

Pascal's wager, a clinical illustration (Lesbats-Aimedieu M.,14.04.2025)

*B.P. "every gambler risks with certainty in order to win with uncertainty". His words attest to his belief in the possibility of unconscious writing.

This man, although a team leader, is asked by his superiors to perform "menial tasks", disregarding his seniority. For him, this means **a subjective destitution**, with his bearings wavering. "They dirty me, they belittle me, just for the pleasure of trampling on me".

He can free himself from his role as elder, and can no longer see himself as a disgrace.

"In prayer, I chase away my malaise, ... religion prevents me from hurting people, these ideas that go through my head; ...these ideas of hatred (of his hierarchy), it's not possible, ... like taking revenge on them. . **Islam has never said to go out and kill people**. Attacks have nothing to do with my religion: attacks are **what eat other people's brains**".

At the end of this brief treatment, a strong transference moment accelerated his improvement, as he recalled the horror of the events of the Algerian war, when the men in the family were caught up in a settling of scores by villagers (words probably heard as a child), **hushed up** in the family, **the unthinkable, closed in**, a surge of **Reality**. As in the book Le trauma colonial by **K. L "The men of the village (of the family) will go in search of **the scattered remains of the corpse** (of a loved one), ...of **head** cutting, ... to give them back a semblance of unity." . **K.L. "p63 the particular quality of a crime which postulates that everything is licit, which is undertaken against the human and destitutes him of his quality of man...This impossible to repress resurfaces tirelessly, subjectivities continuing to struggle **in the blanks** of memory and words..." A transmission of ancestral culture becomes possible, articulated in master signifiers (RURALITY, the SURNAME of an ancestor/travel and finally he finds his paternal uncle back home, the only elder, one of the wise men of the village).

"The Wager is situated at the exact point where the Real and the Symbolic fail".

(1st to 4th session of Jacques Lacan's seminar "D'un Autre à l'autre")

*235/241 "Pensées de la nécessité du pari", by Blaise Pascal

**Colonial trauma by Karima Lazali