

TELEPATHY

David C F Wright PhD

It all began when a friend said that swarms of birds fly together without collision because of telepathy.

Then we recalled the unfair phrase 'bird brain', which states that birds have small and ineffective brains, and so a dim-witted human being might be called a bird brain.

The continual misuse of words by spiritualists and psychics continue to confuse and frustrate. And they invent words.

Telepathy is the alleged transfer of thoughts and feelings between individuals without the use of the five senses of sight, hearing, taste, touch or smell.

The origin of the word telepathy is in two parts namely tele and pathy. The word tele means from afar, at a distance. Pathy, from which we get the word pathos, means suffering or affliction. Spiritualists have used this part of the word to include the meaning of experience or passion and so they claim that telepathy is experience from afar.

But the word pathos has to do with suffering and affliction and with illness and disease. The word pathology is clearly derived correctly from the original word. Pathology has to do with the study and diagnosis of disease. In my job, I used to visit the pathology department daily and witness autopsies by the pathologist to discover the cause of death. Pathology also includes emotional and behavioural problems. We have the expression pathological liar, for example, which refers to habitual and compulsive liars. Their lies are to make the speaker appear good or important with their endless and various lies. This is a serious mental condition.

Therefore the correct meaning of telepathy is a negative thing meaning suffering from afar. But this true meaning has been abused to mean distant experience as defined by clairvoyants. Clairvoyants say that they can foretell the future.

Clairvoyance is another misnomer. The word means clear vision and includes Extra Sensory Perception, or ESP as it is known. Clairvoyance is the alleged ability to gain information about a person, object, location or event without the use of the five senses, but this is entirely wrong as clairvoyants have invented five words each referring to one of the five senses.

There is clairsentience referring to feelings and touch, clairaudience refers to hearing and listening, clairalience refers to smell, claircognizance refers to knowing and clairgustance refers to taste.

All invented words.

Clairvoyance and telepathy may have the idea of distance in common but as we have seen their beliefs contradict each other.

This distance communication was advocated by such frauds as Betty Shine who allegedly said that she could heal and perform surgical operations without being there but by being thousands of miles away. She could cure people whereas the best doctors and surgeons could not. She also influenced sick people not to see a doctor or consultant since all they needed was her and her expertise. As a consequence many of her patients died unnecessarily. Shine was a crank and a fraud and responsible for several deaths.

See articles on [Betty Shine](#) and [Psychics are Psychotic](#).

Clairvoyants are, of course, mediums and hold seances.

Another new word is parapsychology which is the study of psychic activity.

Clairvoyants are keen to use the word psychokinesis which is the manipulation of all forces and includes telekinesis the alleged movement, from afar, of objects by using the mind alone.

As to the birds, they have in their brains a type of radar system, a navigation system, which they always have had, as part of Divine creation.

If I met someone for the first time, I would not know if they shared my love for Beethoven unless he said so, or responded to our hearing some of his music, or saw my collection of Beethoven's music or my CD collection.

This is dependent on the use of one or more than our senses.

However, there are rare occasions when instinct takes place. This is the reaction we have to someone or something. There are some people I see and I feel uncomfortable with them. I do not know why but, later, a reason appears. This reaction may be a response to their bearing, body language, style of speech or life style. It may be due to their appearance and how they dress. But it is due to built-in instinct.

The question remains why do spiritualists use the word telepathy. Clearly it is to promote their own unsubstantiated beliefs and make them feel important. Is this pathological lying?

COPYRIGHT David C F Wright 2010. No part of this article, however small, may be reproduced or stored in any system whatsoever. It must not be copied, altered or downloaded. Failure to comply is illegal being theft and contrary to International Copyright law and will render any offender liable to action at law.