

## ON TELEPATHY OR THOUGHT-TRANSFERENCE

RESEARCHERS have always been intrigued, how a person's brain quickly processes the meaning as well as understands what the other person is trying to convey, in "Brain Storming" sessions, where people talk of variety of topics. Psychologist Jos Van Berkum from the Max Planck Institute in the Netherlands has tried to decode how our brain turns seemingly random sounds into sentences with clear meaning. It is believed that the listener is able to process the meaning, knowing the subject of conversation, and also because our brain tends to anticipate what the other person is about to say, relating it with what the speaker has said before. (*The Times of India*, February 22, 2009)

All of us are communicating *telepathically* with one another all the time, but most often, both the sender and receiver of the message are not conscious of it. It is a common occurrence that another person speaks of a matter about which we were thinking. We may be thinking or speaking of another, and just then he appears unexpectedly. We write or may think of writing to someone and his/her letter arrives. Such occurrences are so common and frequent that we could not brush them aside as mere "coincidences."

Telepathy is the communicating of thought or idea from mind to mind, at no matter what distance. It is a natural power. Among birds and beasts, telepathy is instinctually performed. We are using telepathy every day, in common life, in our communication with each other. Every thought produces an image or a picture. Telepathy is closely related to clairvoyance, which is the ability to see with the inner senses, pictures and images in the astral light or in the mind of another. It is with the aid of this power of clairvoyance that we are able to convey to another any idea whatsoever, says Mr. Judge. Dr. Hans Ehrenwald, in his article, "Psychopathological Aspects of Telepathy" in the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research for November 1940, mentions the case of a feeble-minded Lithuanian child of ten years, who possessed the power of thought-reading to a remarkable degree. She was unable to read even the simplest text, but if the teacher were standing near her, reading a book gently or even without making a sound, then the child "read" the text without mistake. Even more

surprising, she could read any text read by another person not just in Lithuanian but even in German, French, English or Latin.

Instead of picking up the thought-images from another mind, it is possible to pick up the images from astral light, the common reservoir of thought. It is the repository of all our thoughts, acts and feelings. A most remarkable instance of the unconscious exercise of thought-reading or reading in the astral light was cited in magazine *Theosophy* for October 1926. It is the experience of a well-known Canadian journalist, who as young reporter on the *Toronto Globe* had “faked” a story of lost treasure in Alaska. As far as he was concerned, he knew that he was only spinning a yarn. But to his surprise the story turned out to be correct, in *toto*.

A person, who considers telepathy to be a mere superstition, will not be able to exercise this power. And yet, it is possible to bring this art to perfection and exercise the power against obstacles and distance. The *rationale* of telepathy is that if two minds vibrate or change into the same state they will think alike, *i.e.*, receive the impression sent by the other. “When two minds are sympathetically related, and the instruments [brains] through which they function are tuned to respond magnetically and electrically to one another, there will be transmission of thoughts from one to the other, at will.” (*The Key to Theosophy*, p. 289)

Several experiments have been carried out to test telepathic communication. In a card guessing experiment, there is a pack of cards marked with pictures or numbers, where one person picks up the card and tries to transmit his thought to the guesser. These guesses are recorded and later compared with the order of the actual cards. Similar experiments have been carried out by individuals, at a distance from each other. For instance, two ladies, one living in Melbourne and other in Sydney carried out telepathic tests over a period of several months. The number of correct guesses was small at first but became very high at the end of the experiment. Every day in the morning, for five minutes, one person “sent” while the other “received,” and then for the next five minutes, the “receiver” became “sender,” while the other received. Every day for four days one of them sent (or tried to transmit) the picture of a red rose to the other. It was

recorded that on the first day the receiver could not guess it at all. The next day she recorded the colour red, the third day she put down a rose that seemed pinkish, and on the fourth day she recorded “red rose.”

Some of these experiments were carried out by M. Warcollier, a French chemical engineer, in 1940. He suggested that to succeed in sending a message telepathically, the sender should think intensely. It would help if the receiver tries to go in imagination towards the sender, using photographs, letters or any other objects belonging to the sender. This will help to create “telepathic atmosphere.”

Two persons in sympathetic agreement are like two connected vessels. In 1952, writing in a column in *The Times of India*, Dr. J. B. Rhine of Duke University of U.S.A., mentioned several strikingly spontaneous cases of telepathy. A woman, playing cards at a club, got up in the middle of the game and phoned her maid to find out about her baby’s safety. At that very moment the maid was rescuing the baby from being strangled. In each of these cases there was obviously strong psychic sympathy, existing like a telegraph line, which carried impressions from one person to another. A Master of Wisdom writes:

As the water in a full tank runs into an empty one which it is connected with; and as the common level will be sooner or later reached according to the capacity of the feed-pipe, so does the knowledge of the adept flow to the chela; and the chela attains the adept-level according to his receptive capacities.

