

Decompression and Investigation of 충동 and 본능

Translation of terms remains an interesting issue in many different subjects, and psychology is no exception. As a result, decompressing the terms into strings of words before putting them under investigation becomes essential in finding the relations between the terms. Here, such terms to be decompressed and investigated are 충동 and 본능.

In most cases, 충동 is translated as 'drive' and 본능 as 'instinct'. These translations, however, are overly simplified and thus are misinterpreted. Let us just assume that 충동 = 'drive' and 본능 = 'instinct'. Applying psychological theories, we can say that 'drive' is a subsystem of 'instinct'. For instance, 'sexual drive' (libido) is one of our 'instincts' that is as *instinctive* as hunger, which is a 'drive for food'. So if "drive" is a concept of a 'thing' that arises between the limits of our psyche and soma," then 'instinct' must logically be *the* 'thing' that sits between all the limitations of our psyche and soma. In other words, every 'drive' derives from a single 'instinct'.

We now have 충동 = 'a drive' and 본능 = 'the concept from which all drives are made from that is a combination of all drives – the master drive'. We can say that such is the relation between 충동 and 본능. This relation is like those Russian matryoshka dolls (identical, but smaller sized, dolls are cased inside each other). 충동 is the biggest most outer matryoshka doll that houses all the smaller sized identical looking dolls collectively called 본능.

By decompressing and forming the relation between 충동 and 본능, our question of investigation of them becomes extremely simple. We need only to ask: *what is 본능?*

Freud wrote that, “충동의 목표는 만족이며, 충동의 근원은 육체이다” (“the goal of a drive is satisfaction and the cause of a drive is somatic”). This is quite an interesting statement, for 'a drive' is designated as psychological whereas the 'cause of a drive' as biological. Since the relation decompressed above tells us that 'instinct' is the 'master drive' that houses all different manifestations of 'drives', we can state that the goal of 'instinct' is also psychological and the birth of 'instinct' is also biological.

So we think what is the very first 'biological thing' that causes us to carry 'that psychological thing' throughout our lives. *To be born – a drive to give birth*. The goal of 'instinct,' which is psychological, is then *the drive to give birth*, and the cause of 'instinct,' which is biological, is *being born*.

A baby comes out from a mother and imprints in his psyche that everything he does from that moment of his birth will derive from his drive to give birth. I wonder what quality does the world possess as to influence all of us to perpetuate humanity.