



TELEPATHY AND ITS FUTURE: EXPLORING A MEDIUM OF PSYCHIC CONNECTION IN *THE SHIVA TRILOGY* BY AMISH TRIPATHI

Mr. Bishal Debnath, Dr. Sunita Rani

Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor & Dept. coordinator
Humanities,
COER University, Roorkee, India

Abstract: In the era of AI, Robotics, machine languages, mobile phones, and all other easy ways of communication, we will unveil the fascinating concept of Telepathy. The idea of Telepathy is traced in Indian Puranas and Epics. Many incidents represent communication through telepathy and the way of acquiring the knowledge of how to use it without any mechanical devices or any other equipment. In Amish Tripathi's '*The Shiva Trilogy*', we find the use of telepathy techniques to reach the receiver from another location. Telepathy not only serves as a unique and plot-enhancing element that reinforces the characters' special abilities and adds to the mystical aura of the story but also leaves us a trace of the culture of telepathy.

Keywords - Psychic connection, Telepathy, Thought transference, Extrasensory perception (ESP), Mental synchronization, Thought reading, Brain-Computer Interfaces, Neural Lace and Brain Implants.

I. INTRODUCTION

Telepathy, often depicted in fiction and explored in parapsychology, is the concept of communication between minds without conventional sensory channels such as speech or gestures. While telepathy has not been scientifically proven, it remains a fascinating subject in literature, film, and speculative discussions. Telepathy can serve various narrative purposes in storytelling, such as:

Enhancing interpersonal connections: Telepathic communication can deepen relationships between characters, fostering empathy, understanding, and emotional intimacy.

Facilitating covert communication: Characters with telepathic abilities may use their powers to communicate secretly, share information discreetly, or coordinate plans without detection.

Overcoming language barriers: Telepathy allows characters from different cultures or species to communicate effectively despite linguistic differences, facilitating cooperation and mutual understanding.

Conveying inner thoughts and emotions: Telepathy provides a direct window into characters' minds, allowing readers or viewers to access their innermost thoughts, fears, desires, and memories.

Amplifying suspense and tension: Telepathic communication can introduce elements of suspense, as characters may inadvertently hear or intercept thoughts they were not meant to hear, leading to conflict or revelation.



Overall, telepathy serves as a compelling narrative device that explores the complexities of human (or non-human) communication, consciousness, and connection. While its existence remains speculative, its portrayal in fiction sparks imagination and prompts contemplation about the nature of the mind and interpersonal relationships.

II. Traces of Telepathy in The Trilogy: Amish Tripathi indeed stands out in Indian writing in English, particularly for his captivating novels that blend religious and mythological elements with imaginative storytelling. The Shiva Trilogy, comprising "*The Immortals of Meluha*," "*The Secret of the Nagas*," and "*The Oath of the Vayuputras*," presents a fresh perspective on the life and adventures of Lord Shiva, a respected deity in Hindu mythology. Tripathi's novels employ various communicative techniques to convey his interpretation of Shiva's story, engaging readers with a mix of historical fiction, mythology, and philosophical discourse. By portraying Shiva as a human being of flesh and blood who rises to god-like status through his actions and karma, Tripathi offers a compelling narrative that challenges traditional perceptions of divinity and heroism.

Throughout the trilogy, Shiva is depicted as a multifaceted character—passionate lover, fierce warrior, charismatic leader—who grapples with his destiny and the cosmic forces at play in the world of Meluha. Tripathi's portrayal of Shiva as a relatable figure, with human flaws and virtues, resonates with readers and adds depth to the mythological narrative.

In each book of the Shiva Trilogy, we find 'Vasudev' characters. These characters are always leading Shiva to his path and warning him of the upcoming adversities. The main concern for dragging them here is to show the trace of psychic connection and extrasensory perception they are holding. It is a practice of reading the mind, getting the message, and responding to it. We become surer when we get the mention of Lord Bhrihu.

'Well, for starters, he can read minds,' said Gopal.

'So?' asked Shiva. 'You and I can do that too. Every Vasudev pandit can, in fact.'

'True, but we can only do so while we're in one of our temples. Lord Bhrihu can read the mind of anyone around him, regardless of where he is.'

Ganesh looked genuinely surprised. 'How?'

