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## «SCHOLARLY WRITING AND PRESENTATION»

## TODESTRIEB, JOUISSANCE AND WILLE AS A CAUSE OF HUMAN SUFFERING

R. R. Bulgakov

Academic advisors: Ph.D. (Philos.) V. V. Petrenko, V.S. Nesterenko National Research Tomsk State University

Sigmund Freud's drive theory implies, that for the psychic apparatus there are such irritants, that originate in the organism itself. Working as a constant force, they are influencing the entirety of both unconscious and conscious acts [6.C.87]. Some kind of resemblance to this theory we find in the notion of will (*Wille*) in Arthur Schopenhauer's philosophy [7.C.211]. However, being derived from causality as such, will was understood by Schopenhauer as the foundation of being itself, all motion and alteration. Responsibility for all the world's suffering Schopenhauer attributed to the ceaseless and unquenchable willing, which all living matter is, in it's turn, also a subject to [7.C.271]. As a direct manifestation of meaningless nature of the irrational self-devouring will, in case of the living matter, Schopenhauer regarded the sexual drive to reproduce [7.C.539]. Arthur Schopenhauer: «what the will wills is always life» [7.C.453]. Repetition in this sense may be understood as the main factor and criteria of life.

Proposed by Sigmund Freud in 1920, death drive theory (*«Todestrieb»*) [5.C.48], on the contrary, implies, that life drive (*«Libido»*) emerges only as a defensive reaction of the psychic apparatus towards the initial self-destructive drive [5.C.119]. Just like the will, that, in pursuit of it's own affirmation, is urging the individual to reproduce himself, *Todestrieb* is causing destructive behavior and repetition compulsion, an intrusive tendency to repeat traumatic experience, supposedly as an unconscious attempt to overcome it. In this regard, the original idea of death drive, presented by Sabina Spielrein in 1912, has more in common with Schopenhauer's concept of will, since self-destruction, according to Spielrein, is only a non-alternative way of being reborn in a new body, and, therefore, it becomes violently desirable by the individual [8.C.140].

Jacques Lacan renounced the interpretation of *Todestrieb* as exclusively an urge to re-establish the initial state of matter, that was disturbed by the emergence of the attributes of life in it. Such interpretation he marked anti-scientific and absurd [1.C.118], while suggesting to view *Todestrieb* as a direct drive towards destruction [3.C.275] and a fundamental tendency of the symbolic order to produce repetition [1.C.459]. The notion of *«jouissance»* (surplus enjoyment reaching beyond pleasure), in Lacan's theory, is an approximate equivalent of Freudian *«Lust»* and *«Libido»* [9.C.103]. *Jouissance* is taking it's place in satisfaction of the death drive [9.C.106]. In an unpublished seminar, from May 2, 1962, Lacan had stressed, that *jouissance* is causing the impossibility of satisfaction, since *jouissance* by definition is something instantaneous, it immediately

re-establishes the gap between desire and demand, ensuring the ceaselessness of demand.

Desire, in Jacques Lacan's theory, arises as a result of separation between demand and physical need of something that is being demanded by the subject. It is regarded as a means, by which the psychic apparatus is defending itself against the destructive component of *jouissance* [10.C.699]. In Arthur Schopenhauer's philosophy desire, on the contrary, is viewed as a direct continuation of a physical need. Lacanian desire is opposed to the drive as such, as *Todestrieb* and *Libido*, in his opinion, both are the components of a singular drive [2.C.275]. Nonetheless, we shouldn't rush to find ways of equating this interpretation of drives with *Wille*, because, first of all, Lacan notes, that, according to Freud, drives have nothing to do with such instinctive necessities as hunger and thirst [2.C.175], and secondly, to speak of the drive as of the will within the context of Lacan's theory, is to neglect the very structure, in which the psychoanalyst presents his reasoning regarding drives solely in the context of human condition [3.C.275]. The unconscious itself, sometimes being interpreted as a first step of will's objectification in the psychic structure [4.C.19], in Lacan's thinking, is structured like a language.

Todestrieb and jouissance, both are fundamental notions in psychoanalytic theories. We cannot say, that they are analogical to will. And yet there are certain similarities between them, such as the aspect of inevitability, involvement in repetition [7.C.457] and the assumptions of the fact, that they, through one way or another, are the internal causes of human suffering. Living in a capitalist society, sometimes it's good to acknowledge, that though any kind of satisfaction by itself is impossible, but the perspective of an endless attempt of satisfaction through destruction and self-destruction is by no means preferable. Arthur Schopenhauer believed that the only way to avoid the destructive effects of the endless will is to deny the will entirely. [7.C.638].

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