

1

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

This week, the verdict from Arthur C. Clarke, scientist, writer and visionary, the scientist

2

00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:33,000

who invented the communication satellite, the writer of 2010, and now in retreat in Sri Lanka,

3

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

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

4

00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:11,000

I'm slightly embarrassed to tell you something that happened when this building was first opened.

5

00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:18,000

My friends established it here at the University of Mauritua near Colombo, and it's rather important to me,

6

00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:21,000

not merely because of the name.

7

00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:29,000

The Clarke Center will provide facilities for training and research in modern technologies, especially satellite communications.

8

00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:34,000

The big dish is receiving television signals from all over the world.

9

00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:37,000

So this is a center for modern science.

10

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:46,000

Yet the auspicious time for the opening ceremony was decided not by the university authorities, but by the local astrologers.

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:53,000

This kind of insurance, a bow to the forces of the supernatural, is part of the Sri Lankan way of life.

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00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:59,000

Although of course I don't believe in it, I find it rather charming, and it's certainly given me an opportunity

13

00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:04,000

to study belief in the supernatural at first hand.

14

00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:11,000

Two of Sri Lanka's most popular fortune tellers work in this crowded street in Colombo.

15

00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:16,000

They're called Raja and Rani, and as you'll see, they're rather colorful characters.

16

00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:23,000

Will you ask him to tell me my fortune?

17

00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:24,000

Yes, sir.

18

00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:27,000

I would, uh, nairangala patasalinga.

19

00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:29,000

One rupee, sir.

20

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:31,000

Oh, one rupee, that seems very reasonable.

21

00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:32,000

Okay, here we go.

22

00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:37,000

Oh.

23

00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:40,000

Oh.

24

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:52,000

Uh, uh, you're a business and your job, you will be success.

25

00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:54,000

My business will be success, yes, right?

26

00:02:54,000 --> 00:03:02,000

Uh, uh, uh, there are no enemies for you.

27

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

I have no enemies, yes.

28

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

Oh, that's very nice to know.

29

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

Uh, in your business, you will get a good profit.

30

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

Yeah, I'll get a good profit, Mr. Vastanaj to know.

31

00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:15,000

Uh, the price ever wrong, uh, never make a mistake.

32

00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:26,000

Thank you very much.

33

00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:39,000

Astrologers and fortune tellers are everywhere.

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:43,000

In the heart of the fort, Colombo's main business and shopping district,

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00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:48,000

Ms. Kasala Gunaratna has a steady stream of clients at her pavement stall.

36

00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:52,000

A respected astrologer and palmist, she's so popular

37

00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:56,000

that there's always a cue for her readings.

38

00:03:56,000 --> 00:04:00,000

And what kind of questions do they usually ask?

39

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

Good luck.

40

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

You are team with the Adalian, hand-crushed and very important marriage life,

41

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:11,000

future, financial situation, and career, employment, career, employment.

42

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:14,000

What is the basis of the calculations?

43

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:16,000

Star positions or what?

44

00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:21,000

Oh, tenets.

45

00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:24,000

Did she ask them their date of birth?

46

00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:26,000

She asked them the date of birth?

47

00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:29,000

Date of birth and time, I won't exactly.

48

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:31,000

You want the exact time?

49

00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:33,000

How many people know the time of birth? I don't.

50

00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:35,000

What year is the date of birth?

51

00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:38,000

Uh, 90% of people know.

52

00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:39,000

90% of people know.

53

00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:42,000

Of course, in this country, they do remember the date, the actual time, because of this.

54

00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:48,000

18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25.

55

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

I'm on my way to a rather unusual fortune teller,

56

00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:57,000

and I have to count every step I take, because my future literally depends upon it.

57

00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:01,000

Twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-one,

58

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

twenty-two, thirty-three, forty-four, fifty-six, seventy-eight,

59

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

twenty-nine, forty-four, forty-one, twenty-two, three, four, five,

60

00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:15,000

twenty-two, thirty-three, forty-four, five, twenty-six, seventy-eight,

61

00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:20,000

twenty-nine, forty-four, twenty-nine, twenty-two, three, four, five,

62

00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:26,000

twenty-nine, sixty-six, twenty-two, sixty-three, forty-four,

63

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:30,000

fifty-five, sixty-six, seventy-seven, sixty-eight, thirty-three, thirty-one,

64

00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:34,000

thirty-two, thirty-three, forty-four, thirty-five, thirty-six, thirty-seven,

65

00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:39,000

thirty-nine, forty-four, thirty-nine, forty-four, forty-six, thirty-one,

66

00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:45,000

seventy-seven, twenty-nine, five hundred, one, two, three,

67

00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:49,000

four, five, six, seven, eight.

