

Parapsychology – Ancient Indian Perspective.

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Abstract- Parapsychology is the branch of science which deals with paranormal and psychic phenomena. In this paper, we are studying about the astral body, non-astral body and near-death experiences based on shrimad bhagvad gita. Spontaneous Dream Visitations and apparitions of UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) and vedic studies which is related with the Garuda Purana and other Vedas is also studied.

Parapsychology is the study of psychic phenomena which includes extrasensory perception, telepathy, precognition, clairvoyance, psychokinesis and psychometric paranormal activities. The paranormal claims which includes near death experience, apparition experience and synchronicity.

We will study in these aspects and the comparisons with Vedic Scriptures and ancient Indian believes.

Key words - Near Death Experience, UFO, Spontaneous Dream Visitations etc.

INTRODUCTION.

Parapsychology is different kind of science which is difficult to understand as there is lack of repeated events. Parapsychology is the scientific study of anomalous phenomenon associated with human mind which is referred to by some as Anomalistic Psychology. Parapsychology is the study of phenomenon suggesting that it is both subjective and purely objective, hence is a part of a spectrum, with unusual anomalous phenomenon falling between subjective and objective

Parapsychology is an anomalous phenomenon, and it is difficult to understand with current scientific models. Many scholars and scientists still refer to this field of science as a pseudoscience but in reality, and verified media coverage it has proven about the existence of this kind of para-psychological phenomenon.

In parapsychological study, the following phenomenon are mainly included which may be the main sub fields of the study are

- A) Extrasensory Perception (ESP).
- B) Telepathy
- C) Psychokinesis.
- D) Clairvoyance.
- E) Precognition.

Other sub categories of study are Haunting Phenomenon, Poltergeist disturbances otherwise known as Recurrent Spontaneous Psychokinesis (RSPK), Apparitional Experiences, Reincarnation, Out of Body Experience (OBEs), Near Death Experience (NDEs), Metaphysical Science, Unconscious Awareness, Cold Reading, Psychic Fraud and others

Historical Perspective.

The term parapsychology was coined by philosopher Max Dessoir as the German Parapsychologie and this term was adopted by J B Rhine in 1930s as a replacement for the term psychical research in order to indicate a significant shift toward experimental methodology and academic discipline.

Chronological Evolution of Parapsychology.

Early Psychic Research.

Robert Hare was a chemist and conducted experiments with mediums and reported positive results in 1853. Researcher Frank Podomore highlight flaws in his experiments such as lack of controls to prevent trickery.

Table tipping experiment was conducted by Agenor de Gasparin. Over the five months of the above experiment, Robert Hare declared the experiment a success being result of an "Ectenic Force".

In 1877, The German Physicist, Johann Karl Friedrich Zollner tested a medium Henry Slade. As per his experiment, flaws in experiments were discovered and critics have suggested that Slade was a fraud who performed trickery in experiments.

The society for psychical research (SPR) was founded in London in 1882. Its formation was the first systematic efforts to organize scientists and scholars to investigate paranormal phenomena. Areas of study included telepathy, hypnotism, Reichenbach's phenomena, apparitions, hauntings and the physical aspects of Spiritualism such as table- tilting, materialization and apparition.

Early clairvoyance experiments were reported in 1884 by Charles Richet, playing cards were enclosed in envelopes and a subject put under hypnosis attempted to identify them. The subject was reported to have been successful in a series of 133 trials but the results dropped to chance level when performed before a group of scientific in Cambridge. J M Peirce and E C Pickering reported a similar experiment in which they tested 36 subjects over 23,384 trials which did not obtain above chance scores.

In 1881, Eleanor Sidgwick revealed the fraudulent methods that spirit photographers such as Edouard Isidore Buguet, Friedrich Hudson and William H Mumler had utilised.

Largely due to support of psychologist William James, the American Society for psychical Research (ASPR) opened its doors in Boston in 1885, moving to New York City in 1905 under the leadership of James H Hyslop.

