

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,000

One, two, three.

2

00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:10,000

Bang!

3

00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:12,000

Bang!

4

00:00:12,000 --> 00:00:14,000

Bang!

5

00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:18,000

Can folks be better than you?

6

00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:23,000

One, two, three.

7

00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:25,000

Bang!

8

00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:27,000

Bang!

9

00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:29,000

Bang!

10

00:00:29,000 --> 00:00:33,000

Can folks be bent by the power of thought alone?

11

00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:37,000

What is the truth about mind over matter?

12

00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:43,000

Can metal bars be distorted without being touched?

13

00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:49,000

Are we in fact all born with the power to move things with our minds?

14

00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:52,000

Mistress from the files of Arthur C. Clarke,

15

00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:54,000

scientist, writer and visionary,

16

00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:57,000

the scientist who invented the communication satellite,

17

00:00:57,000 --> 00:00:59,000

the writer of 2010,

18

00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:01,000

and now in retreat in Sri Lanka,

19

00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:06,000

the visionary who ponders the riddles of this and other worlds.

20

00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:14,920

The

21

00:01:14,920 --> 00:01:17,000

The

22

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:19,000

The

23

00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:21,000

The

24

00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:23,000

The

25

00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:25,000

The

26

00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:27,000

The

27

00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:29,000

The

28

00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:31,000

The

29

00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:33,000

The

30

00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:35,000

The

31

00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:37,000

Among the souvenirs,

32

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:39,000

clattering up my office,

33

00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:41,000

is this key,

34

00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:44,000

and I will be able to get it back to the old London.

35

00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:47,000

At least it did until I met Yuri Geller.

36

00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:49,000

You may remember him,

37

00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:52,000

the young Israeli who, back in 1973,

38

00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:56,000

astonished everyone by his ability to bend metal.

39

00:01:56,000 --> 00:01:59,000

I met Yuri Geller at Birkbeck College,

40

00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:01,000

on one of my visits to England,

41

00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:03,000

and frankly I was astonished when,

42

00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:05,000

in front of my eyes,

43

00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:08,000

he apparently bent this key just by stroking it gently.

44

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:10,000

Later I wasn't so amused

45

00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:13,000

by the fact that I was in a house.

46

00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:16,000

Using the mind to control matter,

47

00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:19,000

to bend keys, as Yuri claimed,

48

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:22,000

is called psychokinesis, or PK.

49

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:25,000

PK seems to take many forms.

50

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:28,000

The currently popular fashion is spoon bending.

51

00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:34,000

In California, it's all the rage at the best parties.

52

00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:38,000

You've got a point of concentration in your head.

53

00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:42,000

Make it very intense,

54

00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:46,000

focus it,

55

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:50,000

and put it into the silverware.

56

00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:56,000

One, two, three, bang!

57

00:02:56,000 --> 00:02:59,000

Bang! Bang! Bang!

58

00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:02,000

Bang! Bang!

59

00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:05,000

When minds think alike,

60

00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:08,000

the cutlery is quickly contorted.

61

00:03:08,000 --> 00:03:11,000

There's one, here's one right here!

62

00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:12,000

All right!

63

00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:14,000

Oh, that's one!

64

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:15,000

Here's one.

65

00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:18,000

Woo! Look at this one, what Tammy did.

66

00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:21,000

Very good!

67

00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:23,000

Wow!

68

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:25,000

And I can't force this,

69

00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:27,000

but if I just keep rubbing on it,

70

00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:30,000

it gets hot, and then by testing it occasionally,

71

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:33,000

it just decides to bend over.

72

00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:39,000

Okay, well what I believe is going on is that there is

73

00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:42,000

an energy, or a force,

74

00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:45,000

that we can all tap into,

75

00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:47,000

that science calls psychokinesis,

76

00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:49,000

that simply has to do with

77

00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:53,000

the relationship between mind and matter.

78

00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:54,000

Milk!

79

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:56,000

Okay.

