



The Ego and the Id

Sigmund Freud

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The Ego and the Id ranks high among the works of Freud's later years. The heart of his concern is the ego, which he sees battling with three forces: the id, the super-ego, and the outside world.

Of the various English translations of Freud's major works to appear in his lifetime, only one was authorized by Freud himself: *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud* under the general editorship of James Strachey.

Freud approved the overall editorial plan, specific renderings of key words and phrases, and the addition of valuable notes, from bibliographical and explanatory. Many of the translations were done by Strachey himself; the rest were prepared under his supervision. The result was to place the *Standard Edition* in a position of unquestioned supremacy over all other existing versions.

The Ego and the Id Details

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Author : Sigmund Freud

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Raphael Lysander says

I didn't expect while reading this book to figure how genius Destovesky is ! One chapter was like reading Freud's commentary on Destovesky's novel Crime and Punishment, or in another way, I couldn't understand some Freud's theories without having in mind Destovesky's story. I also used to think Freud a strict man; this book showed me exactly the opposite. Only a small part of this book was very theoretical and utterly without a practical or historical proof

Nathaniel says

The Ego and the Id is the product of Freud's clinical work and thinking about the structure of the Psyche. A theme of the books is the way the largely unconscious and primal Id (or "It") conflicts with the Superego (or "Ego Ideal"), and how the Ego attempts to mediate between them.

This is a quick read, and Freud's writing and style of argument are very clear and easy to follow. Although someone with no knowledge of psychoanalysis or Freud's language would have to do some extra work to get a good handle on what's happening, the book is very engaging. A short little text like this can't fit in detailed descriptions of concepts like "object-cathexis", although the footnotes help. The translations, which Freud endorsed, don't have the clunky feel that often comes with translated texts.

For someone new to Freud and this kind of writing, I'd recommend you maybe start with another book, like *Beyond The Pleasure Principle*, or even just going through the Wikipedia entries on psychoanalysis. This book would be ideal for someone who knows the basic Freudian concepts (Oedipus complex, etc.) and would like to jump in and get a little more technical.

Saddam Bouchaib says

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Liam says

Underwhelmed, Freud's more abstract and speculative ideas here. Categories are not reduced or firmly bound as normal so it is hard to work with.

Main ideas:

- Three states: conscious, unconscious (actively repressed), preconscious (not actively repressed).
- All perceptions are either from without (sense-perceptions) or within (feelings or sensations) and are conscious.
- Only previously experienced sense-perceptions can become conscious, and sensations (but not feelings) become conscious by transforming themselves into analogous previously experienced sense-perceptions.
- Mental life consists of three components: the ego, the id, the superego (or ego-ideal).
- The ego is conscious, the id is instinct, the ego-ideal is the moral ideal which is the basis for a moral conscience.
- The ego is like a horseman who holds back the strength of the id (instinct). It cannot steer the id, the ego attributes its actions to itself though they are initiated by the id.
- Psychoanalysis is an instrument to enable the ego to push its conquest of the id further than without analysis.
- The Oedipus complex is replaced by identification with the mother or intensified identification with the can become overbearing, leading to conditions such as obsessive neurosis or melancholia.
- The ego is the representative of the external reality, the super-ego is the representative of internal reality, the id has no voice.
- The superego is a substitute for longing for a father and is the basis of religious penance.
- The id which is inherited, is a vestigial store of previous existences led by former egos; the ego forms the super-ego out of the id based on the template of these former egos.

That's the gist. It was just a bit too vague.

Trevon says

I write tentatively upon The Ego and the Id, for Sigmund Freud possesses an incredible mind, arguably not attainable through any first attempt. My interpretations based on the theories and contents discussed within this book will remain, to a degree, vacant of any concise comprehension (for the time being). That withstanding, it is my interpretation that Freud poses a much broader question, (one ultimately disparate from the thinly pop culture, blasé psych-101 interpretations of Freud's sexual obsessions, and yet all the more profound for their existence) "what is reality?" To remain ambiguous in the light of specifying my own changes in consciousness is more than deliberate. I feel queer pondering it (lol), yet my realizations are a bit too complex, personal, and melancholic for any virtual world sharing that I'd care to partake in. Here are the more socially accepted ways in which I choose to express my thoughts on this book; "Marvelous!" "Wonderful!!" "Oh Bravo, Bravo!"

