

TRANSFERENCE IN THE WORK OF FREUD AND LACAN

Freud referred to psychoanalysis as a cure by love. He was referring to the transference; it is the mainspring of the analysis, the motor of psychoanalytic work, but it can also be its major obstacle and responsible for its interminable nature. For Lacan, the transference is one of the four fundamental concepts of psychoanalysis. Both Freud and Lacan were alert to the tendency—the consequence of transference love—for the transference to be reduced to an identification with the analyst as an ideal. The ethics upon which psychoanalytic practice is grounded run in the opposite direction. The management of the transference is at the heart of the work of the analyst. It will inform the analyst's interpretations and thus, the status of the psychoanalytic act. Lacan will define the transference as the love of the analysand addressed to the analyst, the one supposed to know the truth of the subject's unconscious. However, it is precisely from this position of ideal that the analyst must fall if an analysis is to reach its end; the desire of the analyst is the desire for the absolute difference that will enable the analysand to assume responsibility for his own unconscious knowledge.

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