80

00:03:56,000 --> 00:03:59,000

Bin!

81

00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:00,000

Bin!

82

00:04:00,000 --> 00:04:04,000

The times, when you look back and forth.

83

00:04:04,000 --> 00:04:05,000

Easy to see.

84

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:08,000

The craze began in 1973

85

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:10,000

when master metal bender Uri Gela

86

00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:12,000

appeared on the Dimblebee Torquins.

87

00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:15,000

Look, it's becoming like classic.

88

00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:18,000

And it's breaking.

89

00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:20,000

It's breaking.

90

00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:23,000

You can, look, it's very...

91

00:04:23,000 --> 00:04:29,000

He convinced many experts that he had paranormal powers.

92

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:33,000

Bin, bin, bin.

93

00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:36,000

Later at Longleat, the family silver suffered

94

00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:38,000

when Uri got hold of a spoon

95

00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:40,000

owned by the Marquis of Bath.

96

00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:42,000

This is so heavy.

97

00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:44,000

Yes, it's happening.

98

00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:46,000

Yes, yes, yes, sure.

99

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:48,000

Yes, yes, that's a nice one.

100

00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:51,000

Look, it's becoming very...

101

00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:53,000

Yeah.

102

00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:55,000

Nothing break.

103

00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:57,000

You will break it.

104

00:04:57,000 --> 00:04:59,000

And there's no heat at all.

105

00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:01,000

There's absolutely no heat.

106

00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:03,000

Is that a solid silver, Lord Bath?

107

00:05:03,000 --> 00:05:05,000

Yeah, made by Gela in London.

108

00:05:05,000 --> 00:05:08,000

I should have thought you better change yours.

109

00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:10,000

But Gela was not the first.

110

00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:12,000

The parlour psychics of the 19th century

111

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:16,000

claimed PK powers that could levitate tables

112

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:19,000

or make objects take off and fly around the room.

113

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:27,000

Film of Russian PK experiments reached the West in the 1960s.

114

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:30,000

Alavino Gradovac would apparently make a cigar tube

115

00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:33,000

roll about with the nearest wave of her hand.

116

00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:38,000

Nina Kulagina was shown moving a matchbox

117

00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:41,000

isolated beneath the plastic cover.

118

00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:45,000

And under the stony-faced scrutiny of the film crew,

119

00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:47,000

she appeared without touching

120

00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:50,000

to be able to make a compass needle spin.

121

00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:54,000

In France, Jean-Pierre Girard

122

00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:57,000

claimed he could bend a steel bar just by stroking it.

123

00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:04,000

In Switzerland, artist Silvio Meier

124

00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:07,000

bent the world's hardest currency, the Swiss franc.

125

00:06:07,000 --> 00:06:09,000

And in his own video,

126

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:11,000

showed how the spoon on the right slowly wilted

127

00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:13,000

when he pointed a finger.

128

00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:22,000

P.K.

129

00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:24,000

P.K.

130

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:26,000

P.K.

131

00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:28,000

P.K.

132

00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:31,000

Wherever claims are made, PK generates controversy.

133

00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:34,000

Psychoval researchers around the world

134

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:37,000

are still arguing about reports from a small Missouri town

135

00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:39,000

named Rola.

136

00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:46,000

Locksmith Ron Henson is a vital member of the team

137

00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:49,000

conducting the controversial PK experiments.

138

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:52,000

They involve a mini-laboratory

139

00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:55,000

designed by the Sorat Research Group,

140

00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:58,000

led by William Cox and John T. Richards.

141

00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:01,000

The mini-labs especially adapted fish tank

142

00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:04,000

securely sealed so that nothing and no one

143

00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:06,000

can get into it.

144

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:09,000

Yet a film camera recorded mysterious movements inside.

145

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:14,000

Objects shuffled about,

146

00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:17,000

and paper rings linked together.

147

00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:20,000

Balloons went up and down like yo-yos,

148

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:23,000

all apparently unaided by human hand.

