

Why did you not say so at once ? I did say it, sir, but in a different way ; there are many ways of saying the same thing as you are aware, sir, and besides you told us to vary our language and to use figures when they come naturally.

Why do the dogs want to kill the hare ? The answer to that question, sir, is beyond my ken.

"Ken", what do you understand by ken ? Ken, sir, is short for knowledge.

Is short, what do you mean by is short ? "Is short" means is a short way of saying *knowledge*, or is an abbreviation of the word *knowledge*.

So it is beyond your ken why the dogs want to kill the hare ? Yes, sir, it is beyond my ken and beyond the ken of everyone else.

Do you believe what you have just said ? Please sir, believe is not the word, I'm convinced of it.

Why, the dogs want to kill the hare in order to eat it, don't they ? No, sir, they are well fed dogs, they are not hungry, and even if they were they would not eat the hare, they would not even bite it ; it is useless, sir, you can't explain why a fat, well fed dog will kill a rat. Why, my young friend it's instinct, is it not ? If you please, sir, instinct is a word, not an explanation. Well, since *instinct* is a word, what does it mean ? I don't know what it means.

Look in your dictionary and find out. Do you know what the funny man said about the dictionary, sir ? No, I don't, what was it ?

It was very smart, sir, he said, a dictionary ! a dictionary ! Why a dictionary is a book which tells you what everything is by telling you that it is something else."

Now, for the word *instinct* : "an impulse to a particular kind of action which the being needs to perform as an individual but which it could not possibly learn to perform before it needs to act ; as a general term, it includes all original impulses and that apparent knowledge and skill which animals have without experience."

Do you understand it ? Not very much ; as I understand it : *instinct* is an impulse, an unreasoned desire to do a certain thing : thus to say that the dogs are running after the hare because of an impulse, an unreasoned desire ; that the well fed dog kills the rat because of an impulse, and unreasoned desire to kill is not an explanation. Why is it not an explanation ? To say that the dogs are running because of an impulse, of an unreasoned desire is no explanation, because no reason is given either for the impulse or the unreasoned desire.

The matter with you, my young friend, is that you want to know the why of the why, is that not the case ? I want more than you say, sir, I want the why of the why of the why, of the why, right down to the bottom.