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**Fear of going crazy along with the patient**

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**Learning Goal:**

- showing the importance of dreams in psychotic patients
- learning how the psychotherapist is threatened by patient's psychotic nuclei
- learning the concept of "transitional subject" created by Benedetti to explain relationship in the therapy room

**Abstract Text:**

Fear of going crazy along with the patient is very common in psychotherapy of psychosis. Assuming the point of view of Gaetano Benedetti, the therapist must lend his unconscious to the schizophrenic patient to allow him to "appersonify", using the images in it to rebuild the capacity of using symbols and to finally help the Ego to recover and to regain the former unity in psychic life. During this process, eventually the analyst will enter in contact with the patient's powerful psychotic nuclei, and he will be eventually scared by the possibility of going mad, poisoned by the patient's overwhelming unconscious. As magistrally described by Searles in his work on psychotherapy of schizophrenia, the fear of mutual madness in transfert is linked to the patient's familiar history, where the pathological relationships may force one of the members to psychosis, in order to save the others, to punish for unacceptable desires or for vengeance. The repetition of this mechanism in the therapy room offers the unique possibility to bring it to light in real time and to elaborate all the suffering related to it. Through a clinical report of a young man affected by paranoia, we'll see, using a significative dream, how the oniric images are contaminated by this fear, and we'll see how, thanks to Sincronicity, the deep relationship between the patient and the analyst affects the reality "outside the room".

**ON THE HEALING POWER  
OF HUMAN RECONNECTION**