149

00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:26,000

The most remarkable thing that's happened in the mini-lab

150

00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:30,000

from my standpoint is the linking of rings.

151

00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:35,000

Solid leather rings have been seen to link.

152

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:43,000

In another film, plastic rings got in on the act.

153

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:52,000

A heat is a phenomenon that we had to contend with,

154

00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:57,000

and this thermometer made of plastic was heat damaged.

155

00:07:57,000 --> 00:08:01,000

Not the only one that we lost in the process.

156

00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:04,000

And sometimes fires broke out.

157

00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:07,000

This balloon, as you can see, has been melted

158

00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:12,000

from some inexplicable heat that occurred in the mini-lab.

159

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:15,000

On other occasions, balloons such as this

160

00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:20,000

have been seen on camera to in-flight

161

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:23,000

for some unknown reason.

162

00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:27,000

But there's no way that the air could be piped in.

163

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:31,000

The mini-lab is completely sealed at that time.

164

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:33,000

Paper parasols just appeared.

165

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:37,000

The first parasol that appeared actually was seen by us

166

00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:39,000

for the first time within the mini-lab,

167

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:43,000

standing on the sword or halberd of a plastic knife

168

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:46,000

that high which had gotten inside of the mini-lab itself

169

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:52,000

and which has been viewed on film moving to the right.

170

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:58,000

Then I placed a pen like this one on the outside

171

00:08:58,000 --> 00:09:01,000

of the first mini-lab that Mr. Hansen sealed up.

172

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:04,000

I had hoped it would somehow enter, and it did.

173

00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:07,000

But that's what is known as direct writing,

174

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:10,000

in which a pen can be seen by itself writing.

175

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:13,000

It is an extremely rare phenomenon.

176

00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:15,000

Letters locked inside the mini-lab

177

00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:18,000

mysteriously turn up at their destinations.

178

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:20,000

This one's addressed to Arthur C. Clarke

179

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:22,000

and Colombo Sri Lanka.

180

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:26,000

The researchers claim that the mini-lab is a paranormal post-box.

181

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:30,000

This is now about to be sealed by Ron Henson, the locksmith,

182

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:34,000

hopefully securely, and I mean securely.

183

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:37,000

Cox insists on elaborate precautions.

184

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:40,000

The keys are cut in half.

185

00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:43,000

Then the shanks are super glued into the locks.

186

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:47,000

Something is going on, but the why of it, I have no idea,

187

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:52,000

and why, if it occurs at all, it is so rare, is a mystery.

188

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:00,000

Mystified they may be, but the roller researchers are hopeful

189

00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:03,000

that PK Powers will spring the letter from the mini-lab,

190

00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:06,000

which is left to work its wonders in the clutter of Cox's garage

191

00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:08,000

in Roller, Missouri.

192

00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:35,000

Well, the letter Julie arrived here in Colombo,

193

00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:38,000

and there was certainly nothing supernatural about the delivery.

194

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:41,000

I had no idea what this was all about,

195

00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:44,000

but a researcher in Cambridge, Tony Cornell,

196

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:47,000

has his own ideas on the subject.

197

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:53,000

We got hold of the original Sorat film and we blew it up,

198

00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:57,000

and we had a look at it, and we found, for instance,

199

00:10:57,000 --> 00:11:02,000

that in the ring linking, which was a large feature of this,

200

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:07,000

that you've got the rings on the bottom here, start with, not linked,

201

00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:10,000

then suddenly you go to the next frame, and these are continuous frames,

202

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:14,000

one after the other, it's suddenly linked.

203

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:18,000

You go down here farther, and these are the individual frames,

204

00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:21,000

you find the same thing, it's linked there,

205

00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:24,000

and then suddenly it shoots up to the top of the tank.

206

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:27,000

There's no blurring, and we looked at these again,

207

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:30,000

and we found something else that was interesting.

