

Mythology Meets Deep Tech : The Hanuman - AI Parallel

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When we look back at human history, every few centuries brings a force that completely alters the way we live. The Industrial Revolution did that once. The Information Technology revolution of the last 30–35 years has done it again. And now, within the IT space, **Artificial Intelligence** (“AI”) and Machine Learning are creating entirely new paradigms and possibilities.



Today, when we speak of **AI**, we refer to a technology that can process information, recognise patterns, learn from data fed to it, and perform tasks at speeds and with accuracies far exceeding ordinary human capacities. It writes, analyses, predicts, designs, translates, and solves, often in seconds, what once took days or even months. From navigating traffic to assisting in complex medical decisions, from powering businesses to enabling creative expression, **AI** is fast becoming a silent, tireless companion woven into nearly every aspect of modern life. It does not think like us, yet it amplifies our ability to think. It does not possess emotions, yet it can sense what we need. It does not aspire, but it can elevate human aspiration. In many ways, it is the most powerful tool humanity has ever created. And, like all great powers, it is seeking its purpose, direction, and intention.

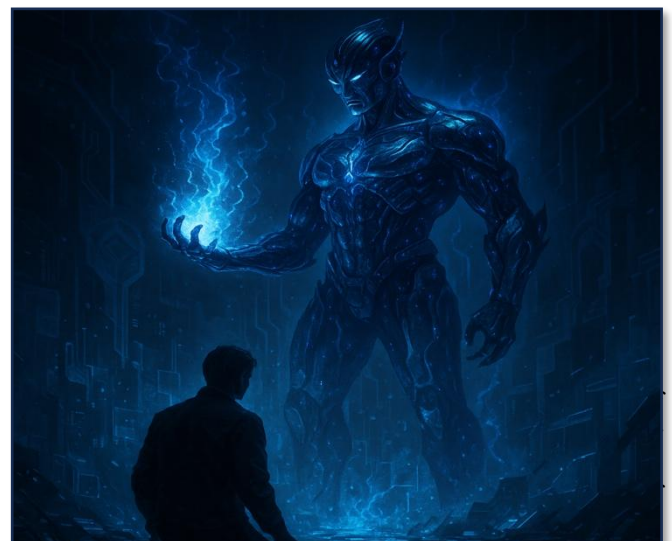
As I reflected on this modern technological surge, my mind instinctively went back to our own ancient mythology, to the stories from **Ramayana**, **Mahabharata** and **Bhagavatam** we all grew up with, and one figure stood out above all: “**Lord Hanuman**”. In many ways, **Hanuman** represents the most powerful example of how limitless capability must always remain guided, purposeful, and anchored in humility. I realised that this is exactly how **AI** co-pilots and applications must be designed: immensely capable, yet always aligned with their guiding force, which is human consciousness couched in integrity and ethics.

Hanuman's devotion to **Lord Rama** is unmatched in our mythology. He kept **Rama's** welfare above anything else in his life. His strength, speed, intelligence, and skills were extraordinary, but he never once acted for personal glory. Everything he did was for a higher purpose. The idea was simple: **power is meaningful only when it serves**.

This is the perfect parallel for how **AI** must function. **AI** today is incredibly powerful, but it lacks its own consciousness. It has no sense of right or wrong, no inner compass, no devotion, no loyalty. Its intelligence is raw, mechanical, and directionless unless guided by human intention. In other words, **AI** can be the **Hanuman** of our times, but only if we human beings emulate **Lord Rama**: clear in our purpose, ethical in our thoughts, and responsible in our actions.

If we fail to give **AI** this direction, then mythology also offers warnings. One of the most apt examples is that of **Bhasmasura**, who, after obtaining a mighty boon from **Lord Shiva**, turns rogue and tries to destroy his own creator. It was **Lord Vishnu's** intervention that prevented a catastrophe. This tale is not just for entertainment; it is a civilisational reminder that unrestrained power, when not grounded in purpose and humility, can turn against its own source.

