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

I'm off to meet a magician who doesn't believe in magic.

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

And in Russia, I learned that one controversial path to the afterlife is to use technology to live forever.

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

There are 59 people in these tanks?

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00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:43,000

My quest then turns to Indonesia, where people believe ancient rituals can return us from the grave.

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00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:44,000

These are your parents?

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

Yes.

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

And I'll venture deep into the Amazon to experience my own passing by consuming the vine of death.

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

lowaska is very powerful, it has killed people. I want to see what it does.

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00:00:57,000 --> 00:00:58,000

Ah!

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:07,000

Loose ball, loose ball.

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00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:11,000

My name is Josh Gates.

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:20,000

I've traveled to more than 100 countries, exploring the world's greatest legends, and had a few close calls along the way.

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:22,000

It's collapsing!

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00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:29,000

In my travels, I've seen a world of beliefs about what happens to us when we die.

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00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:33,000

Now, I'm investigating the biggest mystery of all.

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00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:36,000

Life after death.

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00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:39,000

Join me on a global hunt for answers.

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00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:42,000

My God, there are bones everywhere!

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00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:46,000

And an investigation to the other side.

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00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:52,000

This is Expedition Unknown. Search for the afterlife.

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:57,000

What happens to us when we die?

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00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:03,000

Heaven? Hell? Reincarnation? Or just nothing?

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00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:14,000

To gather evidence of the other side, I spoke with a doctor who's proving that clinical death is not the end.

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:20,000

The entity we call the human mind and consciousness does not become annihilated when a person's gone beyond the threshold of death.

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:21,000

Whoa!

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:27,000

I met a psychic who gave me a personal greeting from the great beyond.

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:31,000

M. Madeline. She's so proud of you.

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00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:42,000

Then went to India's holiest city, where I came face to face with the Hindu fires that break the cycle of death and reincarnation.

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00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:47,000

Here, death is not something to be hidden away. It's something to be faced.

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00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:59,000

And finally, returned to the U.S. for exclusive access to witness a supposed incursion of the next world into ours in the form of a demonic exorcism.

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00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:05,000

His behavior can be extremely violent, so you guys might have to hang on to it.

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00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:13,000

Now, in a suburban New York home, Reverend Bob Larson is attempting to free his subject, a man named Ruben,

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00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:17,000

from the influence of what he believes to be an evil spirit.

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00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:19,000

In your head, do you ever hear a name?

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00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:31,000

Things begin quietly, but soon Ruben's calm demeanor gives way to something or someone else.

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00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:33,000

Who speaks for you?

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00:03:37,000 --> 00:03:40,000

And now it seems that all hell is about to break loose.

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00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:46,000

If you could get your hands on me, what would you do?

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

Twist your neck.

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00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:54,000

Make no mistake, Ruben is not an actor. This is happening.

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00:03:55,000 --> 00:03:59,000

I take the sword of God's spirit and I strike it with judgment.

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00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:11,000

Look at me, spirit. Get on your feet.

43

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:16,000

I watch as Ruben and Reverend Larson struggle. I'm certain that what I'm seeing is real.

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00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:20,000

What I don't know is where it's coming from.

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00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:22,000

You must leave.

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00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:24,000

I don't want you to break my power.

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00:04:27,000 --> 00:04:28,000

I can't hold it.

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00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:29,000

Out of it. Out of it.

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00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:34,000

Out of it. Out of it.

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00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:36,000

Out of it. Come on.

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00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:39,000

Come on. Push it out of here. Push this thing out of here.

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00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:46,000

Come out, brother power of Christ.

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00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:56,000

Suddenly Ruben stops his struggle. It's over.

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00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:09,000

You did a great job, Ruben, fighting through this.

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

How do you feel?

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00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:18,000

I feel lighter. I feel light. Like leaves, like stuff's been lifted, you know.

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:20,000

It's gone.

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00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:26,000

Just because we got rid of your demons doesn't make life perfect.

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

You have to ask God where you need to heal.

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00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:33,000

The journey's not over.

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00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:36,000

But you've started the journey now.

