

Mr A. R.

A. R. was 57 years old when he was transferred to the psychiatric ward after a suicide attempt by revolver (without significant injuries).

A. R. appears with a gloomy look, a frozen face, slow movements. When asked if he is sad, he answers that he never smiles and even says he was a "neurasthenic" child. His wife confirms he hasn't laughed since they got married. When asked if he thinks about death, he answers that he wants to die "for 30 years". He expresses regret that he missed himself, the only thing he expects is death.

Over the course of several interviews, we learn that A. R. was born in the North of France, in a family of workers in the mining industry for generations. Second child of four siblings, he was 8 years old when his father died of a mine accident. According to A.R, his father died a heroic death, protecting his crew once the first cracks were detected. The mother remarries a mine worker, has another son with him, but the boy dies of cancer when A.R. is 21.

A.R. enlisted in the French army where he took part in the wars of Indochina and Algeria, under their toughest aspects. Then, thanks to his capacities, A.R. trained to become an executive in a company. However, he loses all taste for his work when a senior position he coveted is assigned to a rival, and then simply provides the bare minimum to keep his position.

His marriage at the age of 25 was another disappointment, in particular because his wife could not have children.

At the age of 32, A.R. suddenly disappears from the marital home for 48 hours. A.R. is retrieved in another city, under a different identity, remembering nothing and unable to explain what had happened.

From now on, A. R. will no longer be detached from his dark ideas. There is no real depression, apart from periods of decompensation. However, since that time, A.R. would have thought only to kill himself. Five attempts failed, each time for unexpected "details" (error on the lethal dose of drugs, rupture of the cord with which he wanted to hang himself.. ). Each time, he uses the last means he has meditated for a long time to end it, taking action when a close relative doubts his will to kill himself. The last time, after a quarrel with his wife, she questioned his death wish, so he acted on it.

Numerous treatment attempts, ranging from drugs to psychoanalytic approaches, have failed.

There is a long period of appeasement around 55 years. At that time, A. R. learned that he had incurable lung cancer. But after the chemotherapy treatment the checkup showed no recurrence, and, considered cured of the cancer, A. R. relapsed gradually on the psychological level.

He had been off work since the cancer and was spending the day at home, voluntarily "bored to death" watching television.

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