208

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:33,000

There's a photograph here with no fish tank,

209

00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:36,000

there's just the bar and the lock.

210

00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:39,000

Same here, same here,

211

00:11:39,000 --> 00:11:41,000

suddenly there's the fish tank.

212

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:45,000

It's a bit odd that this thing should suddenly be removed.

213

00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:47,000

Why?

214

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:51,000

This led us to wonder whether perhaps things were being arranged with the tank,

215

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:54,000

being removed, and then you start filming again.

216

00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:59,000

So what we did was this, we got a camera here, and the light, and the fish tank.

217

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:03,000

Cornel wanted to show how simple it would be to make films like the ones from Roller.

218

00:12:03,000 --> 00:12:05,000

First, the rings.

219

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:09,000

And we started sticking them down like that, with blue tank.

220

00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:12,000

Duck down, and let's have a take a single shot.

221

00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:16,000

I would come up again, move it up, slightly like that,

222

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:19,000

duck down, another single frame taken with a cine camera,

223

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:22,000

this is done 16 times for a second.

224

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:25,000

Eventually of course we'd end up with several rings,

225

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:29,000

and then we'd move them up like this, having duck my head down down every time.

226

00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:32,000

And we got the thing moving around, we got the link rings,

227

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:38,000

by pure and simply just splitting two of these, the two's together.

228

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:40,000

Let me give you a demonstration.

229

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:45,000

There is a five, the two is solid, is moving up to there,

230

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:47,000

another frame, single shot.

231

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:50,000

Then we just link it in like that.

232

00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:54,000

Now behold, there's your instantaneous linking.

233

00:12:55,000 --> 00:12:59,000

And now we're going to move on to the next one.

234

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:02,000

And we're going to do the same thing again.

235

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:05,000

And we're going to do the same thing again.

236

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:08,000

And we're going to do the same thing again.

237

00:13:08,000 --> 00:13:11,000

And we're going to do the same thing again.

238

00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:14,000

And we're going to do the same thing again.

239

00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:17,000

And we're going to do the same thing again.

240

00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:20,000

And we're going to do the same thing again.

241

00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:23,000

And we're going to do the same thing again.

242

00:13:23,000 --> 00:13:26,000

What was the first time you saw a film?

243

00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:29,000

What was the first time you saw a film?

244

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:32,000

What was the first time you saw a film?

245

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:38,000

When we saw our film, we came to the conclusion that we produced the same kind of results

246

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:42,000

that we'd seen on the roller film by single frame photography.

247

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:45,000

I honestly don't know what was going on at roller.

248

00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:50,000

When I visited there, I saw the set up and saw the films.

249

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:55,000

I don't myself think that it's a genuine phenomena.

250

00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:57,000

Who's to blame? I don't know.

251

00:13:57,000 --> 00:14:00,000

All I can tell you is that what I saw at roller and what we've done here

252

00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:05,000

has made us come to the conclusion there's no point in wasting our time with it any further.

253

00:14:05,000 --> 00:14:08,000

But just suppose the mind could control matter.

254

00:14:08,000 --> 00:14:10,000

The implications would be tremendous.

255

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:14,000

Imagine if you could explode an enemy's atom bombs

256

00:14:14,000 --> 00:14:17,000

merely by concentrating on the trigger mechanism.

257

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:21,000

So some scientists have taken this subject seriously

258

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:27,000

and have devised ingenious experiments to find the truth about PK.

259

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:32,000

Stephen North's been taking part in PK experiments since childhood.

260

00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:39,000

At Birkbeck College London, physics professor John Hasted

261

00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:44,000

has been investigating Stephen's apparent ability to bend metal with his mind.

262

00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:49,000

In his laboratory, especially insulated from outside influences,

263

00:14:49,000 --> 00:14:54,000

Hasted has equipment sensitive to the smallest disturbance to metal.

264

00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:57,000

TV monitors ensure fair play.

265

00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:01,000

Stephen will try to influence an array of metal bars.

