Exploring the Erotic Self through Group Experience

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Erotic Self - The personal basis of love and sexual desire;

Eros: son of Venus, God of Love;

Keywords: libido, sensuality, desire, love and passion.

"Bion argues that, within a group, we are group animals at war. Supposedly, Bion has said elsewhere that it is an unconscious basic assumption that whenever two people (of any gender) meet, their purpose is to have sex. The war mentioned by Bion is about survival in which sexuality and eroticism play a vital role." (Rosiello, 2000).

Working and expressing erotic feelings, within transference in the therapeutic room involves emotional risk taking; on the other hand, working with the erotic transference creates the basis for a special emotional intimacy in a therapeutic relationship and can deepen the therapeutic process.

Exploring and understanding our erotic self can enlarge our views regarding the meaning of the erotic transference and counter-transference. Furthermore, it allows to encompass the patient’s positive developmental strivings for connection and intimacy.
"My inner world fantasy created an opportunity to tolerate and listen to another's inner fantasy, which until then had been unavailable to me".

(Deepening Intimacy in Psychotherapy: using the erotic transference and counter transference; Rosiello F., 2000)

There are profound responsibilities associated with the psychoanalyst's role, given the ways in which the structure of the psychoanalytic setting both stimulates and frustrates fantasies of romantic perfection. The analyst's responsibility begins with an awareness of the full extent of the seductive power inherent in the psychoanalytic structure.

(Analytic love and power: responsiveness and responsibility. ANDREA CELEZNA, PH.D., 2008)

"I believe that being intimidated by the taboo and bypassing or diluting the erotic charge in the therapy room for the sake of safety, is not only missing a therapeutic opportunity but also risking reenactment (the avoidance itself as a starter) and even acting out." (Shoshi Asheri: UKCP conference 2004)

"...exploring the motion of mutual surrender in the desire to know and recognize self and other, with mutual risk between therapist and patients. This means the therapist constructs emotional responses that are real and intimate with the patient, rather than a presentation of emotionally distant." (Deepening Intimacy in Psychotherapy: using the erotic transference and counter transference; Rosiello F., 2000)
References


