

## INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL ANECDOTE.

Very often a little anecdote can explain complicated questions not only quicker, but also much better than a long discussion and logical discourse can do.

There is the question about the difference between knowing and understanding. We might know something, but our actions seem to contradict our knowledge. Scientific research tried to explain this conflict by creating new words. Some people pride themselves on distinguishing between "intellectual" and "emotional" understanding. They claim that one can understand something and still act differently, if one does not understand it "emotionally". As if our emotion could understand anything independently from what we ourselves want to understand!

Thus we really need the old European enfant terrible, the center of so many folk jokes, "Little Maurice" to explain to our scientists what is wrong with the concept of "emotional understanding."

"Little Maurice once took a walk with his father. Along came a big dog, barking furiously at them. Little Maurice turned around and started to run as fast as he could. His father called him back, shouting, "But Maurice, don't you know that dogs who bark don't bite?" Whereupon Little Maurice, still running, replied, "I know it, and you know it. But do I know whether the dog knows it?"

Here, in this little anecdote, lies the answer to our problem. There is no such thing as intellectual or emotional understanding per se. There is only the fact that we do not always really believe what we pretend to understand. We might sometimes run out of logical arguments to defend our position, and therefore admit that we understand. But believing is another matter. What we really believe is expressed in our actions. What we only pretend to believe sounds impressive, but does not count.

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