266

00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:06,000

Even the slightest touch will make each bar give off a different musical note.

267

00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:10,000

Touch. The right hand one touches this one.

268

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:13,000

There you are. Now touch the middle one.

269

00:15:13,000 --> 00:15:16,000

Now the other one.

270

00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:19,000

Now go back to the little one.

271

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:23,000

There you are. The one on the left is just as dummy as you know.

272

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:27,000

Now Stephen must try to change the notes without touching the bars.

273

00:15:27,000 --> 00:15:30,000

It takes time and patience.

274

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:34,000

Professor Hasted believes that PK is unpredictable.

275

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:40,000

It often happens when you really don't expect it at all.

276

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:45,000

You'll get Stephen to concentrate like mad and nothing will happen whatever.

277

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:49,000

And then we break the shot or have a cup of tea.

278

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:55,000

I can't do it, but you see, it's surprise that's wanted.

279

00:15:55,000 --> 00:15:58,000

And this never ceases to amaze me.

280

00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:01,000

Yeah, yeah, that was it. Is there something on there?

281

00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Yes, there's a small deviation in there.

282

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:07,000

Not bad. Not bad.

283

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:13,000

I was watching Stephen's hands or on the monitor so it wasn't a touch.

284

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:16,000

Nevertheless, the note changed.

285

00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:24,000

Well, sometimes we might get a dozen of these, two dozen, three dozen.

286

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:28,000

But then again sometimes there is nothing at all.

287

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:30,000

Patient.

288

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:36,000

In Wiltshire, PK is child's play.

289

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:42,000

According to one theory, PK powers fade with age and should therefore be strongest in babies.

290

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:56,000

Emily's mother is putting the idea to the test with a computer, a face and a tune.

291

00:16:57,000 --> 00:16:59,000

Dr. Susan Blackmore.

292

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:05,000

The computer will play a nice tune and show a smiling face which Emily enjoys looking at.

293

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:08,000

According to the output of the random number generator.

294

00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:12,000

So while it's running, it may do this, let's say, eight times a minute.

295

00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:15,000

And the Emily's task is to sit there and enjoy it.

296

00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:19,000

And what happens is if she's using her PK successfully, it will play more often.

297

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:25,000

By influencing the output of the random number generator, she can increase the number of times it comes up.

298

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:29,000

Now you may wonder how an earth-a-little baby can influence the output of this machine.

299

00:17:29,000 --> 00:17:31,000

But that isn't important.

300

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:34,000

What's important is that you want a particular outcome.

301

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:37,000

So, you ready Emily? Your tune will be coming up in a minute.

302

00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:40,000

There we go. Have a nice time.

303

00:17:55,000 --> 00:17:58,000

So far we're about halfway through the experiment.

304

00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:02,000

And, well, it's looking quite interesting. She's scored a little bit of a chance.

305

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:04,000

But, well, we're not at the end yet.

306

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:08,000

We'll have to wait and see whether it's significant or not when we get to the end.

307

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:15,000

The first time you meet PK, it seems like magic.

308

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:17,000

And that's a trouble.

309

00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:21,000

Conjurers and stage magicians are not the only ones who can do that.

310

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:23,000

But, well, it's a big thing.

311

00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:25,000

And that's a trouble.

312

00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:31,000

Conjurers and stage magicians can perform the same feats often much more entertainingly.

313

00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:39,000

So the problem for the scientist is to separate the trickery from the real thing, if indeed there is a real thing.

314

00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:43,000

James Randi, Conjurer, is a scourge of the psychics.

315

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:47,000

He travels the world debunking claims of PK.

316

00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:52,000

He comes to the University of California at Los Angeles to prove his case by example.

317

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:56,000

In his lecture, he'll perform PK feats by trickery.

318

00:18:56,000 --> 00:18:58,000

For him, key bending is easy.

319

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:03,000

And you might think Randi is psychic if you aren't watching his right hand.