Rhine Era.

Stanford was the first academic institution which conducted a study on extrasensory perception (ESP) and psychokinesis (PK) in a laboratory setting. After conducting approximately 10,000 experiments, co-over concluded “Statistical treatment of the data fail to reveal any cause beyond chance”.

The Duke University became the second major US Academic institution to engage in the critical study of ESP and psychokinesis in the laboratory. As a consequence of the ESP experiments at Duke, standard laboratory procedure for the testing of ESP developed and came to be adopted by interested researchers throughout the world.

Estrabook experiments were conducted by George Estabooks In 1927. Harvard students were used as the subjects which estrabooks acts as the sender with the guesser in an adjoining room.

Rhine, along with associate Karl zener who developed a statistical system of testing of ESP that involved subjects guessing what symbol, out of five possible symbol, would appear when going through a special deck of cards designed for this purpose.

Irish meidum and Parapsychologist, Eileen J Garrett who tested by Rhine at Duke University in 1933 eth Zener Cards. Certain symbols kept hidden and sealed in the envelope and she asked to guess their contents. She performed poorly and later criticised the tests by claiming the cards lacked a psychic energy called “ENERGY STUMULUS”

IN 1934, The psychologist Joseph Jastrow wrote many articles and much of the evidence for extra sensory perception collected by Rhine and other parapsychologists was anecdotal, biased, dubious and the result of “Faculty observation and familiar frailties”.

The experiment of Rhine was discredited due to the discovery of the sensory leakage or cheating could account for all his results such as the subject being able to read the symbols from the back of the cards and being able to see and hear the experimenter to note subtle clues.

Stargate Project.

In early 1959, the central intelligence unit (CIA) started the project which had extensive research on behavioural engineering which was handled ESP Research.

This project was terminated in 1995 because it concluded that it will not be used in any intelligence operation, the information was vague and included lots of irrelevant and erroneous data.

The Components of Parapsychology.

A) Extrasensory Perception which is called sixth sense, which is claimed paranormal ability pertaining to reception of information not gained through the recognised physical sense but sensed with the mind.

The second sight is a form of extrasensory perception whereby a person perceives information in the form of a vision about the future events before they happen (precognition) or about the things or events at the remote locations which is remote viewing.

B) Telepathy is called vicarious transmission of the information from one person's mind to the another without using any known human channel physical interaction.

C) Precognition which is the purported psychic phenomenon of seeing or otherwise becoming directly aware of event in the future. It is called forecasting of the future events or incidents. There is no scientific evidence that precognition is a real effect, which is widely considered as the pseudoscience.

D) Clairvoyance, which is the claimed psychic ability to gain the information about any object, person, or physical events through extrasensory perception. Any person who has claimed to have such ability is known as clairvoyant. The clairvoyance is not notified scientifically and the scientific community considers the existence of the parapsychology and clairvoyance as pseudoscience.

E) Psychokinesis is the hypothetical psychic ability allowing a person to influence a psychical system without Physical activities and interaction. It was criticised for lack of proper controls and repeatability. There is no reliable evidence that telekinesis is a real phenomenon and topic is generally regarded as pseudoscience.

F) Near Death Experience is a profound Personal experience associated with death or impending death which researchers would be described as near-death experience. When positive, such experience may encompass a variety of sensations including detachment from the body feeling of levitation, total serenity, security, warmth, the experience of absolute dissolution and the presence of a light. When negative, such experience may include sensations of anguish, distress, void, devastations and vast emptiness. People would often report seeing hellish places and things their own rendition of “The Devil”.

G) Out Of Body Experience is a phenomenon in which a person perceives the world from a location outside their physical body which is form of auto copy which means seeing self. The out of body experience is the astral projection or spirit walking.

