In conclusion, an opening

Presentation of the eighth lesson of Eric Laurent’s seminar
“Speaking Lalangue of the Body”

Romildo do Rêgo Barros

“To make oneself the dupe of the real is also to subject the jouissance of the stepladder to the jouissance of the symptom”.

The eighth lesson of Eric Laurent’s seminar, entitled “The speaking body and its sinthome – consequences for clinical parity, transference, supervision, the Pass” is not exactly a conclusion, or a closing, but almost the contrary, a proposal of a new opening oriented by Lacan’s last teaching, and, as Laurent says, it is encouraged by Jacques-Alain Miller and his presentation “the unconscious and the speaking body”.


Indeed, after going through some fundamental aspects of the “introduction of the speaking being in the clinical practice” during the previous seven encounters, Laurent presents us with the practical consequences that the treatment of the speaking being inaugurates.

Laurent sets off from a polarity: on the one hand the symptom, conceived as a formation of the unconscious, having an effect of meaning induced by the substitution of signifiers, and, on the other hand, the sinthome, which appears as an event in the body, as an “emergence of jouissance”.

Laurent situates these practical consequences in accordance with some classical dimensions of the analytic treatment: the clinical types, transference, interpretation, supervision and the Pass. They all belong to the Freudian tradition, with two exceptions: clinical parity, which substitutes to an extent, the classification presented by the clinical types, and the Pass, which emerged as a proper Lacanian device.

We have to note that the difference between the Pass and the other dimensions treated by Laurent, do not only refer to the relative novelty of the invention of the Pass, but to the proper position of this device among the analytic practices, that is, to the fact of its being situated strictly outside analysis. As Jacques-Alain Miller once commented, the Pass is, like the anamorphosis in Holbein’s The Ambassadors, a precise moment when one looks backward, that is, when one considers the analysis as something that is part of the past. This gives the Pass a proper temporal character, which allows looking at the other aspects of the analysis from a unique point of view.

Eric Laurent, with the authority his teaching possesses in the Freudian Field, opens the way that assists us in situating the difference between analysis of the unconscious, and analysis of the speaking being, and advances in the direction of knowing how to say that which in the clinic has already been
produced, gradually overcoming the mismatch between the two, pointed out by Jacques-Alain Miller.

Translated by Noga Wine