68

00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:54,000

Mr. THE GENEDASIS, a numerologist, he uses numbers to tell fortunes.

69

00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:57,120

East Letter of the alphabet has an equivalent number,

70

00:05:57,120 --> 00:05:59,840

so he uses his customer's name and address,

71

00:05:59,840 --> 00:06:02,880

as well as his birth date and the size of his family

72

00:06:02,880 --> 00:06:04,640

to make predictions.

73

00:06:04,640 --> 00:06:06,960

Even the number of steps from the house

74

00:06:06,960 --> 00:06:10,320

has a fateful significance in the mathematical magic.

75

00:06:10,320 --> 00:06:14,720

49, 50, 51, 52.

76

00:06:14,720 --> 00:06:16,960

552, 552.

77

00:06:16,960 --> 00:06:18,960

Do you know the interpretation of 552?

78

00:06:18,960 --> 00:06:20,960

I work at work in Southland, Northland.

79

00:06:21,520 --> 00:06:22,520

What else do you need?

80

00:06:22,520 --> 00:06:25,520

552, 3D notes, dupiter.

81

00:06:28,400 --> 00:06:32,240

Dupiter denotes success with increase in expansion.

82

00:06:32,240 --> 00:06:34,400

Great hopes will be realized.

83

00:06:34,400 --> 00:06:36,160

Good efforts will be rewarded.

84

00:06:36,160 --> 00:06:39,360

May I know the name of the town in mature side?

85

00:06:39,360 --> 00:06:40,640

Well, I live in Colombo.

86

00:06:40,640 --> 00:06:42,440

Colombo. We work at Colombo.

87

00:06:42,440 --> 00:07:02,440

3, 7, 3, 7, 4, 2, 7, 10, 13, 20, 24, 26, 26, and 7, 33, 3 and 3, 6.

88

00:07:02,440 --> 00:07:03,440

6, right.

89

00:07:03,440 --> 00:07:04,440

6, denotes venous.

90

00:07:04,440 --> 00:07:06,440

A happy result to all efforts.

91

00:07:06,440 --> 00:07:09,440

Success with pleasure and contentment.

92

00:07:09,440 --> 00:07:11,440

Personal magnetism.

93

00:07:11,440 --> 00:07:14,440

Favors from the members of the opposite sex

94

00:07:14,440 --> 00:07:16,440

and matrimonial prospects.

95

00:07:16,440 --> 00:07:17,440

Oh, yes.

96

00:07:17,440 --> 00:07:18,440

It was by number 66.

97

00:07:18,440 --> 00:07:21,440

Thanks for the warning.

98

00:07:21,440 --> 00:07:24,440

In Sri Lanka, marriages are literally made in heaven,

99

00:07:24,440 --> 00:07:26,440

or at least in stars.

100

00:07:26,440 --> 00:07:29,440

Partners are found through advertisements in the Sunday papers.

101

00:07:29,440 --> 00:07:31,440

They offer descriptions and dowries,

102

00:07:31,440 --> 00:07:34,440

but most vital of all in the eyes of the Sri Lankans

103

00:07:34,440 --> 00:07:36,440

is a favorable horoscope.

104

00:07:36,440 --> 00:07:39,440

David Priya's advertisement in the Sunday Observer

105

00:07:39,440 --> 00:07:42,440

has been announced by Champika.

106

00:07:42,440 --> 00:07:45,440

Champika's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Amarasingha,

107

00:07:45,440 --> 00:07:47,440

have called in the family astrologer.

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00:07:47,440 --> 00:07:49,440

The marriage will not go ahead

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00:07:49,440 --> 00:07:51,440

if their horoscopes are incompatible.

110

00:07:51,440 --> 00:07:56,440

If the given condition do not come up to about 50%

111

00:07:56,440 --> 00:07:58,440

of the required standard,

112

00:07:58,440 --> 00:08:01,440

we consider the horoscope below average.

113

00:08:01,440 --> 00:08:05,440

If that is so, the astrologer doesn't recommend

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00:08:05,440 --> 00:08:07,440

that the marriage should take place.

115

00:08:07,440 --> 00:08:09,440

It has to be that way.

116

00:08:09,440 --> 00:08:14,440

Even if it causes distress to my daughter,

117

00:08:14,440 --> 00:08:16,440

if the horoscopes don't agree,

118

00:08:16,440 --> 00:08:18,440

we will have to call it off.

