**An introduction to discussion about the film ”the Girl, the Mother and the Demons” of Suzanne Osten. (Anders Berge)**

I have some introductory remarks to this discussion with Suzanne Osten, where I will start with a couple of own experiences from my first meeting with the film ”the Girl, the Mother and the Demons”.

Rather early viewing the drama an anxiety came creeping in over me - at first rather vague and than more and more physical… An unpleasant feeling of confusion - for some moments as the world around me started to move, that my reality apprehension swung. Since I became conscious about what happened to me the state died away - and instead I was aware that the reality sense of Siri there on the screen started to crack. As a psychological gap was opened in front of her. There in the drama, as I was dragged into, was a oncoming nightmare, and it wasn't mine - but hers. The demons on the screen were Siris - not mine - and she fought intensely to retain her sense. Gradually other feelings came in the forefront. I became engaged in the daughter Ti - who from her take-off point fighted for a normal life and to be seen and defended of her mother. So it must be incomprehensible and frightening for her when the mother withdraw and preferred a strange exchange with for her invisible figures. I identified more and more with Ti in front of Siris growing disintegration - and I was anxious that Ti didn’t fast enough understand that her mother became dangerous - dead dangerous… A sense of indignation strongly grew towards the mother, not just against her mortal demons, but also against her self-absorbtion and her lack of care and attention to her daughter Ti. Perhaps also an expression for me that Ti´s worries were put in the shade of her mother´s violent struggle in the drama.

But Siri then - there in the center of the film… As a spectator I physically can feel her fear and anxiety that some evil unknown force occupies her more and more and that the surrounding world becomes more and more dangerous. It must be really frightening to have serious suspicions even against the closest persons in her life - Ti and Tamara. Siri cannot understand that her fight for survival against devastating forces are inside herself, that shape up in hallucinatory evil demons, that claim to rule her. The borders of her body and her reality break down. It´s like her inner world blows out in the total apartment where the struggle for survival lasts. In a megalomanic delusion she is the center of the world - where everything and everybody are parts of her. It is as Siri lives in a nightmare without control and unconsciously torments herself with cruel impulses. Siris reality sense is broken - loosing herself in insanity. Siri feels threaten to death, and she even wonders if she has to take Ti away - to kill her.

In Siris inner battle there are good and evil forces. On the good side Siri has a close and loved Ti and an own hopeful part of herself, where she frenetically tries to rebuild her inner world with help of accumulated broken garbages. I think garbages stand for symbolic left overs from an inner catastrophe, a dreadful trauma she earlier has gone through. On the evil side for Siri there are forces she tries to get rid of. She unconsciously tries to put them into demonic creations or into persons very close to her, even if not an especially successful strategi. Siris inner conflicts destroys her more and more. As audience we witness Siris psychotic breakdown.

I understand Siris break down as an extraordinary expression for a struggle that we all have to take as human beings, even if most of us have coped with it enough, not to be paralyzed by it. The struggle doesn't threaten us any longer, but help us to empathize with Siri. In addition it appears now and then in the inner world of all of us - say in crisis of life, in nightmares and for me in the slight confusion in the beginning of the film.

Already from early development we all have to tame our hate with our love, to make it possible to live mutual among other humans and enjoy it. Everybody harbour powerful positive and negative feelings from the very start. Of crucial help in this struggle are parents and close persons supporting with love. The determining factor is that love rules - so destruction doesn't become predominant as here with risk for Siri and Tis ruin.

I think my first anger against Siri during the film was awakened by two processes in me, belonging to this human struggle between love and hate - Eros and Thanatos. First there have been some situations in my own life where I was omitted, with some parallells to Ti in the film. Second looking at Ti on a screen I feel unable to intervene to her help - a help that an affectionate aunt Tamara at last will come with. In Ti’s dependency, solidarity and love for her mother, she refuses to acknowledge the mortal danger. She should need access to her own anger - to run away, cry for help - or scream at the top of her lungs -n-o-o-o—.

The psychotic breakdown is the focal point of the film. As in the tale where a demon is let out of the bottle - body - and the vital question becomes how to return the evil ghost again.