**Desire in Psychotherapy and Photography**

Surrounded by my young children, I was once more dazzled by the light: the light of desire, the light of psychotherapy, the light of photography. But I did not, I could not, allow myself to be blinded by this brilliance, and so I took refuge in its shadow, hiding within its creases, and curiously observing its components. And thus, with pleasure mixed with pain, I gave birth to a doctoral project that was submitted to Bar-Ilan University, in the Program for Hermeneutics and Cultural Studies; that manuscript forms the basis of the present book. At the time, I was unfamiliar with the concept of phototherapy – a form of therapy conducted through photography, a field in which I am currently a practitioner. This book is intended as a theoretical, creative, and emotional contribution to a young and vibrant developing psychotherapeutic field, one that has impassioned many analysands and students. Phototherapy is a form of psychotherapy that enables deep creative and personal development by through an alluring contemporary medium, photography.

The relationship between the analyst and the analysand, which takes place in the clinic, behind closed doors, is not lacking in passion, a fact to which the psychoanalytic literature attests at length (Freud, Jung, and more). In the second half of the 20th century, psychoanalysts such as Ogden, Bion, Bollas and others highlighted the desire of the analyst by advancing the subject of intersubjective therapy, (see for example Bollas 2000, Ogden 2001), a form of analysis that makes space for the human reactions of the analyst and the analysand, and the mutual relationship between the two. This relationship was no longer conceived as that between a subject and an observer, but rather as a relationship between two subjects, from whose reciprocal relationship and subjective experiences produce therapeutic value (Berman 1997, 2000). These psychoanalysts coined a new term, known as “the analytic third,” or the “third element,” defined as a body or a third space created by the connection between the analyst and the analysand. This space is the receptacle for their sensations, desires, and passions as well as their cultural backgrounds and their life histories. Taken together, these elements form a third body, that becomes animated through the process of therapy and is essentially independent. Desire in analysis allows the “third element” to take place, and to expand the inner boundaries of both analyst and analysand.