119

00:08:18,440 --> 00:08:22,440

The indicator of the house of marriage is the girl's chart,

120

00:08:22,440 --> 00:08:23,440

which is Jupiter.

121

00:08:23,440 --> 00:08:26,440

It's not occupied in the seventh house,

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00:08:26,440 --> 00:08:28,440

but it occupies the ascendant.

123

00:08:28,440 --> 00:08:31,440

Now, this particular planet has to be compared

124

00:08:31,440 --> 00:08:33,440

with the boy's horoscope.

125

00:08:33,440 --> 00:08:35,440

Jupiter, which will aspect the solar sign

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00:08:35,440 --> 00:08:37,440

from its 11,000th position,

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00:08:37,440 --> 00:08:40,440

also harmonizes the house of marriage.

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00:08:40,440 --> 00:08:44,440

Therefore, we consider that the boy's chart

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00:08:44,440 --> 00:08:48,440

and the girl's chart are in perfect harmony for marriage.

130

00:08:48,440 --> 00:08:53,440

The astrologer has given me at least 99% of confidence,

131

00:08:53,440 --> 00:08:57,440

and the other 1% is left to the bride

132

00:08:57,440 --> 00:08:59,440

and the bridegroom to make their own life,

133

00:08:59,440 --> 00:09:02,440

and we are quite confident that they will do it.

134

00:09:02,440 --> 00:09:06,440

The astrologer has determined the auspicious time

135

00:09:06,440 --> 00:09:08,440

for every stage of the wedding ceremony.

136

00:09:08,440 --> 00:09:14,440

I did not mind.

137

00:09:14,440 --> 00:09:19,440

The bride left her home at exactly 8.07 in the morning,

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00:09:19,440 --> 00:09:20,440

facing south.

139

00:09:20,440 --> 00:09:22,440

Two hours and 20 minutes later,

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00:09:22,440 --> 00:09:25,440

and not a moment before, at 10.27,

141

00:09:25,440 --> 00:09:28,440

the bride and groom climbed onto the stage

142

00:09:28,440 --> 00:09:30,440

for the beginning of the ceremony,

143

00:09:30,440 --> 00:09:33,440

and they couldn't come down again until 10 past 11.

144

00:10:01,440 --> 00:10:05,440

Then they had to leave the reception for the honeymoon,

145

00:10:05,440 --> 00:10:09,440

facing south and married life together.

146

00:10:19,440 --> 00:10:22,440

There's one peculiarity that distinguishes

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00:10:22,440 --> 00:10:24,440

parasyne from science.

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00:10:24,440 --> 00:10:27,440

In orthodox science, it's very rare

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00:10:27,440 --> 00:10:30,440

for a controversial to last more than a generation,

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00:10:30,440 --> 00:10:32,440

50 years at the outside.

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00:10:32,440 --> 00:10:35,440

Yet this is exactly what's happened with the paranormal,

152

00:10:35,440 --> 00:10:39,440

which is the best possible proof that most of it is rubbish.

153

00:10:39,440 --> 00:10:42,440

It never takes that long to establish the facts,

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00:10:42,440 --> 00:10:44,440

when there are some facts.

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00:10:44,440 --> 00:10:47,440

This lack of progress in psychic research

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00:10:47,440 --> 00:10:49,440

is very well demonstrated in the work

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00:10:49,440 --> 00:10:52,440

of a famous British investigator, Harry Price.

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00:10:52,440 --> 00:10:56,440

50 years ago, he tried to find some answers.

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00:10:57,440 --> 00:10:59,440

In the 1920s and 30s,

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00:10:59,440 --> 00:11:02,440

Harry Price investigated a vast range

161

00:11:02,440 --> 00:11:04,440

of apparently psychic phenomena.

162

00:11:04,440 --> 00:11:07,440

He tested mediums like Austrian Rudy Schneider,

163

00:11:07,440 --> 00:11:10,440

broadcast from haunted houses,

164

00:11:10,440 --> 00:11:13,440

and even spent a night in a reputedly haunted bed

165

00:11:13,440 --> 00:11:17,440

with radio personality Professor Joad.

166

00:11:17,440 --> 00:11:20,440

He assembled a lab full of the latest technology

167

00:11:20,440 --> 00:11:23,440

to help him in his search for the truth.

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00:11:27,440 --> 00:11:32,440

If a man comes to us and says that he can produce

169

00:11:32,440 --> 00:11:35,440

a normal phenomena,

170

00:11:35,440 --> 00:11:38,440

they'd be testing by instrumental means.

