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## ABSTRACT

Reconciliation of incommensurability and appearance of a new center of oneself in a case of long-term *hikikomori*

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This paper examines psychotherapy for a man who had long-term *hikikomori* from the standpoint of initiation of “marginals” (Turner, 1974), who are people with conflicts between values and norms, inner incommensurability, and difficulty communicating one’s feelings to others. Between the client and his mother, the originally complementary elements had become conflicted such as social structure and “*communitas*” (Turner, 1969), center and margin, and the personality-disorder and developmental-disorder types. The conflicts had intensified the mother and son’s misunderstandings and reduced their ability to share their feelings and get along with each other. Within the man, there had also been the incommensurability between his original way of being and the values and norms projected by his mother and society. He had difficulty understanding his original experiences. Through *ohenro* (pilgrimage) and talking repeatedly about what his misunderstood feelings, his new center appeared, his ego was strengthened, and he was able to meet his mother halfway. The framework of his psyche expanded or transformed, which eased his inner incommensurability and impatience regarding his misunderstood feelings.

**Key Words:** incommensurability, center/margin, *communitas*, initiation, *ohenro* (pilgrimage)

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