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Abstract for the 2023 EPF- Conference, *Illusions*

*"Illusion of his grandeur" (R. Money-Kyrle): Latent Megalomania - Conceptual Considerations, Clinical Illustration and Political Relevance*

In his little-known work "Megalomania" (1965) Money-Kyrle discusses possible implications of man's endemic tendency for *illusion of his grandeur*. His work on latent megalomania provides a helpful analysis and conceptualisation of phenomena that are not as obvious as manifest megalomania, but often have dramatic consequences. When individuals or institutions and nations feel "mortally" offended and humiliated, they sometimes derive from this the right to act destructively.

On the basis of detailed material from an analysis, I would like to present and examine the challenges with a patient who until then regarded himself as completely healthy and was also misjudged in his environment as particularly capable, in transference and countertransference. Although a great need had already been communicated to me during the telephone contact, there were nevertheless moments when I did not know whether he was clinging to an illusion or whether I was too doubtful.

In a second part, I would like to name some parallels in institutions. And I shall finish with thoughts on what Money-Kyrle described as a classic example of such an illusion: the desperate persistence of so many on the eve of the Second World War to believe, against all evidence, that Hitler could be satisfied with an "honourable" settlement.