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:38,000

Thank you, Ruben.

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00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:39,000

Thanks, everybody.

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00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:40,000

Thank you.

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:42,000

It took all of us to get this job done.

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00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:47,000

So what happened here? Whatever it was, it scared me.

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00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:49,000

I believe that Ruben was tormented.

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

But was the source of that torment evil spirits or just personal demons?

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00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:58,000

Well, that depends entirely on what you believe.

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00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:05,000

There are those, however, who contend that all belief, whether in evil spirits or angels,

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00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:11,000

is a figment of mankind's imagination and that the afterlife is merely a lie that we tell ourselves.

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00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:15,000

It's called atheism and it's growing faster than ever.

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00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:20,000

To find out why, I fly to Sin City, Las Vegas, Nevada.

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00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:35,000

Despite the city's reputation as a den of iniquity, everybody here seems to be praying for a miracle.

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00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:37,000

Except one.

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00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:40,000

I'm here to see one of the busiest guys in town.

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00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:45,000

He also happens to be a staunch atheist who thinks that religion is just an illusion.

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00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:47,000

Well, after all, he should know.

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00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:55,000

As the talkative half of the world-famous Penn and Teller magic team,

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

Penn Gillette fakes miracles for a living.

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00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:03,000

But perhaps his greatest trick may be his steadfast and outspoken belief in nothing.

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00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:07,000

Atheism is on the rise.

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

Yeah?

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00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:09,000

Why do you think?

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

It's just knowledge.

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

Yeah.

87

00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:17,000

General wisdom is the numbers show you people dropping off fast in terms of church.

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00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:21,000

And I don't think that has to do with people losing their religion.

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00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:26,000

I think it has to do with people admitting they aren't religious.

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00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:31,000

Only 3% of Americans publicly identify as atheists,

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00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:35,000

but worldwide the numbers exceed 500 million people.

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00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:38,000

In fact, there's a sort of movement underway,

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00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:43,000

as scientists like Stephen Hawking and Richard Dawkins and celebrities like Bill Maher

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00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:46,000

have become outspoken advocates for non-belief.

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00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:49,000

And for Penn, the reason is simple.

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00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:54,000

The problem to me is the very idea of celebrating faith.

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00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:56,000

Faith is belief without evidence.

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00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:02,000

Get rid of the word faith and we can really talk about what's true.

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

While I'm not a devout atheist like Penn,

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

I've certainly struggled with my own faith over the years.

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

The thinking that for me is always a challenge.

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

As someone who has studied archaeology,

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00:08:13,000 --> 00:08:16,000

as someone who travels all over the world,

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00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:20,000

is, you know, we don't believe in Zeus.

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

We don't believe in these animistic gods anymore.

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00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:26,000

We don't believe in the deities of the Maya.

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00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:34,000

This idea that everything that's come before was wrong,

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00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:35,000

but this is right.

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00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:38,000

The fact that it is geographically formed, you know,

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00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:43,000

you don't have pockets of belief in physics

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00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:49,000

or chemistry that happened to be while I was born in the Middle East.

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00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:51,000

So this is how hydrogen works.

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00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:52,000

Yeah, this is how hydrogen works.

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00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:53,000

But you do have that.

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00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:57,000

I mean, almost anything that's geographically based

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00:08:57,000 --> 00:08:59,000

is bound to be wrong.

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00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:04,000

So what happens when you die?

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

I believe it's the same thing as before you were born.

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00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:11,000

I think we have no evidence that anything happens

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00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:15,000

other than the system that's known as you shuts down

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00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:19,000

and that you are remembered and loved by those who remember

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00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:23,000

and love you and that parts of you electronically

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00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:26,000

and in literature live on

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

and part of you in your DNA

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00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:33,000

and all you've accomplished goes on with the human race.

126

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:35,000

But for me.

127

00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:37,000

For you, I think there's nothing.

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00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:43,000

I think that the year after you die will be precisely for you like 1910.

129

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:46,000

Meaning nothing is.

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00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:47,000

That's it.