'Well,' said Gopal, 'our brains transmit radio waves when we think. These thoughts can be detected by a trained person, provided he is within the range of a powerful transmitter. But it is believed that Maharishis can go a step further. They do not need to wait till our thoughts are converted into radio waves, to be able to detect them. They can read our thoughts even as we formulate them.'

'But how?' 'Thoughts are nothing but electrical impulses in our brain,' said Gopal. 'These impulses make the pupils of our eyes move minutely. A trained person, like a maharishi, can decipher this movement in our pupils and read our thoughts. (Tripathi, 2013)

There are many traces where we can see the use of telepathy by the Vasudevs. Only Vasudevs, Rishis, and Maharishis could use this technique of communication. They could transmit data from one place to another place, person to person without using any device. It was a hidden talent and not available for all. However, it is said that this quality can't be achieved by everyone without practice. It needs long and great meditation.

"It had enabled the hidden Vasudev pandit of the Ramjanmabhoomi temple to send an emissary to Ganesh with information collected from all the Vasudev pandits from across the temples of India." (Tripathi, 2013)

Vasudevs had to hide their identity for the sake of their duties, practices, and existence.

'What about my proclamation, Panditji?'

'It will be ready and distributed in a few weeks from now,' said Gopal. 'Vasudev pandits from across the country will give us constant updates as to the reaction of the people as well as the nobility.'

'But what if the Vasudev pandits are discovered?'

'No, they won't. The royals may know that the Vasudev tribe has allied with the Neelkanth, but they will never know the identity of the Vasudevs within their kingdoms.' (Tripathi, 2013)

In part three, when Shiva was thinking-

"Had he been alive today, Lord Narsimha would have been considered a Naga by the Chandravanshis and hence feared, not revered. Don't they have any consistency?" (Tripathi, 2013)

A response comes from behind -

"Consistency is the virtue of mules!"

Shiva looked up, surprised how someone had heard his thoughts.

'How did you...'

'That is not important,' interrupted the Pandit, raising his hands, not finding it important to explain how he discerned Shiva's thoughts. That conversation... another time... great Neelkanth. Shiva could have sworn he heard the Pandit's voice in his head. The words were broken, like the voice was coming from a great distance. Very soft and not quite clear. But it was the Pandit's voice. Shiva frowned, for the Pandit's lips had not moved.

Oh Lord Vasudev... this foreigner's...impressive.

Shiva heard the Pandit's voice again. The Pandit was smiling slightly. He could tell that the Neelkanth could hear his thoughts." (Tripathi, 2011)

III. Indian Mythology and Telepathy: Indian mythology and ancient Indian texts including the Vedas and Upanishads are filled with fascinating stories containing references to extraordinary abilities attained through spiritual discipline, where gods, sages, and extraordinary beings demonstrate the ability to communicate telepathically. Here are some prominent examples:

The Gods: Many Hindu deities are often depicted as communicating with each other and humans through their minds. Lord Krishna, for instance, is believed to have communicated telepathically with Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, delivering the wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita.

Mystical Creatures: Creatures like Gandharvas (celestial musicians) and Apsaras (celestial nymphs) are often depicted as adept in telepathic communication and capable of influencing thoughts and emotions.

Vishwamitra and Vasishtha: The legendary rivalry between sages Vishwamitra and Vasishtha includes instances where they engage in telepathic battles, trying to outwit each other with their mental powers.

Draupadi's Plea: In the epic Mahabharata, when Draupadi was humiliated in the court, she is said to have telepathically called out to Lord Krishna for help, who ultimately came to her rescue.

Yoga Sutras of Patanjali: This foundational text on yoga outlines various "*siddhis*" or supernatural powers that can be developed through yogic practice. Some interpretations suggest these powers can include forms of mental communication.

IV. Scientific Perspectives: Despite extensive research, mainstream science has yet to validate the existence of telepathy. Sceptics argue that many purported telepathic experiences can be explained by psychological factors, coincidence, or simple fraud. However, some researchers continue to investigate the possibility of telepathy through the lens of quantum physics, neuroscience, and advanced communication technologies.

1. **Parapsychology:** This field studies paranormal phenomena, including telepathy, through controlled experiments. While results have been inconclusive, some studies suggest that there may be a basis for telepathic communication, albeit one that is not yet understood by conventional science.
2. **Neuroscience:** Advances in brain imaging and neurology have begun to unravel the complexities of the human mind. Understanding the mechanisms of thought, consciousness, and brainwave synchronization might provide insights into the potential for telepathic communication.
3. **Quantum Physics:** Some theoretical physicists propose that quantum entanglement—where particles remain interconnected regardless of distance—could play a role in telepathic communication. This hypothesis remains speculative and controversial within the scientific community.

