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L'orientamento della cura. Levinas e i nuovi feriti

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This essay tries to analyze the question of ethical signification from the viewpoint of the Levinasian concept of “useless suffering”. Unlike other kinds of lived experiences, suffering is unassumable and irreducible to the consciousness: according to Levinas, its order of signification is not theoretical, but ethical. In particular, the “pain-illnesses” of mentally deprived beings – those beings which Malabou calls “the new wounded” – demonstrate the moral failure of every kind of Theodicy. If there isn’t a “plan of the whole” which is called to make suffering comprehensible, then the “pain-illnesses” call my freedom in question and present an anchorage to the order of theoretical significations. Thus, related to the question of the health-care relations, Levinas’s philosophy provides a useful point of view to appreciate the real issue at stake in contemporary debates in psychology about the ethical foundations of therapy.