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00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:53,000

So do you think that religion is a distraction or you think it's dangerous?

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00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:58,000

The danger is worrying so much about the afterlife

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00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:01,000

that you might miss a little bit of the present life.

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00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:02,000

Yeah.

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00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:05,000

But Penn's atheism hasn't necessarily been easy.

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00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:09,000

It's been challenged both by believers and by life.

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00:10:09,000 --> 00:10:11,000

And people would say to me,

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00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:13,000

so you don't have any faith and I'd say no.

139

00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:17,000

And they'd say, well, your mom and dad are alive.

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00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:21,000

I'd say, yeah, they'd say, well, you wait till they die.

141

00:10:21,000 --> 00:10:27,000

It was almost this greasy, unpleasant challenge.

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00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:29,000

But I will tell you that I have now been tested.

143

00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:32,000

My mother, my father, my sister are all dead.

144

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:38,000

And my mother died slowly and painfully.

145

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:42,000

And I remember sitting there holding her hand.

146

00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:50,000

I remember thinking very clearly, if I believed in God, this would be unbearable.

147

00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:56,000

The idea that there could be an all knowing force in the universe

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00:10:56,000 --> 00:10:59,000

that allowed my mother to suffer in that way

149

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:07,000

would fill me with rage and despair that I could not contend with.

150

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

And being an atheist and saying, this is random chance

151

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

and all I'll have left of my mom is her memory.

152

00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:18,000

And that's enough.

153

00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:22,000

My memories of my mom are so great, so wonderful.

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00:11:22,000 --> 00:11:28,000

There's a great deal of solace in atheism.

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00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:29,000

Thanks, buddy.

156

00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:30,000

Thanks, bitch.

157

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:31,000

Yeah, I appreciate it.

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00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:37,000

Penn is part of a growing chorus of people who are convinced that there is no afterlife.

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00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:43,000

It's a position that has caused some scientists to try to make sure that this life doesn't end at all.

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00:11:53,000 --> 00:12:04,000

In my search for the afterlife, I just met with a magician who believes this one life is all we get.

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

So I'm leaving Las Vegas to meet some people who are working hard to make sure that one life never

ends.

162

00:12:10,000 --> 00:12:16,000

It's a trip that has me flying to colder climates and a shot at immortality.

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00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:29,000

Moscow, from the onion domes of St. Basil's Cathedral to the gates of the Kremlin,

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00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:34,000

Russian history was written here in iconic red square.

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00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:40,000

But if you think Moscow is stuck in the past, that's just fake news.

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00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:46,000

Russia has always had its gaze set firmly on the next frontier.

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00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:53,000

Behind me is the monument to the conquerors of space, built in 1964 to celebrate the Russian cosmonauts.

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00:12:53,000 --> 00:12:58,000

Today, this Cold War icon has become a symbol of the so-called transhumanist movement,

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00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:02,000

whose converts believe in something even bolder than going to the moon.

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00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:03,000

Their final frontier?

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00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:07,000

Immortality through technology.

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00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:14,000

Transhumanists imagine a future where incredible advances in science mean that life can be extended indefinitely.

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00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:19,000

I'm meeting a leading transhumanist activist and founder of the Longevity Party,

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00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:24,000

an international political group that lobbies for science that extends the human lifespan.

175

00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:29,000

I look around for the guy living in the next century and find Alexei Turchin.

176

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:31,000

Alexei, how are you?

177

00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:32,000

Hi, Josh.

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00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:33,000

Nice to meet you.

179

00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:34,000

Nice to meet you.

180

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:35,000

What is this?

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00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:36,000

Is that a camera?

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00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:37,000

Is it recording?

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00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:38,000

Why?

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00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:40,000

I'm constantly recording everything.

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00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:42,000

Why are you constantly recording?

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00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:50,000

Because I want to collect a lot of data, so future AI will be able to create a perfect model of my personality

187

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:53,000

to extend my life based on my recorded behavior.

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00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:57,000

So it's like Westworld, but without the horses and all the gunfights.

