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The Object Relation

The Seminar of Jacques Lacan, Book IV

By Jacques Lacan

Edited by Jacques-Alain Miller

Translated by A.R. Price

About the book:

- In this Seminar, Lacan confronts and criticizes the theory of object relations defended by some schools of psychoanalysis; he argues that Freud was concerned, not about the object, but about the lack of the object
- Lacan develops his analysis of the function of the object in phobia and in fetishism, particularly in relation to Freud's famous case of Little Hans

Extract from the book:

"The unfulfilled and unsatisfied mother around whom the child ascends the upward slope of his narcissism is someone real. She is right there, and like all other unfulfilled creatures, she is in search of what she can devour, *quaerens quem devoret*. What the child once found as a means of quashing the symbolic unfulfilment is what he may possibly find across from him again as a wide-open maw [...] *To be devoured* is a grave danger that our fantasies reveal to us. We find it at the origin, and we find it again at this turn in the path where it yields us the essential form in which phobia presents. We find it again when we look at the fears of Little Hans [...] With the support of what I have shown you today, you will better see the relationships between phobia and perversion [...] I shall go so far as to say that you will interpret the case better than did Freud himself [...]"

From Chapter XI

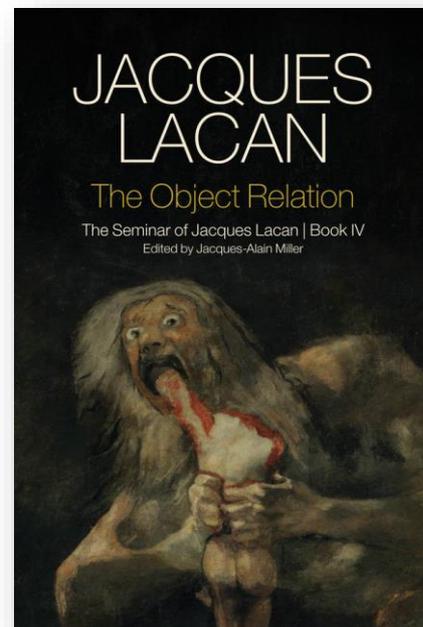
About the author:

Jacques Lacan (1901–81) was one of the twentieth century's most influential thinkers. His works include *Écrits*, *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*, and the many other volumes of *The Seminar*.

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