysis.

When I heard the expression “the grace of the analysand” in relation to the transference, this experience immediately came to my mind, because I realized that it is exactly this grace that sometimes makes analytic work possible. Lacan writes : “ *In the beginning of psychoanalysis, there is transference. The transference is there by the grace of him who, at the outset of his proposal, we shall call the psychoanalysand*”³. Freud states that at the beginning of an analysis, certain regularities can be found ⁴.

A few days later, the phrase “By virtue of the authority invested in me” came to my mind when a patient was telling me, “the secretaries who assigned me to you knew what they were doing”. I realized that this assumption of a supposed knowledge is a credit of trust, that can be part of analytic work, but it is not to be taken for granted. When a patient invests the authority in me, i.e. when he invests me as a subject supposed to know, I can take up the function of an analyst, in the case of this patient of one who “has to listen”.

1. A German phrase -“Kraft meines Amtes”- used in certain legal actions.

2. Member of a Flash-cartel on *Transference in the clinical work*, in preparation of the 2018 NLS Congress.

3. Lacan J.: Proposition of 9 October 1967 on the Psychoanalyst of the School, p 3.

4. Freud S.: “On Beginning the Treatment”, GW VIII p. 454.