

"And when I woke up, all my world was an immense darkness" - *Illusion, Disillusion and Melancholia* (English)

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Abstract:

This paper is proposing to illustrate the continuous process of illusion – disillusion in the melancholic states, and their manifestations in the analysis of severe depressed or of melancholic patients, at the centre of the transference/countertransference movement, that is an expression of the loss of the primary maternal object that has never been mourned. The attachment to the primary, lost object may be preserved in a mournful, invisible way, and the longing that it is connected to might only reach representation in the *après coup* of the analytic process.

The links between these *primary illusions* (in the Winnicottian terms), followed by repetitive, violent *disillusion* and loss, void and melancholia will be explored. These melancholic patients powerfully evoke the relationship to the somatic, sensitive, bodily primitive experiences, and the archaic communication (Joyce McDougall). The incorporation and internalization of the body of the mother, which is a requisite in the development of a woman, can take on terrifying, bizarre, fragmented, part-object qualities. An example of four times a week analysis with a melancholic woman is discussed. There are also presented different figures of melancholia (i.e. *psychose mélancolique*, André Green) in the analytic work.