Initial Process in the Fusion of Psychological State

Narcissistic Inflation

Invalidation of Child’s Self-Experience

Unilateral Construction of Meaning - Self-Experience

Narcissistic Power of Self-Assertion Imposes the Definition of Meaning

Internal Experience

Others’ Attribution of Meaning

Co-Construction of Meaning

Normal Co-Construction Process
The Fusion of Psychological States

An **Imposed Construction of Meaning** Creates a Fused Psychological State of **Shared** Narcissistic Inflation

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Psychologically Shared Narcissistic Inflation

The child feels the psychological rush of the
- Power
- Entitlement
- Self-Confidence
- Adult-Like Maturity

associated with the shared narcissistic inflation -

- and a positive psychological joining experience of shared Intersubjectivity:
  - I'm understood at a deep level
  - I belong; I'm accepted

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Narcissistic Self-Inflation

The Constructed (Imposed) Meaning Supports the Originating Narcissistic Self-Inflation

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Child Authenticity and the Fusion of Psychological States

An Imposed Construction of Meaning Creates a Fused Psychological State of Shared Narcissistic Inflation

But the child’s **Authentic Self-Structure** remains suppressed,

The authentic self-experience of the child is walled-off

The self-structure development of the child remains stunted and immature, despite the artificially imposed appearance of hyper-maturity.

Stolorow, R. Brandchaft, B., and Atwood, G. (1987). "The specific intersubjective contexts in which conflict takes form are those in which central affect states of the child cannot be integrated because they fail to evoke the requisite attuned responsiveness from the caregiving surround… It is the defensive walling off of central affect states, rooted in early derailments of affect integration, that the origins of what has traditionally been called the “dynamic unconscious” can be found.”
Healthy Relationship Processes and Narcissistically Inflamed Psychological Fusion

Healthy Co-Construction Process

Narcissistic Inflammation of “Co-Construction” Process

The Targeted Parent’s Relationship with the Child

The Targeted Parent believes that he or she is talking to and communicating with the authentic child, because the child is physically present...

Psychologically, however, the child is in a fused psychological state of meaning creation with the narcissistically organized (with borderline & paranoid features) personality disordered Alienating Parent.

Therefore, the child is expressing the rejection (abandonment fears), hatred (narcissistic rage), perception of “abuse” (paranoia-persecutory delusion), entitlement (narcissism), superiority-judgment (narcissism), moral righteousness (narcissism), and desire for retaliation of the Alienating Parent.

The authentic-child is “walled-off” and no longer present.
Psychotherapy with the Alienation Dynamic

Effective approaches to therapy must address the entire psychological process involved with the alienation dynamic, with a focus on restoring the authentic child.

Traditional play-therapy or behavioral child psychotherapy only address the child individually or the targeted parent-child relationship.

These approaches to therapy will be ineffective with the alienation dynamic, because the child’s relationship dynamic with the targeted parent is being driven by the personality disorder processes of the alienating parent.