V. Technological Augmentation: The future of telepathy may lie in the development of technology that facilitates direct brain-to-brain communication. Research in brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) and neural engineering is making significant strides, potentially paving the way for telepathic-like communication.

1. **Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs):** BCIs allow direct communication between the brain and external devices. Current applications include helping individuals with disabilities control prosthetic limbs or communicate through thought. Future advancements might enable direct mind-to-mind communication.
2. **Neural Lace and Brain Implants:** Concepts like Elon Musk's Neuralink aim to implant ultra-thin electrodes in the brain, creating a neural lace that could facilitate high-bandwidth communication between humans and machines. This technology could potentially enable telepathic-like interactions by transmitting thoughts directly between brains.

While there's no concrete scientific evidence to support the existence of telepathy, the concept remains a subject of fascination and speculation. Some modern thinkers and researchers explore the potential connections between consciousness, quantum physics, and the possibility of non-verbal communication.

VI. CONCLUSION

It's important to remember that many of these concepts surrounding Rishis, Munis and telepathy stem from spiritual and philosophical traditions. It's best to approach them with an open mind while also keeping a perspective rooted in scientific understanding. While these stories are captivating, it's important to remember that they belong to the realm of mythology and their basis in reality is a matter of faith and personal belief systems. By blurring the lines between myth and reality, Tripathi prompts readers to reconsider their understanding of ancient legends and the possibility of historical truths behind them. The advent of telepathic technology raises numerous ethical and social questions. Privacy, security, and consent become paramount concerns in a world where thoughts can be shared or intercepted. The societal impact of such a profound shift in communication would necessitate careful consideration and regulation. Through his vivid storytelling and characterization, he brings the mythological heritage of India to life, inviting readers on a thrilling journey into the world of gods and mortals, psychic connection, thought reading, and leaves a string of practice and use of telepathy.

REFERENCES**Primary Sources**

- [1] Tripathi, A. (2010). *The Immortals of Meluha*. Westland Ltd.
- [2] Tripathi, A. (2011). *The Secret of the Nagas*. Westland Ltd.
- [3] Tripathi, A. (2013). *The Oath of the Vayuputras*. Westland Ltd.

Secondary Sources

- [4] Patanjali. (2003). *The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*. Dover Publications. (Original work published c. 400 CE)
- [5] Swami Vivekananda. (2016). *Raja Yoga: Conquering the Internal Nature*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. (Original work published 1896)
- [6] Rhine, J. B. (1934). *Extra-Sensory Perception*. Boston Society for Psychic Research.
- [7] Krippner, S., & Friedman, H. L. (2010). *Debating Psychic Experience: Human Potential or Human Illusion?* Praeger.
- [8] McTaggart, L. (2008). *The Intention Experiment: Using Your Thoughts to Change Your Life and the World*. Free Press.
- [9] Radin, D. (2006). *Entangled Minds: Extrasensory Experiences in a Quantum Reality*. Paraview Pocket Books.
- [10] Rhine, J. B., & Pratt, J. G. (1957). *Parapsychology: Frontier Science of the Mind*. Charles C. Thomas.

Articles and Papers

- [11] Braude, S. E. (1992). "Survival or Super-Psi?" *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, 6(2), 127-144.
- [12] Tart, C. T. (2009). "The End of Materialism: How Evidence of the Paranormal Is Bringing Science and Spirit Together." *Journal of Parapsychology*, 73(2), 194-196.
- [13] Kelly, E. W., & Kelly, E. F. (2007). *Irreducible Mind: Toward a Psychology for the 21st Century*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Online Resources

- [14] Parapsychological Association
- [15] American Society for Psychical Research
- [16] Wikipedia contributors. (2023, January 15). Telepathy. In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telepathy>

Mythological References

- [17] *The Mahabharata*. (C. Rajagopalachari, Trans.). (2000). Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. (Original work published c. 8th century BCE)
- [18] *The Bhagavad Gita*. (Eknath Easwaran, Trans.). (2007). Nilgiri Press. (Original work published c. 5th-2nd century BCE)