

On Freedom for thinking: finding a place of one's own. Interference by a Premature Superego in infants, and its Après-Coup interpretation in adolescents and adults.

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Abstract Content (EN)

Winnicott published in 1967 an amazing paper about his intervention with an infant who refused the breast. He speculated about a precocious "superego element" in the baby.

A baby case will be presented, associated with the analysis of an adolescent whose cruel superego attacks made her melancholic and unable to think: A newborn coming from an egg donor refused the breast and avoided her mother's gaze. Analytic intervention with the family helped for the destructiveness to be soothed and restoring the capability for associating in the mother.

The process at restoring the process of translation into meaning is also shown in the obsessive acute anxiety in a young adolescent invaded with bad judgments and criticism of herself that made her unable to function and sometimes suicidal. A brilliant student, she had repetitive attacks of cruel judgment of herself that made her unable to function. The exploration of early relational issues allowed for the recovering of a new libidinal energy, and what she labelled a "freedom to think" that made relieved and interested at all the thinking processes.