PARANOIA
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"Lacan is a block, we take it as a whole. Lacan's teaching is inseparable from his practice," Jacques-Alain Miller claims. This implies that we cannot separate Lacan the theoretician, the exceptional reader of Freud, the prodigious rhetorician, from the Lacan who was a practitioner of analysis. To take Lacan as a block is also to consider that his first explorations into psychosis (his 1932 thesis on the case of Aimeé is its highest achievement) can be reread in the light of his final teaching. In the Seminar Le Synthèse, when he is considering Joyce's relationship to writing, Lacan himself refers to his article in "Écrits 'Inspirés': Schizo-graphie" of 1931 (published by Masson, Paris). What were Joyce's writings inspired by, he asks?

The admirable article on the Papin sisters, published by Lacan in the Surrealist review Le Minotaure at the end of 1933, is no exception to this rule. It aims to elucidate the double crime that scandalized the era: two daughters of the common people massacre two members of the bourgeoisie; French society itself was attacked, and justice must be swift! The scandal and fascination block out the logic of a criminal act that Lacan succeeds in decoding, while also giving it its tragically human signification.

One night in February 1933, Christine and Léa Papin, until then irreproachable maids in the service of a well-to-do family in Le Mans, savagely assassinated their boss and her daughter. Having committed the double crime, the sisters washed themselves, changed, and locked themselves in their room. The police found them huddled together in a bed. During the hastily put together trial, experts concluded that the two sisters were of paranoid type. The crime escalated into a bouquet.

Using the only medical exam of the psychological couple, the psychological certificates take a view opposed to the signs of psychopathic murderess passage to the Espace à deux. He also relies on a Freudian method in which Freud described the hatred to love in sibling homosexual fixation in the Papin sisters was stuck in to resolve the mystery of the Siamese sisters only that these bodies, to be cut up, and session "to tear out the ego metaphor, since the Papin while they were still alive.

In his seminar on Logica of the symptom theme relation to his schizophrenic paranoia will correspond to the knot where two parts of the knot is only supported by the are from then on form an paranoid psychosis eons.

two sisters were of perfectly sound mind and that their fits of anger had escalated into a homicidal rage.

Using the only medical testimony that picked up on the strangeness of the psychological couple formed by Christine and Léa Papin, Lacan takes a view opposed to the experts who had not been able to identify the subtle signs of psychosis before the accomplishment of their murderous passage to the act. For Lacan, it was an obvious case of folie à deux. He also relies on an article by Freud that was written in 1921, in which Freud discusses narcissistic object choice and the passage from hatred to love in sibling relations, leading to an erotic and rejected homosexual fixation in the case of the paranoid. Lacan shows that the Papin sisters were stuck in the dead end of a specular relation. In order to resolve the mystery of femininity's connection to the phallus, these Siamese sisters only had at their disposal the real of two other female bodies, to be cut up and scrutinized. In addition, the figurative expression "to tear out the eyes" (crever les yeux à quelqu'un) was not a metaphor, since the Papin sisters did tear out the eyes of their victims while they were still alive.

In his seminar on Joyce the issues of folie à deux and the continuation of the symptoms return in the question that bears on James Joyce's relation to his schizophrenic daughter, Lucia. In addition, the knot of paranoia will correspond to the trefoil knot, and Lacan will show that when a subject knots together the imaginary, symbolic, and real, the knot is only supported by the continuity of these three dimensions. R.S.L. are from then on "one and the same consistence, and it is in this that paranoid psychosis consists."

Laura Sokolowsky

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