OBE can include traumatic brain injuries, sensory deprivation, near death experience, dissociative and psychedelic drugs, dehydration, sleep disorder, dreaming and electrical stimulation of the brain, among the other causes.

H) Spontaneous Dream Visitation is the psychic phenomena which is also called dream apparition, is the phenomenon in which an apparition of the deceased relative or friend visit a person whilst they are asleep or in an altered state of consciousness. As paranormal investigator, the procedures involved in that investigation are scientifically and trying to find out whether there really is life after death.

When I was a kid, I got jaundice and I was in critical condition. In that condition, I was partially unconscious. My grandmother passed away before one and half month. When I was in partially unconscious condition, I found my grandmother in my dream and she started to talk with me. I experienced when I was in critical and partially unconscious then in that state the extra-terrestrial energy came to me otherwise not. So, the apparition and dream visitation both are only the state of mind and this kind of energy could be attacked on the diseased people.

This is the thing which pushed me to study scientific parapsychology, ghosts, haunting and life after death.

Some characteristics are there which are related to Spontaneous Dream Visitation.

- A) Brightness and clear strong colour unlike a normal dream.
- B) Knowing that the dream and the apparition is no longer alive in the earthly environment.
- C) Hearing Music
- D) Recognition of the apparition (i.e deceased friend or relative).
- E) Waking up afterwards with a clean and vivid recollection of the experience
- F) Remembering the experience many years later as if it has just occurred.
- G) Symbolism is common in such experience, such as meeting on a staircase to indicate the difference between the spirit realm and earthly environment such as landing on the upstairs floor of the house and the stair case which symbolises the way down from the spirit realm to bottom of the stair case which is the earthly realm.
- H) Sometimes the surroundings of the dream are very simple, such as two empty chairs in the middle of the empty room.
- I) The inner knowledge that the experience was not a normal dream.

Some parapsychologists and researchers suggest that when we sleep and all external stimuli (the five processes of the information) have been subdued in the hypnogogic sleep state for example sound, sight, touch, taste and the feeling etc.

Shriamd Bhagavd Gita and Parapsychology.

Lord Krishna stated many things about astral body and non-astral body and made all of us understood the basic relation of the astral and non-astral bodies. Lord Krishna stated that the astral body's progression and regression is only possible if the non-astral body is situated with the astral body. So, the relation with soul and material body is unique and soul can get all the experiences of the life from the medium of the body hence the material body which is astral body is the medium only.

Lord Krishna stated about soul in shrimad bhagvad gita that

For the soul there is neither birth nor death at any time. He has not come into being, does not into being and will not come into being. He is unborn, eternal, ever existing and primeval. He is not slain when the body is slain. (Verse no 20 of chapter -2)

Lord further stated in Verse no 22 of chapter 2 of shrimad bhagvad gita.

As a person puts on new garments, giving up old ones, the soul similarly accepts new garments bodies, giving up the old and useless one.

Lord Krishna further stated in Verse no 23 of chapter 2.

The soul can never be cut to pieces by any weapons, not burner by fire, nor moisted by water, not withered by the winds.

Verse no 24 chapter 2.

The individual soul is unbreakable and insoluble and can be neither burned nor dried. He is everlasting, present everywhere, unchangeable, immovable and eternally same

Here lord Krishna clearly talked about the soul that is energy which is unbreakable and insilumrt means soul one kind of energy is remain same even after the body get died. Once the person. Who died then the soul, one kind of energy which would be transmigrated from one body to another. The parapsychology is the effect of the soul which is eternal and remain same even after death.

Lord Krishna said at the time of death the nature which you have developed, you will get a next birth, if you are having a birth like fierce animal then you will surely obtain the body of fierce animal.

Therefore, the near-death experience and out of body experience is directly related with the transmigration of the soul from the one Body to another body.

Verse no – 6 chapter 8 of shrimad bhagvad gita.

Lord Krishna here explained to Arjuna that whatever state of being one remembers when he quits his body, that state he will surely attain without fail.