171

00:11:38,440 --> 00:11:41,440

We have a number of special instruments for this purpose,

172

00:11:41,440 --> 00:11:44,440

including a dictaphone,

173

00:11:44,440 --> 00:11:47,440

a cinematic projector and cameras,

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00:11:47,440 --> 00:11:50,440

X-ray cameras,

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00:11:50,440 --> 00:11:53,440

and a camera.

176

00:11:53,440 --> 00:11:56,440

It's in a metal-gaster projector and cameras,

177

00:11:56,440 --> 00:12:01,440

X-ray apparatus, infrared, ultraviolet,

178

00:12:01,440 --> 00:12:03,440

and many others.

179

00:12:03,440 --> 00:12:06,440

Bollie, Rectry and Suffolk provided Price

180

00:12:06,440 --> 00:12:08,440

with his most famous case.

181

00:12:08,440 --> 00:12:11,440

He called it the most haunted house in England.

182

00:12:11,440 --> 00:12:13,440

Readers of Price's best-selling books

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00:12:13,440 --> 00:12:16,440

lapped up accounts of the phantom nun

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00:12:16,440 --> 00:12:18,440

and the headless coachman,

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00:12:18,440 --> 00:12:20,440

said to have been seen in the Rectry garden.

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00:12:20,440 --> 00:12:23,440

And the foister family who lived at Bollie in the 1930s

187

00:12:23,440 --> 00:12:25,440

apparently played host to a ghost,

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00:12:25,440 --> 00:12:29,440

which left eerie messages for Marianne, the Rector's wife.

189

00:12:29,440 --> 00:12:31,440

Fire wrecked Bollie in 1939.

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00:12:31,440 --> 00:12:34,440

Today, Price's work has become controversial.

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00:12:34,440 --> 00:12:38,440

Some experts accuse him of trickery to embellish the story.

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00:12:38,440 --> 00:12:42,440

Others say Bollie harboured genuine hauntings.

193

00:12:42,440 --> 00:12:44,440

But no one disagrees that Harry Price's

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00:12:44,440 --> 00:12:49,440

most extraordinary escapade was purely a publicity stunt.

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00:12:51,440 --> 00:12:55,440

In June 1932, a bizarre ritual was performed

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00:12:55,440 --> 00:12:58,440

on the summit of the Brocken, a German mountain.

197

00:12:58,440 --> 00:13:01,440

Price claimed he'd found an ancient magic recipe.

198

00:13:01,440 --> 00:13:05,440

A maiden pure in heart was one essential ingredient.

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00:13:05,440 --> 00:13:09,440

With her help, Price promised he'd transform a virgin heagot

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00:13:09,440 --> 00:13:11,440

into a handsome youth.

201

00:13:15,440 --> 00:13:19,440

But the outcome was typical of Price's paranormal progress,

202

00:13:19,440 --> 00:13:22,440

ultimately inconclusive.

203

00:13:30,440 --> 00:13:34,440

I've always tried to steer a course between skepticism and credulity.

204

00:13:34,440 --> 00:13:37,440

And to help me do this, I've constructed this scoreboard,

205

00:13:37,440 --> 00:13:41,440

or league table, on which I've rated various paranormal phenomena.

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00:13:41,440 --> 00:13:45,440

It begins at plus five, certainly true,

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00:13:45,440 --> 00:13:49,440

and then descends to zero, meaning that I just don't know.

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00:13:49,440 --> 00:13:52,440

Then as I become more skeptical,

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00:13:52,440 --> 00:13:57,440

I have negative numbers down to minus four, certainly untrue.

210

00:13:57,440 --> 00:14:00,440

Although you can prove that something happens,

211

00:14:00,440 --> 00:14:03,440

you can never prove that it doesn't.

212

00:14:03,440 --> 00:14:06,440

Only God is qualified to give a minus four rating.

213

00:14:06,440 --> 00:14:08,440

So let's have a look at the league table.

214

00:14:08,440 --> 00:14:11,440

We'll start with firewalking.

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00:14:12,440 --> 00:14:14,440

Plus five.

216

00:14:14,440 --> 00:14:16,440

There's no doubt that firewalking really does occur.

217

00:14:16,440 --> 00:14:19,440

People do walk on red hot coals,

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00:14:19,440 --> 00:14:23,440

and scientists have given very good reasons why they don't get burnt.

219

00:14:23,440 --> 00:14:26,440

Maladdictions, plus four.

220

00:14:26,440 --> 00:14:30,440

I'm virtually certain that maladdictions, hexes, can kill.

221

00:14:30,440 --> 00:14:33,440

The medical evidence seems unassailable.

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00:14:33,440 --> 00:14:37,440

People really do die because they believe in the power of the hex.

