

Transference, Symptom and (Triggering) Psychosis

Rik Loose¹ (Dublin)

In *Clinic under Transference*, J.-A. Miller indicates that the demand addressed to the analyst is a moment in which the symptom takes on a symbolic status in the form of a message from the Other. He writes: “The clinic of psychoses gives this “transference neurosis” its surest coordinates..., one can grasp the fact that the beginning of the analysis constitutes a conjunction favorable to the triggering of psychosis”². The clinic of psychosis positions the “transference neurosis”, but that does not mean that it overlaps with it. How are we to read this?

Lacan wonders how the Name-of-the-Father can be summonsed to that place where there is a hole. By a real father, a One-Father, and for this to happen the latter needs but situate itself as the third element in the ego-to-object relationship³. The examples he gives are of the young mother and her baby with the husband arriving with his desire for her as a woman as such confronting her with the not-all enigma of her femininity beyond motherhood. Or the woman who goes to confession confronted with the enigmatic desire of the priest. Or, the girl in love meeting the father of her young man. To these we may add the analysand whose initial problems are not quite analytical symptoms until the moment when (s)he is confronted with the desire of the analyst which can then trigger a psychosis.

Before this, the problems functioned on the imaginary axis of reality. Here, the symptom, according to J.-A. Miller, is identified with his or her life⁴. This does not bring him or her to analysis. There has to be something in the imaginary aspect of the symptom that does not work; a rupture, a moment of panic, which reveals the symptom in its status as real. Miller recognizes a third stage which is when the demand addressed to the analyst is inscribed which restores the symptom to its status as an articulated message from the Other. The subject comes into symbolic opposition to the subject-supposed-to-know through being confronted with the subject-supposed-to-know in reality. The couple subject-imaginary symptom is now interrupted by an appeal to the Other and this can lead to a cascading of the imaginary.

A supervisee presented a case to me of a late middle-age woman with no previous obvious symptomatology. She came regarding burn-out and the recent bereavement of her mother. In retrospect there were discreet signs in childhood (whole-sale identification with being the good daughter, being left in the lurch on several occasions by the mother, total rivalry with her sister, father absent). These signs could only emerge through speech, but it was this very speech on the side of meaning that

1. Member of the ICLO-NLS, of the NLS and of a cartel towards the NLS 2018 Congress.

2. Miller J.-A. : “Clinic under Transference”, *Psychoanalytical Notebooks*, N° 17, p. 10.

3. Lacan J. : “ On a Question preliminary to any possible treatment of psychosis », *Ecrits*, (trans. B. Fink), New York : Norton, 2006, p. 481.

4. Miller J.-A. : *Ibid.*, p. 10.



pushed her towards jouissance (speaking she realised she wasn't the good daughter and reality began to fall apart). In a session speaking about a childhood scene in which pressure was felt on her legs she suddenly stopped and said "I remember something terrible", left the room to vomit. This was the moment her delusion was triggered (the object came to her in the real).

For this not to happen it is important that the analyst, who occupies the place that in Bridge is called the "dummy" (the dead), becomes the partner-Other for the analysand. So what are the implications for the transference when having to face the real, when all of us are delusional (with the exception of the autistic subject)? We need to decide in each singular case whether to incarnate the semblance of the object or to become the partner-Other or to adopt whichever tactic that allows us within the strategy (of the game) to establish a political outcome that is, for once, in our modern times dominated by deregulation and the push-for-jouissance, expedient for the subject.