

Document of the Guarantee on Maieutics-Psychoanalytic Institution

I. Introduction

We will start by a lateral approach to guarantee; i.e. what can we apprehend from connected fields to subsequently attempt its conceptual import by psychoanalysis and, particularly, for its putting into act in Maieutics. In a second moment, we will outline – as a commentary of sorts- the ideas and developments coined by Lacan about it. From them, we will also select and highlight only those that, from our point of view, seem relevant to the mentioned goals.

Finally, we will try to summarize, in a proposal not necessarily inclusive in its totality, the main items expressed in the previous sections.

II. Lexicon, the juridical aspect

1) We started the investigation by the lexical bias, and we found in the Dictionary by M. Moliner – to repeat it: in a selective, but not exhaustive fashion- the following: guarantee is the security provided by someone or something, that a certain thing will occur, will be, or occurs ("give" or "offer"). Being a guarantee, on the other hand, aims at the thing that has the power to provide such security. It is also related to the action of insuring for a certain time, the good result of a thing that is being sold, and it includes the document where this is stated. Then, it is necessary to mention also, that it is also the circumstances of a person or thing, by which it is possible to trust them.

The following were located as synonyms: authentication¹, authorization, certification, legalization, legitimization, acknowledgement, endorsing. And, as predominant senses, the following stand out: a) security-protection, response; b) responsibility, protection; c) safekeeping, authorization; d) certification, trust.

In turn, the *Real Academia Española*, in its Dictionary writes that it is the action and the effect of strengthening what had been stipulated, and the thing that ensures and protects against some risk or need. The Dictionary of J. Casares provides a tighter accuracy: it is efficiently ensuring the fulfillment of what was stipulated.

2) The juridical proposal related to the topic under consideration focuses –not exclusively, but prevalingly- in the capacity for usufruct by the citizen regarding any abuse of power capable of damaging him/her; especially, this is made effective before

¹ Translator's note: in the Spanish version there are two different words "autenticar", and "autenticificar".

the State, i.e. before its possible excesses, abuses, or damages. It is also about the State protecting the citizen from attacks, or punishing who committed such attacks, and for this the citizen appeals to the activation of the state resources to have his/her "guarantees" ensured and protected. That is to say: it is about not leaving the citizen unprotected, about providing "guarantees" regarding the defense of the rights inherent to his/her condition as such. At least in the formal declaration of purposes, the constitutional State commits to the preservation then, of those who are under its protection. Such protection, on the other hand, involves both the State proper, and the action by the rest of fellow citizens. It is a protective statement, and of course –once again, at least at the level of what was stated,- it includes and specifies several penalties for those who trespass the guarantees ratified as non-negotiable.

III. Psychoanalysis

- 1) One of the initial detectable senses in the first *Seminars* by Lacan –and that spreads beyond them, of course- aims at the search for a guarantee. This entails, in other words, searching for a certainty: things are as they are, it is true they are like that, there is no deceit about it, and this offsets the intrusion of any uncomfortable doubt. In this order, the best guarantee is provided by hallucination, delirium, unshakable belief, or even objects of phobia or fetishism, which "guarantee" or protect, through the presence of restrictive measures, or due to the libidinal devotion at play, protect, we were saying, from the fantasmatically castrating danger. Therefore, signs of guarantee are sought, which erase the traces or marks of its origin, and seem consequently, whole. That is to say, not produced or opaque, but "expressive" to the transparency mode.
- 2) Also the topic of guarantees includes the mistrust about whether the Other will give me as much I have given him/her; i.e. his/her being and essence of truth. It does not provide guarantees, because its problematic form generates a radical skepticism; i.e., how much can you trust the Other? What is the limit of trust that I want to be a characteristic? May it give something else other than the fact of constituting a place, or is it a vacuum, from which no guarantee is possible at all? What proofs do I have of the true alterity of the Other? Indeed, here a certain and unique guarantee ensues, which is a guarantee of the rest, of the excreta, since it is object *a*.

- 3) The psychoanalyst, when becoming accountable of and by transference, provides guarantees about this. That is to say, he/she commits in support and management. He/she also does this regarding analytic discourse.
- 4) The father provides guarantees of his function in the sense of providing *père*-versions; this is his mode -paradoxical- of being a "model" of such function.
- 5) The Psychoanalytic Institution provides guarantees –after founding them- about who is considered to have enough formation; thus, the Institution is accountable for the latter, providing testimony of it. The Institution may and, even more, should guarantee –by the Institution's own initiative, and not according to the demand of the interested party- that a certain psychoanalyst has emerged from the formation provided in it.
- 6) The conditions to rule the guarantee depend on generating an environment where experience and criticism prevail, as well as the permanent attention aimed at achieving the correction of deviations. For this reason, this is not about distributing teaching, nor about mentioning continually only quotations from the ruling and great texts of psychoanalysis, but to create between the Members a community of experience –based on what is Real from the analytic experience-, guaranteed by the Institution.
- 7) The collective guarantee –i.e., the pertinent and valid for every and each one of the psychoanalysts- is provided by psychoanalysis in intension. Meanwhile, psychoanalysis in extension requires the immediate construction of Bodies, as well as considering the analysis and the detection of interests, of the research and ideology that are proper to them –to psychoanalysis in extension- as fundamental variables relative to teaching, to transmission and institutional organization. The legitimatory statute of such bodies should be relatively lasting, so as to have the necessary time to be able to weigh its efficiency.

IV. Guarantee in Maieutics-Psychoanalytic Institution

Taking for granted that the mentioned Guarantee is a function –institutionally voted- of the Body of Guarantee and Designations, it is possible to state then, that this in the Maieutics-Psychoanalytic Institution:

- 1) commits to provide support, foundation and care to the different axes that make up the institutional life, guaranteeing the level, pertinence, suitability, and the occasion for them to function;

- 2) to such end: a) it will practice weighing the activities to be performed, basing on the fruitful critical attention to them for this, confronting them with their foundations; b) it will suggest changes in direction when the experience of psychoanalysis is found to be –in their point of view- possibly deviated or distorted in, and by a certain activity; c) it will point out obstacles in the transference of work from and between the Members, Affiliated Members and Participants, that may impair the links with our discipline and with the corresponding work developed –or inhibited- in Maieutics; d) it will advise on putting into act new institutional artifices, or new activities –and/or publications- within the framework of already existing artifices, to thus maintain and re-launch continually the community of the experience of psychoanalysis valid between the Members, Affiliate Members and Participants; e) finally, it will collaborate when it may be especially necessary, with the respective rotational responsible persons –institutionally appointed - in the design of the activities and appointments, where Maieutics transcends the limits in which the usual internal tasks are developed (for instance, Biannual Symposia of the Institution, international Meetings and Conferences, and related events, among the most relevant ones).

V. Conclusion

We understand that this brief statute of the range of the Guarantee, to be acted by the Body of Guarantee and Designations, provides an appropriate framework for the respective function, just as we can make it effective in the Maieutics-Psychoanalytic Institution. In this overview, by constructive action or omission –by virtue of the application of the criterion of pertinence- we have attempted to express what we have researched about it in the field of connections, made explicit briefly in paragraphs *II.* and *III.* of this document.

In brief, we believe that the implementation of paragraph *IV.* by the Body of Guarantee and Designations will contribute with fruitfulness to the advancement of the work with the experience of analysis within our Institution, thus aligning ourselves in agreement with the spirit and the letter of the Document of Designations.

Body of Guarantee and Designations of Maieutics-Psychoanalytic Institution, May 16th, 2006.