



The Psychology of Aloneness

- Separation anxiety (cf. Bettelheim)
 - Separation = abandonment
- Symbiosis
 - The self and mother are one, so maternal absence = personal nonexistence
 - Infant bound by sensory input
- How is this even possible?

“Out of Sight Out of Mind”


- Piaget’s theory of Object Permanence
- Ability to maintain awareness of hidden a object in the absence of direct action on the object
- 6 month old Lucy vs. 10 month old Lucy
- Why?



Cashdan’s Maternal Imaging Time Table

- Maternal Imaging
- Time Table for Maternal Imaging
 - 1-2 month basic maternal imaging possible
 - 5-6 month relatively stable
 - 1-2 years fully internalized
- Coping Mechanisms for mini- abandonments
 - Maternal imaging and peek-a-boo
 - Transitional objects as maternal substitutes

Harlow's Monkeys: The Importance of Maternal Attachment




The nature of love

- Cloth surrogate mother vs. Wire surrogate mother
 - Primary needs vs. Secondary needs
- What is important to children?

Why a Doll?

- Dolls, stuffed animals, baby blankets, pets, etc.
- Soft, cuddly objects
 - Absorb warmth
 - Provide comfortable tactile sensation
- May be acquired at otherwise stressful time
 - Specific (illness, family crisis)
 - General (separation anxiety)

Vasilisa at her Mother's Deathbed



Forest Rogers 2007

Transitional Objects in Tales

- Vasilisa's doll as maternal token
 - Gift from her mother
 - Mother is absent (deceased)
 - Unique
 - Human-like
 - Magic object / helper / agent
- Other fairy-tale transitional objects
 - Tree on Cinderella's mother's grave (Grimm)



Burenushka, the Little Red Calf

- Plot summary
- What is our transitional object?
- How does it change?
- Why?



Cast Away (2000)

- Director: Robert Zemeckis
- Cast
 - Tom Hanks-Chuck Noland
 - Wilson the Volleyball-As Himself
- Is Wilson truly a transitional object?



The Witch Must Die ...

- ... or must she?
- Split mother images
- The witch within
- The external mother and the autonomous self
- “For a fairy tale to succeed—for it to accomplish its psychological purpose—the witch must die because it is the witch who embodies the sinful parts of the self.” (30)
- Who is the witch in “Vasilisa the Beautiful”?

Bettelheim and Vasilisa

- Sibling rivalry
- Separation anxiety
- Split mother image
- Primary narcissism
- Degradation and shame
- Oedipal desires

Jung and Vasilisa

- Baba Yaga as Nature Goddess
- Baba Yaga as Goddess of Death
- The “magic contest”
- Baba Yaga’s shadow and her humanity
- Vasilisa’s revenge ... or is it?