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00:14:37,440 --> 00:14:42,440

Stigmata, plus four.

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00:14:42,440 --> 00:14:45,440

I'm also prepared to believe that people can psych themselves

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00:14:45,440 --> 00:14:48,440

into bleeding from the palms of the hands.

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00:14:48,440 --> 00:14:52,440

But how this actually works is very hard to understand.

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00:14:52,440 --> 00:14:54,440

Apparitions, plus four.

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00:14:54,440 --> 00:14:57,440

Ghosts are the most fascinating of all paranormal phenomena.

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00:14:57,440 --> 00:15:00,440

You may be surprised that I give them such a high rating,

230

00:15:00,440 --> 00:15:03,440

but I believe they're real enough to the witnesses.

231

00:15:03,440 --> 00:15:07,440

I've seen from his knees, and I followed him upwards,

232

00:15:07,440 --> 00:15:11,440

and it was like a monster there with a robe over his face,

233

00:15:11,440 --> 00:15:13,440

but he never had no features.

234

00:15:13,440 --> 00:15:15,440

But are they real to anyone else?

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00:15:15,440 --> 00:15:20,440

The abysmal quality of the photographic evidence virtually proves that they're not.

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00:15:20,440 --> 00:15:22,440

Portugaises.

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00:15:22,440 --> 00:15:26,440

I'm fascinated by Portugaises because there are so many independent,

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00:15:26,440 --> 00:15:28,440

yet similar accounts from all over the world.

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00:15:28,440 --> 00:15:31,440

And despite all the explanations and hoaxes,

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00:15:31,440 --> 00:15:34,440

I think there may still be something in them.

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00:15:36,440 --> 00:15:38,440

Dousing is so useful that it ought to work,

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00:15:38,440 --> 00:15:41,440

and in some cases it certainly does.

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00:15:41,440 --> 00:15:44,440

But why are the scientific tests always so unconvincing?

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00:15:44,440 --> 00:15:47,440

I'd like to see a lot more work in this area.

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00:15:47,440 --> 00:15:50,440

Many people believe in telepathy,

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00:15:50,440 --> 00:15:53,440

but do we really want strangers peering into our minds?

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00:15:53,440 --> 00:15:56,440

More prehistoric jungle scenes for...

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00:15:56,440 --> 00:16:00,440

I rather hope that it doesn't work, but I fear that it may.

249

00:16:00,440 --> 00:16:03,440

I just had this dream about this plane crash,

250

00:16:03,440 --> 00:16:06,440

and there was this explosion.

251

00:16:06,440 --> 00:16:09,440

Some stories of premonitions are almost convincing,

252

00:16:09,440 --> 00:16:12,440

but I still believe they can be explained by coincidence

253

00:16:12,440 --> 00:16:15,440

or awareness of some impending danger.

254

00:16:15,440 --> 00:16:18,440

I don't believe that we can see the future,

255

00:16:18,440 --> 00:16:21,440

because the future doesn't exist until we reach it.

256

00:16:22,440 --> 00:16:24,440

Cycle kinesis zero.

257

00:16:24,440 --> 00:16:27,440

Pk is under a considerable cloud.

258

00:16:27,440 --> 00:16:29,440

But can it all be trickery?

259

00:16:29,440 --> 00:16:32,440

Frankly, I can't make up my mind.

260

00:16:33,440 --> 00:16:35,440

You're now psychically open,

261

00:16:35,440 --> 00:16:40,440

and remember you have to bring that power up each time.

262

00:16:40,440 --> 00:16:43,440

Survival after death, minus two.

263

00:16:43,440 --> 00:16:47,440

Reincarnation and spiritualism have millions of devotees

264

00:16:47,440 --> 00:16:49,440

whose faith brings them great comfort.

265

00:16:49,440 --> 00:16:51,440

So though I'm a complete skeptic,

266

00:16:51,440 --> 00:16:53,440

I don't wish to argue the point.

267

00:16:53,440 --> 00:16:56,440

So here's the complete league table.

268

00:17:00,440 --> 00:17:02,440

Weighing the evidence for the supernatural

269

00:17:02,440 --> 00:17:05,440

can be difficult at the best of times.

270

00:17:05,440 --> 00:17:08,440

And occasionally, psychic researchers come across stories

271

00:17:08,440 --> 00:17:11,440

that just don't fit into any categories.

272

00:17:11,440 --> 00:17:13,440

They're simply weird.

273

00:17:15,440 --> 00:17:18,440

In the late 1940s, the Reverend Alfred Biles

274

00:17:18,440 --> 00:17:21,440

was vicar of this church at Yampton in Devon.

