



BIOGRAPHY. SANDOR FERENCZI.

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“Hungary, so intimately connected to Austria from the geographic point of view and also scientifically, has not contributed to us more than with a single collaborator: S. Ferenczi; but he alone, is worth by a whole association “ (Freud, 1914, p. 1911).

INTRODUCTION

Presenting the biography of Sándor Ferenczi, the so called “ enfant terrible” of the psychoanalysis, is to try to make one present of the spirits clearest and cleverest of the first generation of psychoanalysts and, simultaneously, to offer a clear example of how extra-psychotherapeutic factors are intermingled, interfering with, and distorting the development of the psychotherapy due to the inevitable conflicts of interests and power of its actors. On the other hand, speak about him, is to invariably make a reference of how the passage of time places the true theoretical-clinical contributions beyond the possible conjunctural contingencies in which the knowledge of the psychological theory is developed.

This fecund analyst, of whom it has been told he was most clinical of all the analysts of the First Generation and it has been recognized as an extraordinary therapist, promoted among his colleagues the defense of gay’s rights who had been marginalized and persecuted in Europe in the early twenty century, and was also one of the first analyst who speak about the relationship between homosexuality and paranoia. Founder and ex-president of the International Psychoanalytic Association IPA in 1918, he had a preponderant role in the formulation of Training Programs for non-medical psychoanalysts, and in the proposition of a higher flexibility and “ active intervention” of therapists (pleading to avoid the use of the “ technical neutrality “ which in his view could be a refuge of passive aggression fed by coldness and cruelty). Also he did a significant contribution to the understanding of infantile sexual abuse victims.(Stanton, 1990).

His innovations in different areas of psychoanalysis, his writings plain of clever clinical observations, his proposal of integrate biological and psychological considerations, the emphasis in the importance of the therapist as a “person “ and the countertransference as a technical parameter,his notion of the “ language of the tenderness and the passion “, and his development about the use of the “utraqism” and the Bioanálisis, just to mention a few aspects of his work, invites to replace Sándor Ferenczi in the right status he deserves in the sychoanalytic concert. “ original, audacious and creative, cautious spirit enough to preserve himself from other’s dogmatism and preserve, in his way, a complete autonomy of thought and action, Ferenczi created a work that appears nowadays like one of the most attractive works psychoanalysis has inspired, since, animated by a permanent creative imagination, imagination often populated with a true poetic and epic blowing, it is constantly crossed by the flashing intuitions of his author “ (Bokanowski, 1997, p.5).

Owner of a rare common talent as therapist, Ferenczi who received the most complex cases sent to him

by other analysts of its time, was dedicated to cure which at the present time we would call: serious character perturbations, “ narcissistic personality “, “borderline structures” an/or bordeline patients. Operating in the limit in which the technical parameters of the traditional method failed, his technique was slowly changing towards a technical and theoretical consideration which sent the bases of a deep theoretical divergence between him and Freud, very badly understood until today. Ferenczi proposes such a renovation and mutation of the psychoterapeutic parameters that “ inaugurate a turn in the history of certain key concepts of psychoanalysis, which nowadays, are used for most of all the psychoanalysts in theory as well as in their practice “ (op.cit. p. 6).; he initiates the exploration of psychic regions beyond the edipic complex, the symbolism, and tries to explain the original split capacity of the mind.

His work explore contents such as: the concept of “ primitive “ introjection and projection; the regression in the psychoanalytic cure; the importance of the countertransference in the analytic process, and the need of the analyst self-analysis (second “ fundamental rule “ of the analysis). Also he emphasizes the importance in some patients of the need to establish a primitive symbiotic relation, and to pay attention to the precocious mother-son ghosts, the maternal psychic traces, and metapsychological problems derived from this relationships. He makes important distinctions between the traumatism, the traumatic and the trauma; between the I and the narcissistic self as a result of precocious psychic traumatisms; and between the thoughts and the body . At the same time, he emphasizes the importance in some cases, about the need of the subject to be recognized as a person who suffered the disqualification of his feelings, and who had been living in a patologic enviroment (“ maternal madness “); and the importance of the primary love and primary hate, understanding hate as a way to link the subject to his objects that is harder than the power of love to the same thing (the love of hate); and the problems of the psychoanalytic cure; among other subjects (ibid).

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