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The victimization in absence of a culprit. "The limbic victim"

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The victimization in absence of a culprit

"The limbic victim"

INTRODUCTION

The term "limbic victim" comes from the will to give a name to the people who suffered a great loss without receiving any support or acknowledgment.

We are talking about the parents who suffered the trauma of the unexpected and sudden loss of a baby. In most cases of Sudden Death events (SUIDS SIDS) the intervention of Criminal Police has created the necessity to characterize, on a psycho-judicial level, the figure of parents victims of these events, who, by analogy, show many similarities with those victims that Criminology calls in-credible victims. Hence the definition of "limbic victims", referring to all people feeling they suffered a loss which they can neither name, nor classify nor explain. Those people feel and live feelings of guilt that I would rather call "sense of responsibility". They have such strong feelings of guilt towards the victim (that is to say, the baby who died suddenly) that they get to blame themselves, even though they committed no crime. They feel responsible for what had happened, that is why I call it "sense of responsibility". Interviewed right after the event, they might even declare themselves guilty of what happened (generally speaking, the awareness of not being the "culprit" can be facilitated by the result of an autopsy).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Many parents, from different Italian regions have been interviewed at different times from the event. Some even quite recently. Their emotions, their attitude, the changes in their daily lives have been collected and filed. So have their thoughts and their recurring questions. The answers we got pinpoint some differences according to where those parents belong to, yet we found no differences as to their needs. The interviews showed that the victims could be analyzed through an already existing model used for the analysis of the victimization, namely "The Circular Model" by M. Monzani.

RESULTS

Consequently it can be said that all the interviewed victims carry out a "victimization" path, which varies according to the kinds of the (support) activities or treatment available in the area where the event occurred. This accounts for the high degrees of differentiation of victimization. This implies the magnitude of differentiation in the stages of victimization according to the (kind) of treatment provided by medical and juridical institutions.

CONCLUSIONS

If we want a correct psychological elaboration process to take place, it is necessary to work deeply on the clinical-judicial management of the event. For this reason, we need a psychological-judicial approach, aimed at avoiding the limbic victim (that is to say, a parents) to remain trapped in a process of discomfort, guilty feeling, sufferance and shame.

Keywords: limbic, victim, victimization, circular model