275

00:17:21,440 --> 00:17:23,440

One Saturday afternoon,

276

00:17:23,440 --> 00:17:26,440

he noticed something strange in the churchyard.

277

00:17:27,440 --> 00:17:32,440

My wife was in the chancel, arranging flowers,

278

00:17:32,440 --> 00:17:36,440

and I came to see her, walked up this path.

279

00:17:37,440 --> 00:17:39,440

And when I came to this point,

280

00:17:39,440 --> 00:17:43,440

I found that there was a hole in the path

281

00:17:43,440 --> 00:17:46,440

which extended from right across,

282

00:17:46,440 --> 00:17:50,440

and about that yard or two that way.

283

00:17:51,440 --> 00:17:55,440

I merely thought that there had been a subsidence,

284

00:17:55,440 --> 00:17:58,440

and I went into the church and said to my wife,

285

00:17:58,440 --> 00:18:02,440

a hole has appeared in the path which is very annoying.

286

00:18:02,440 --> 00:18:04,440

Come out and see.

287

00:18:04,440 --> 00:18:07,440

So she came out with me,

288

00:18:07,440 --> 00:18:09,440

and in that short time,

289

00:18:09,440 --> 00:18:12,440

the hole had become considerably larger,

290

00:18:12,440 --> 00:18:15,440

and I said to my wife,

291

00:18:15,440 --> 00:18:17,440

shall I get down and look round it?

292

00:18:17,440 --> 00:18:19,440

She said, I shouldn't do that.

293

00:18:19,440 --> 00:18:21,440

We can't really see the bottom, nor we could.

294

00:18:21,440 --> 00:18:24,440

Mr Biles went to find some planks to cover the hole,

295

00:18:24,440 --> 00:18:27,440

and in the village street, he bumped into the local builder.

296

00:18:27,440 --> 00:18:29,440

I told him what had happened,

297

00:18:29,440 --> 00:18:33,440

and we came round the corner of the church to this path,

298

00:18:33,440 --> 00:18:36,440

but when we got here, there was no hole at all.

299

00:18:36,440 --> 00:18:41,440

The path was quite intact exactly as you see it now.

300

00:18:42,440 --> 00:18:44,440

I don't suppose I should have said much about it

301

00:18:44,440 --> 00:18:48,440

if I hadn't had my wife's corroboration.

302

00:18:48,440 --> 00:18:52,440

We both of us saw the original hole,

303

00:18:52,440 --> 00:18:56,440

and we never found any adequate explanation.

304

00:18:59,440 --> 00:19:01,440

In October 1979,

305

00:19:01,440 --> 00:19:05,440

Geoff Simpson and Len Gisby were driving through France on the way to Spain

306

00:19:05,440 --> 00:19:08,440

with their wives Pauline and Cynthia.

307

00:19:10,440 --> 00:19:12,440

They spent a night near Montellemar.

308

00:19:12,440 --> 00:19:14,440

Down the road from the Motel Ibis,

309

00:19:14,440 --> 00:19:18,440

they found a guest house which seemed to belong to a bygone age.

310

00:19:18,440 --> 00:19:21,440

It was just like an old-fashioned farmhouse, double-storey.

311

00:19:21,440 --> 00:19:24,440

The fowlers old-fashioned, they had pictures on the wall.

312

00:19:24,440 --> 00:19:26,440

They looked 3D, didn't they?

313

00:19:26,440 --> 00:19:28,440

No, they were no glass.

314

00:19:28,440 --> 00:19:30,440

We were laughing at the pictures, weren't we?

315

00:19:30,440 --> 00:19:33,440

And the furniture in the bedroom was so old-fashioned.

316

00:19:33,440 --> 00:19:37,440

You sat on the bed and your feet were about 18 inches off the floor,

317

00:19:37,440 --> 00:19:40,440

and calico sheets, well...

318

00:19:40,440 --> 00:19:42,440

Yes, the sheet was very heavy and thick,

319

00:19:42,440 --> 00:19:44,440

and it came from under the feather mattress,

320

00:19:44,440 --> 00:19:47,440

right over the sheet, and rolled round a bolster at the top.

321

00:19:47,440 --> 00:19:49,440

There was no pillars.

322

00:19:49,440 --> 00:19:52,440

There was no pillars, and the rooms were double-shuttered,

323

00:19:52,440 --> 00:19:54,440

no glass upstairs.

324

00:19:54,440 --> 00:19:56,440

At breakfast, Cynthia noticed the other guests

325

00:19:56,440 --> 00:19:59,440

wore clothes fashionable at the beginning of the century.