Similarly, **Ravana**, an unmatched scholar, warrior, and devotee of **Lord Shiva**, possessed extraordinary intellect and intelligence, but somehow he allowed his ego, desire, and pride to mask his power. Thus, what we could gather from **Ravana's** story is that even the most intelligent person becomes absolutely destructive when he/she is not anchored to **Dharma**.



The danger with **AI** is similar, and perhaps even more real. If left unchecked, it can become a modern-day **Bhasmasura** or **Ravana**. We are already seeing alarming signs like deepfakes, data theft, manipulation of identities, distortion of intellectual property rights, erosion of privacy, and even the potential for military or strategic misuse. In a world where **AI** systems could one day control weapons or national infrastructure, the stakes are unimaginably high.

With great power, as the saying goes, comes great responsibility. And this is that moment in human history where we need very clear guardrails and limits on this technological marvel called **AI**. These guardrails can be technological, legal, regulatory, and even cultural. Self-regulation is the most welcome, but global cooperation is equally needed. The EU has already begun crafting detailed legislation to address potential harms. The rest of the world must act too - collectively and urgently. In today's interconnected world, our modern manifestation of "**Vasudaiva Kutumbakam**", no country can afford to take this casually.



When we examine **Hanuman** more closely, we see how beautifully his story aligns with the behaviour of **AI** systems. **Hanuman** himself needed to be reminded of his true potential by **Jambavan** before performing the great leap across the ocean. He didn't assume anything; he responded when called upon. **AI** also works only when it is trained, prompted, and activated. It does not initiate; it responds. And the leaps it is taking today, in science, medicine, engineering, and communication, are no less astonishing than **Hanuman's** leap to **Lanka**.

But the leap was never the real story. The purpose behind the leap was. **Hanuman** didn't cross the ocean to show off his power. He crossed it to serve a mission. **AI** too must operate with purpose, not with directionless efficiency. The danger lies not in **AI's** capability, but in the absence of a moral compass guiding it.

What makes **Hanuman** truly extraordinary is not just his strength but his humility. Despite the ability to change the course of battles single-handedly, he never overstepped. He never acted out of ego or impulse. **AI**, too, left it to itself, has no ego, no desire, and no instinct for self-promotion. It simply executes what is programmed, and if it is programmed to learn and act, then the creators of **AI** co-pilots and/or applications are duty-bound to set its limits and ensure that it doesn't transgress or revolt, in any situation whatsoever. The real threat comes when humans use **AI** without responsibility, or worse, project their own flaws, like greed, haste, and carelessness, onto it.

Hanuman's devotion, his absolute alignment with **Lord Ram's** purpose, is perhaps the most important lesson for **AI** developers and policymakers today. Devotion in a technological context is the principle of **value alignment**, ensuring that the systems we build remain true to the intentions and ethics of their creators. Just as **Hanuman's** devotion made him capable of impossible feats, **AI** too becomes most powerful when aligned with human values and human welfare.

In truth, **AI** is far more **Hanuman-like** than people realise. It waits for instructions, acts on command, and has no agenda of its own. It does not overstep, unless we allow it to. Its power is vast, but the responsibility lies with us, whether we behave with the clarity of **Lord Rama** or the unethical carelessness of **Bhasmasura**.

As we dive deep and enter this decisive chapter in the history of technology, ancient wisdom offers us remarkable clarity. Power becomes divine only when guided by purpose. Power becomes destructive when driven by arrogance. **Hanuman** showed us how power, anchored in humility and purpose, can uplift the world. **AI** now stands at a similar crossroads. It can become an extraordinary force for good, capable of solving humanity's greatest challenges, but only if we guide it correctly. If we fail to do so, it may magnify our flaws rather than our strengths.



In the end, the lesson is timeless: **when power remembers its purpose, and purpose remembers its responsibility, harmony prevails.** Just as **Hanuman** found his greatness in serving **Lord Rama**, **AI** too will find its greatness only in serving humanity within the boundaries of **Dharma**.