BERGSONIAN METHOD OF INTUITION

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propensities hidden to themselves and yet obvious to their friends, as the Scotch poet well knew when he wrote:

O wad some power the giftie gie us To see oursel as ithers see us! It wad frae mony a blunder free us An' foolish notion!

Intuition is frequently all the more deceptive just because it has a quality of irresistibleness that is lacking to logic in the case of beings in whom reason is for the most part only potential. In the matter of the affections, intuition is regarded as the great guide by many, who say that love enables different personalities to see into one another's "souls." Still in such cases deception is sometimes practiced with success; and even in the absence of any desire to deceive, the experience of mankind tends to show that in many cases the supposed insight was illusory and that the more tentative methods of intelligence guiding and inhibiting instinct are sometimes more satisfactory.

On turning to instinct in the lower animals, we notice that M. Bergson appears to choose "sympathetic" instances from writers which he has not examined in detail for himself. To comparative psychology some of these instances are known as cases of "blind prevision." But this does not suit our philosopher, who maintains, so far as we can see without any evidence being offered, that the evolution of instinct presupposes some effort more or less conscious on the part of the animal.

One of the cases cited by Bergson to show the marvellous capacity of instinct and its superiority over intelligence is that of the well-known Ammophila wasp, which stings caterpillars at certain nerve centres in such a way as to paralyze them without killing them, in order that they may be stored up as food for the wasp larvae. The *result* is that escape of the caterpillar is prevented and putrescence of the food is avoided. More detailed investigation of the instance shows that the facts are not so clear and unambiguous as Bergson assumes. Some of the caterpillars are not stung at the right centres,