326

00:19:59,440 --> 00:20:03,440

There was a woman and a man with a little dog sitting at the table,

327

00:20:03,440 --> 00:20:08,440

and she had a purple dress on that went up and down like a hanky corner, you know?

328

00:20:08,440 --> 00:20:11,440

And she had little black button boots that come up over her ankles

329

00:20:11,440 --> 00:20:14,440

with the buttons running up to the top.

330

00:20:14,440 --> 00:20:17,440

And they were sitting there talking, obviously, about various things,

331

00:20:17,440 --> 00:20:19,440

and these two gendarmes came in.

332

00:20:19,440 --> 00:20:21,440

I'd never seen the uniforms like that before.

333

00:20:21,440 --> 00:20:24,440

They were different to the uniforms we'd seen coming down.

334

00:20:24,440 --> 00:20:27,440

They were... Well, I said they were a greener colour, and I think you said they were blue.

335

00:20:27,440 --> 00:20:29,440

Well, I thought they were more blue.

336

00:20:29,440 --> 00:20:34,440

But they were old-fashioned, so old with these big capes,

337

00:20:34,440 --> 00:20:36,440

and the hats were very, very tall.

338

00:20:36,440 --> 00:20:38,440

And they had boots up to their knees.

339

00:20:38,440 --> 00:20:40,440

Yeah, the old gator things.

340

00:20:40,440 --> 00:20:42,440

I went to pay the bill then, and...

341

00:20:42,440 --> 00:20:44,440

Who said you were?

342

00:20:44,440 --> 00:20:46,440

He wrote it on a piece of paper, 19 francs.

343

00:20:46,440 --> 00:20:48,440

I thought, it was impossible.

344

00:20:48,440 --> 00:20:50,440

We'd had an evening meal for four of us.

345

00:20:50,440 --> 00:20:52,440

We'd had a drink. So, I just remember...

346

00:20:52,440 --> 00:20:54,440

Beer? Yeah, a bit of beer, and...

347

00:20:54,440 --> 00:20:56,440

We couldn't finish our breakfast.

348

00:20:56,440 --> 00:20:58,440

And 19 francs, so...

349

00:20:58,440 --> 00:21:00,440

And I said, no.

350

00:21:00,440 --> 00:21:02,440

We stopped the night.

351

00:21:02,440 --> 00:21:04,440

We slept last night, you know?

352

00:21:04,440 --> 00:21:06,440

No, no, Finney.

353

00:21:06,440 --> 00:21:08,440

I thought, well, I can't argue, you know?

354

00:21:08,440 --> 00:21:10,440

I gave him 20 francs and we went.

355

00:21:10,440 --> 00:21:12,440

I said, you know, 20 francs.

356

00:21:12,440 --> 00:21:16,440

Well, 19 francs is impossible, because...

357

00:21:16,440 --> 00:21:18,440

I don't know, you see...

358

00:21:18,440 --> 00:21:20,440

I said, you come on, let's get out quick.

359

00:21:20,440 --> 00:21:24,440

I've got about 250 francs or something like that, you know.

360

00:21:26,440 --> 00:21:29,440

The Gisby's and the Simpsons drove on into Spain.

361

00:21:29,440 --> 00:21:31,440

They'd never had a better holiday.

362

00:21:31,440 --> 00:21:33,440

Everywhere, their cameras clicked.

363

00:21:33,440 --> 00:21:35,440

They brought back albums full of snaps,

364

00:21:35,440 --> 00:21:38,440

but not a single shot of the French hotel.

365

00:21:38,440 --> 00:21:41,440

Both Len and Jeff took pictures there,

366

00:21:41,440 --> 00:21:43,440

but when the films were processed,

367

00:21:43,440 --> 00:21:46,440

the hotel snaps had vanished without trace.

368

00:21:50,440 --> 00:21:54,440

And on the way back, they could not even find the building.

369

00:21:56,440 --> 00:21:59,440

Had they stayed at a phantom hotel...

370

00:22:02,440 --> 00:22:04,440

They're still looking for it.

371

00:22:04,440 --> 00:22:06,440

Perhaps the police can help.

372

00:22:09,440 --> 00:22:13,440

THE LAST WEEK

373

00:22:13,440 --> 00:22:15,440

It's not the hotel, is it?

374

00:22:15,440 --> 00:22:17,440

Hotel.

375

00:22:18,440 --> 00:22:20,440

Listen, I have an idea.

376

00:22:20,440 --> 00:22:23,440

I'm going to call the tourist office.

377

00:22:23,440 --> 00:22:25,440

Tourist?