Here, Krishna explained to Arjuna that if you made your nature like animal then you will get animal state and if you made your nature like demon or evil then you will get Demonic body or get a place in the kingdoms of the ghost. The process of changing one's existence and nature at the critical moment of the death is here explained to Arjuna by the supreme personality of godhead lord Krishna. A person who at the end of his life quits his body thinking of Krishna then he will attain the transcendental nature of lord Krishna but it is not true that a person perceives he thinks of something other than Krishna and attain the same transcendental nature or state.

Author Review

Here in this research paper we basically tried to understand the basic concept of parapsychology on the basis of shrimad bhagvad gita. When we talk about spontaneous Dream Visitations then we can remember what does lord Krishna say in shriamnd Bhagavad Gita about dream and Visitations. Lord Krishna clearly stated that it's only state of mind and also the product of our senses which are functioning very high and very strong enough.

Lord said in Verse no 42 of chapter -3 Of Shrimad Bhagvad Gita

Working senses are superior to the dull matter, our mind is higher than the sense, our Intelligence is higher than our mind and our soul which is directly connected with lord Krishna is still higher than our intelligence. Our senses are playing vital role in the phenomenon like spontaneous Dream Visitations. When we started dreaming our all senses are activated very high and senses which would induce our extra sensory organs sometime we can say that it's our six sense.

Lord Krishna show the right path and solution to fight against this kind of Spontaneous Dream Visitations and also regulating our extrasensory perception. Lord Madhav hereby said in order control your mind and intelligence what you have to immediately? You have to regulate your senses by your sensory organs that does means we can't control our senses but we can regulate them. It's something like we can't stop our eyes to see, we can't stop our ear to hear, we can't stop our nose to sniff, we can restrain our hand to touch which does mean we can regulate that mean what we have to hear, what we have to touch, what we have to sniff, what we have to see and also what we have to speak by our five sensory organs (eyes, nose, ears, skin, mouth)

CONCLUSION:

When we concluded this study, we have a better understanding of the parapsychology by relating with shrimad bhagvad gita. We understood that parapsychology is not new concept, it has already been mentioned in our purans, vedic scriptures and shrimad bhagvad gita. Lord Krishna mentioned many psychokinesis and phycho telepathy technics in shrimad bhagvad gita. We are unable to relate this to all the modern concepts and scientific theories with our Vedas because we do not have depth knowledge about our Vedas. Lord Krishna mentioned about the division of the faith, if you worship the ghost then you will get developed your nature like ghost and that damn sure, you will get a body of ghost of ghost's kingdoms. If you worship demigods then you will get a kingdom of demigod, but lord Krishna said if you worship me then you will surely get my supreme abode without fail.

Types of ghost which are mentioned in Garuda puran

Bhoot (Ghost) :- A being or creature that has completed the assign age, passed its death and now in a state of waiting for the next act of its existence which is moksha or mukti, new birth.

Preta which does means any person who dies will attain pret yoni until tehervi (13th day ritual), during which time sanskars, pindans, water offering and other rituals are performed.

Pisach :- A deceased being land into pisach yoni, due to its karma and will continue to stay in it until it's is fees by some good aft of a sainty person.

Pisach are wanting to be freed from this yoni, hence they are easy to Target by tantriks for bad deeds and also themselves are not good doer either.

Difference Between Preta and Pisach.

Preta yoni is a transient state, pisach yoni is not. Everyone lands into the preta yoni after death and is able to get the phala of the rituals offered and water and ponds provided to it. Pisach are looking for liberation hence they are roaming here and there in order to get a liberty, if the proper pindans and proper last rites are not completely then the immediately the person lands into pret yogi then pisach yoni (if the rites are not performed)

Finally, we would have to say this, parapsychology is not new concept, but directly derived from our vedic scripture so we have to understand actual essence of our Vedic Scriptures and try to relate these topics with our ancient scriptures.

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