320

00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:06,000

You've got two car keys. Do you drive with both hands?

321

00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:08,000

Well, that wouldn't do any harm.

322

00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:10,000

Just turn a wee bit to face the audience.

323

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:12,000

Let me see your hand. The clean one.

324

00:19:12,000 --> 00:19:15,000

Okay. I'm going to ask you hold on to...

325

00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:18,000

These two keys are identical. If you hold on to one, close it in your hand like that.

326

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:20,000

Hold it right up wherever one can see it.

327

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:25,000

And I'll hold the other one like this and I'll stroke it and I'll attempt to put some mental power on it to cause it to bend.

328

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:27,000

Watch this carefully now.

329

00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:33,000

I can feel the force leaving my body but the key doesn't seem to be bending.

330

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:35,000

Maybe that way would work.

331

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:41,000

Oh, I'm afraid my attraction to you has caused a very strange thing to...

332

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:45,000

Oh, there's a little bit of... It's going a little bit but not enough.

333

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:49,000

Maybe the power has transferred. Would you open up your hand for me please?

334

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:52,000

A miracle. Ladies and gentlemen, would you look at that?

335

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:54,000

Well, you held it in your own hands.

336

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:59,000

That is the Urine Geller key trick in one version of about 40 different versions.

337

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:04,000

But Randi's best trick, Project Alpha, took months to bring off.

338

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:12,000

In 1979, aircraft tycoon James S. McDonnell gave half a million dollars for research to Washington University in St. Louis.

339

00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:16,000

They advertised for psychics and Randi saw his chance.

340

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:22,000

The most successful metal benders were Steve Shaw and Mike Edwards, who amazed the St. Louis researchers.

341

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:23,000

Dr. Mark Schaeffer.

342

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:29,000

We have been working, first of all, to establish the range of abilities that Mike and Steve have.

343

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:35,000

Because these have apparently included being able to move small solid objects across the tabletop,

344

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:41,000

influencing a variety of metal objects such as keys and silverware and metal bars and metal rods.

345

00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:44,000

I don't believe they're tricking us.

346

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:52,000

But in 1983, after Edwards had amazed the audience at a New York press conference,

347

00:20:52,000 --> 00:20:55,000

Randi dropped his Project Alpha bombshell.

348

00:20:56,000 --> 00:21:00,000

I'm going to ask these two gentlemen a very simple direct question.

349

00:21:00,000 --> 00:21:03,000

Can you tell us how do you do it?

350

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:10,000

I'll do it. Be quite honest with you.

351

00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:18,000

I'm happy to announce that the two young gentlemen who took part in Project Alpha are here with us today.

352

00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:20,000

Gentlemen, would you stand up and take a while?

353

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:24,000

Steve Shaw and Mike Edwards.

354

00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:33,000

Project Alpha had to be done because the Parasytologists had to be taught once and for all something that they had denied all the time.

355

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:36,000

They had to be taught that they could be fooled.

356

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:41,000

They had said we're too smart, we're too intelligent, we're too well informed, we're too good observers.

357

00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:44,000

No one is going to be able to fool us. They were fooled.

358

00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:48,000

Shaw and Edwards were not psychics, but conjurers.

359

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:54,000

This was done by a young Japanese psychic by the name of Masawaki Kyoto.

360

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:58,000

He would take a spoon, hold it like this.

361

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:17,000

That's great.

362

00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:23,000

Michael, you must be a psychic.

363

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:26,000

I'm causing that to twist 180 degrees just like that.

364

00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:29,000

They fool the researchers with standard conjuring tricks.

365

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:30,000

There we go.

366

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:35,000

But most of all, by distracting their attention.

367

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:41,000

All I use is just a sleight of hand and misdirection and psychology.

368

00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:50,000

When the Mac Lab first started testing us, I would go through a process of trying to do something and failing.

369

00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:54,000

Then I would go back in and watch the videotapes, which is very good feedback.