378

00:22:27,440 --> 00:22:30,440

The helpful gendarme knows just the man to ask.

379

00:22:30,440 --> 00:22:34,440

The local tourist board officer, Philippe Desbess.

380

00:22:34,440 --> 00:22:36,440

Tourist office?

381

00:22:39,440 --> 00:22:41,440

Tourist, how are you from the tourist?

382

00:22:41,440 --> 00:22:43,440

I sit here and I'm holding the camera.

383

00:22:45,440 --> 00:22:48,440

We're interested whether it's there or not, you know.

384

00:22:48,440 --> 00:22:50,440

It seems to have disappeared.

385

00:22:50,440 --> 00:22:52,440

Or if it had been there any time.

386

00:22:52,440 --> 00:22:54,440

People tell us we've gone back in time

387

00:22:54,440 --> 00:22:56,440

because everything was old-fashioned.

388

00:22:56,440 --> 00:22:58,440

We're just trying to find it.

389

00:23:01,440 --> 00:23:04,440

Philippe thinks he can solve their problems.

390

00:23:09,440 --> 00:23:11,440

THE LAST WEEK

391

00:23:14,440 --> 00:23:18,440

Their description seems to fit one of the guest houses on his list.

392

00:23:26,440 --> 00:23:29,440

Jeff Simpson's first reactions encouraging.

393

00:23:29,440 --> 00:23:31,440

But then the doubt set in.

394

00:23:31,440 --> 00:23:33,440

Is that bigger doors?

395

00:23:33,440 --> 00:23:35,440

Bigger doors.

396

00:23:35,440 --> 00:23:37,440

Very, very similar.

397

00:23:37,440 --> 00:23:40,440

No, it was longer lower.

398

00:23:40,440 --> 00:23:43,440

With that two windows there for the restaurant.

399

00:23:43,440 --> 00:23:45,440

Even the shutters are not the same.

400

00:23:53,440 --> 00:23:55,440

We're going to go in.

401

00:23:59,440 --> 00:24:03,440

A close-up look convinces them it's not the place they stayed in.

402

00:24:04,440 --> 00:24:06,440

And the landlord doesn't remember them

403

00:24:06,440 --> 00:24:08,440

sampling his hospitality before.

404

00:24:09,440 --> 00:24:11,440

You got out the car, had a funny feeling?

405

00:24:11,440 --> 00:24:13,440

Yes, I've seen your face.

406

00:24:13,440 --> 00:24:15,440

You were looking strange when you got out.

407

00:24:15,440 --> 00:24:17,440

I thought it was next door.

408

00:24:17,440 --> 00:24:20,440

And that bit of groin there, I could have sworn that was where it was.

409

00:24:20,440 --> 00:24:22,440

That empty piece of ground.

410

00:24:22,440 --> 00:24:24,440

That's a ground.

411

00:24:24,440 --> 00:24:26,440

I think this is the wrong house.

412

00:24:26,440 --> 00:24:28,440

We've got to carry on searching.

413

00:24:28,440 --> 00:24:30,440

I'm afraid it's not the right place.

414

00:24:30,440 --> 00:24:32,440

Were they caught up in a time slip?

415

00:24:32,440 --> 00:24:35,440

A lot of people have said to me since about time slips.

416

00:24:35,440 --> 00:24:38,440

I said, well, I've never heard about time slips.

417

00:24:38,440 --> 00:24:41,440

And they said, oh, there is such things and they've rewritten.

418

00:24:41,440 --> 00:24:42,440

That's what you've done.

419

00:24:42,440 --> 00:24:44,440

But whether we did or not, I don't know.

420

00:24:44,440 --> 00:24:46,440

But the photographs worry me.

421

00:24:46,440 --> 00:24:51,440

And I think that alone convinces me that there is something not right.

422

00:24:54,440 --> 00:24:56,440

I would like to see the restaurant.

423

00:24:56,440 --> 00:24:58,440

I'm going to try.

424

00:24:59,440 --> 00:25:02,440

I would like proof that some strange powers exist.

425

00:25:02,440 --> 00:25:06,440

Then the universe would be even more wonderful than we imagine.

426

00:25:06,440 --> 00:25:11,440

But I rather suspect that this ancient debate will never be settled.

427

00:25:11,440 --> 00:25:13,440

It will simply move on into different areas.

428

00:25:13,440 --> 00:25:17,440

Because there are fashions in parapsychology, as in everything else.

429

00:25:17,440 --> 00:25:23,440

And I wonder what strange powers we'll be arguing about, a hundred years from now.

430

00:25:56,440 --> 00:25:58,500

you