In the article, “A Psychic Warning,” H.P.B. mentions the case of a person who was very close to a friend and they had decided to visit a certain place together during holidays, but for some reason it did not materialize, as the friend had to go to some other place. While parting, the friend told this person, “Though absent physically, I will be with you in thought and spirit.” At a certain point in his holidays, this person felt depressed and he felt an irresistible urge to visit the place where that friend was. When he reached the place, he discovered that his friend had died. H.P.B. writes, “The cause for this particular phenomenon is to be sought in the occult influence exercised by the active will of one man over the will of another man, whenever the will of the latter is surprised in a moment of rest or a state of passiveness.” What played an important role was the affinity

between the two of them and also the intensity of the thought of the dying person, which could overpower the mind of the other person. But telepathy could take place between two people who do not share a deep bond, and are only acquaintances. Mr. Judge puts it thus:

To communicate with another mind at any distance the Adept attunes all the molecules of the brain and all the thoughts of the mind so as to vibrate in unison with the mind to be affected and that other mind and brain also to be either voluntarily thrown into the same unison or fall into it voluntarily. (*The Ocean of Theosophy*, p. 148)

There could also be sympathetic relation between the living and the dead, and the consequent transfer of impressions. Sometimes, a pure and unpaid medium (a pure sensitive) may ascend to the plane of *Devachan* and remain *en rapport* and hold communication with the Egos there. In "Fragments of Occult Truth," (Reprinted in *The Theosophical Movement*, Vol. 24), it is stated that "being *en rapport*...is simply an identity of molecular vibration between the astral part of the incarnated sensitive and the astral part of the disincarnate personality." When the identity of molecular vibrations is established, for a brief space of time, the sensitive becomes the departed personality, and writes in its handwriting, uses its language, and thinks its thoughts. At such times the sensitives may believe that the spirit of the departed entity has descended on earth, but in reality "it is merely their own spirits, which being correctly attuned to those others, are for the time, blended with them."

Before the mind of man was fully developed, communication was by means of thought-transference. When we intensely think about doing some good work, but are unable to do it ourselves, it is said that our strong desire would strike like Vulcan upon other hearts in the world, and suddenly another person may do that which we desired to do. In *Note on the Bhagavad-Gita* Mr. Judge states that in India, when help is needed for some orphanages, they pray to some patron god and help comes. What happens in such cases is that strong and constant faith carries the thoughts of the prayer into receptive minds and they are moved to action.

However, it is fine for impersonal scientific investigation to test one's ability of mind-reading, with consent and co-operation of that person, but it is quite

another matter to read another's mind without his permission or try to impose our thought and thus influence another mind. So long as we are not free from human weaknesses, trying to use telepathy consciously would be dangerous, because one is likely to have almost irresistible temptation to pry into another's mind out of curiosity or make a mental suggestion. Even to send a strong thought to a particular person, asking that person to ring up, or concentrate one's thoughts on a person and make him turn his head, is undesirable. H.P.B. sounds warning in these terms:

Unless the "suggestion" made is for the good only of the subject, and entirely free from any selfish motive, a suggestion *by thought* is an act of *black magic* still more pregnant with evil consequences than a *spoken* suggestion.

Even if a Master wishes to send some important message to a disciple, generally it is the disciple who throws his mind into receptive passivity. In "mental telegraphy," images of geometrical and other figures are sent by an active brain (say, that of an adept), along the psychic currents, to the recipient brain (of a *chela*). To produce instantaneous mental telegraphy, close concentration on part of the sender and complete receptive passivity in the receiver is essential.

Likewise, an adept can direct his inner sight and hearing to the mind to be seen and at once, he becomes aware of another's thoughts. Only a rogue would pry into another's mind without permission, but never an adept, writes Mr. Judge. No one has the right to look into another's mind and pick out its secrets, as it amounts to burglary on a mental and psychic plane, only much worse. Analogous to the rule on material plane, "Thou shalt not steal," the rule on psychic plane prohibits one from stealing the thoughts of another. Even if we possess the power, we must not try to influence or pry into mind of another that is not protected. If we find that we are about to discover the secrets of another, we must at once withdraw and proceed no further. Even if he happens to be a disciple, it is misuse of power, and he would lose the power. "For nature has her laws and her policemen, and if we commit felonies in the Astral world the great Law and the guardians of it, for which no bribery is possible, will execute the penalty, no matter how long we wait, even if it be for ten thousand years." (*The Ocean of Theosophy*, p. 149)