370

00:22:54,000 --> 00:22:57,000

I could see what I could get away with and what I couldn't.

371

00:22:57,000 --> 00:23:02,000

I noticed that one of the cameraman that was watching my hands very close up was very good.

372

00:23:02,000 --> 00:23:09,000

So what I would do to get him off the camera, I realized, hey, he's good at what he does.

373

00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:16,000

I failed on a number of tricks, set one up that was ready to go, had a spoon pre-bent, and was just covering it, letting no one look at it.

374

00:23:16,000 --> 00:23:20,000

Ask for the cameraman to come and be used as my subject.

375

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:24,000

Obviously, a lesser trained person is going to have to take the camera.

376

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:26,000

That was it. That was the whole key right there.

377

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:31,000

In essence, physically, the only way to bend a spoon is to bend it like that.

378

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:33,000

But you've got to do it at the right time.

379

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:34,000

But you've got to do it at the right time.

380

00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:37,000

And that's one of the problems the scientists have when they're trying to judge this.

381

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:39,000

They set up the experiment to start at four o'clock.

382

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:41,000

The trick may have been done at 3.15.

383

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:46,000

I can show you something that will show you exactly how the misdirection takes place.

384

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:48,000

It's not psychic, but it's very clear.

385

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:51,000

It will give you a good idea of exactly what I'm talking about.

386

00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:53,000

Would you come over here, please?

387

00:23:53,000 --> 00:23:56,000

I'd like you to sit in this chair for one second, please.

388

00:23:56,000 --> 00:23:58,000

Just for a second.

389

00:23:58,000 --> 00:23:59,000

Are you ready?

390

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:00,000

Yes.

391

00:24:00,000 --> 00:24:02,000

Now, I want you to watch very carefully.

392

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:04,000

Which hand is at it?

393

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:06,000

I don't know.

394

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:08,000

It's in that hand. It's in that hand.

395

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:11,000

You've got to watch carefully. You're not going to see what happens.

396

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:12,000

Which hand?

397

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:15,000

No, it's not an either. You see?

398

00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:16,000

You're not watching where it's going.

399

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:18,000

If you don't watch, you're not going to see.

400

00:24:18,000 --> 00:24:20,000

Watch. Which hand?

401

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:24,000

It's a simple misdirection.

402

00:24:24,000 --> 00:24:26,000

I make her see what I want her to see.

403

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:29,000

Everyone else has seen it.

404

00:24:29,000 --> 00:24:31,000

Exactly what I was doing. Everybody else here is so weird.

405

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:33,000

When I was throwing them over your head.

406

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:37,000

I must admit that I was quite impressed when Yuri Geller

407

00:24:37,000 --> 00:24:38,000

bent my key.

408

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:40,000

That was 10 years ago.

409

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:43,000

And although many people still believe in PK,

410

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:45,000

personally, I'm not convinced.

411

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:47,000

And why should it exist?

412

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:51,000

After all, there are much easier ways of bending spoons,

413

00:24:51,000 --> 00:24:53,000

even keys, with a little effort.

414

00:24:53,000 --> 00:24:59,000

And you know, if people could really spirit objects out of closed containers,

415

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:01,000

merely by thinking about them,

416

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:07,000

surely by this time spies and bank robbers would have perfected the technique.

417

00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:11,000

Yet if there's one thing we've learned from PK research is this,

418

00:25:11,000 --> 00:25:15,000

scientists are the easiest people to fool.

419

00:25:15,000 --> 00:25:17,000

And there's a very good reason for this.

420

00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:19,000

Scientists study nature.

421

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:22,000

And nature never cheats.

422

00:25:22,000 --> 00:25:23,000

But some people do.

423

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:25,000

They bend the evidence.

424

00:25:25,000 --> 00:25:28,000

And that's something that scientists all know.

425

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:31,000

It's something that scientists often forget.

426

00:25:58,000 --> 00:26:08,000

Next week, Strange Powers, The Verdict.