



Anxiety/-ies in the singular plural

Let me specify: anxiety is singular, in every sense of the term. But its modes of expression are plural, different, and also particular depending on clinical structures.

But what is anxiety? "An affect that does not deceive," says Lacan, which distinguishes it from other affects susceptible to bewilderment, confusion, such as love or hate, for example.

Anxiety therefore affects the subject from the awakening of life. Spitz identified it with the so-called anxiety of the 8th month. The baby has a reaction of mistrust towards an unknown person. A visible manifestation of worry about the desire of the Other, O, that represents any other, o, of language. What does he want from me? What is the desire of the O/other? Here is the child entering the torment of the obscurity of bonds.

The desire of the subject is based on the desire lent to him by the o/Other. But its task is not to melt into it and merge with it in order to find, live, its own path.

Anxiety is not without an object that causes it, but it has an object impossible to define and therefore impossible to master. Lacan calls it object *a*. It is unrepresentable, a virtual trace of a lightning bolt that would reveal the desirous voracity of the O/other at the same time as the temptation to submit to it.

How to make it speak is the question posed by the International Rendez-Vous. By finding in the vast world an object, existing and/or imaginary, that has a name, or that the subject names with a linguistic invention (like the Babacar of little Piggie, patient of Winnicott). Anxiety then has a name, its name of phobia, which reassures by locating the fear detached from the obscure will of the O/other.

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