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00:13:57,000 --> 00:14:02,000

Sure, it sounds like the stuff of science fiction, but neuroscientists are already racing

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00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:09,000

to map the electrical activity of the human brain, which could not only help treat things like schizophrenia and autism,

191

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:15,000

but may one day allow us to upload the entire contents of our brain into a computer.

192

00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:19,000

And is this transhumanist movement the next space race?

193

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:20,000

I think so.

194

00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:25,000

We should stop spending money on war and start spending money on real enemy.

195

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:26,000

Death.

196

00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:31,000

So do you think that if I were to wear a camera everywhere and record enough of my life,

197

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:33,000

I can come back as Josh 2.0?

198

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:36,000

Because you are a TV host, you already uploaded a lot.

199

00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:37,000

Right.

200

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:38,000

Okay, yes.

201

00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:39,000

So do you want to try it?

202

00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:40,000

Yeah, I don't want to die.

203

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:41,000

Let's do this.

204

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:42,000

Let's do this.

205

00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:43,000

Let's go.

206

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:44,000

Come on, what do we do?

207

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:45,000

First, I'm giving you a camera.

208

00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:46,000

Okay.

209

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:50,000

So I'm taking the camera to log my point of view.

210

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:53,000

And don't people think that you're weird when you walk around with this?

211

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:57,000

They don't notice it, but they will notice this.

212

00:14:57,000 --> 00:14:58,000

Okay.

213

00:15:02,000 --> 00:15:04,000

What in the Sam Hill is this thing?

214

00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:09,000

This is a 32 channel brainwave recorder.

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00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:14,000

Companies like Google and Tesla are already designing neural links so that we can literally

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00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:17,000

plug our brains into computers and cars.

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00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:21,000

And brain hackers like Alexei, aimed to bring that tech to the masses.

218

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:26,000

He uses electrodes to measure electrical activity in the brain, which he hopes will allow a

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00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:30,000

future computer to reconstruct someone's personality.

220

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:32,000

It looks very sharp.

221

00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:33,000

Do I just put this on?

222

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:34,000

Yeah.

223

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:38,000

Oh, it's so comfortable.

224

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:39,000

It's really nice.

225

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:43,000

This is the thing that Doc Brown wore when he invented the flux capacitor, sir.

226

00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:46,000

That's what makes time travel possible.

227

00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:49,000

So we now will connect it to the computer.

228

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:50,000

Okay.

229

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:51,000

Ah!

230

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:52,000

No, I'm just kidding.

231

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:53,000

No, it's not.

232

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:54,000

It's an electric kidney.

233

00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:58,000

It's just reading electric signals, not sensing anything.

234

00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:02,000

Now it's recording and the data is starting to download.

235

00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Do I have to carry the computer around?

236

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:08,000

No, I will close it and you will carry it in your bag.

237

00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:09,000

Okay.

238

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:13,000

So how long do I have to wear this for?

239

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:17,000

I suggest to walk the whole day around Moscow collecting data.

240

00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:20,000

You should do interesting things which stimulate you.

241

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:21,000

Okay.

242

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:22,000

Alright, brain, let's see Moscow.

243

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:23,000

Let's see.

244

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:24,000

Thank you, Alexei.

245

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:25,000

I'm off to get arrested.

246

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:32,000

To create my digital personality profile with Alexei's brain-alizer, I head out into the

247

00:16:32,000 --> 00:16:35,000

heart of Moscow.

248

00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:43,000

Since I'm a bit underdressed for the Bolshoi Ballet, I decided to check out Old Arbat,

249

00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:45,000

Moscow's arts district.

250

00:16:55,000 --> 00:17:02,000

Nothing embarrassing about this at all.

251

00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:05,000

This is totally normal.

252

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:15,000

Oh, brain freeze.

253

00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:36,000

I indulge in some stimulating activities to get my brainwaves jumping.

254

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:38,000

Oh my God.

255

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:41,000

Mam, you're a genius.

256

00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:46,000

You did take a few liberties.

257

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:48,000

Thank you for the Putin treatment here.

258

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:49,000

Thank you.

259

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:50,000

It's amazing.

260

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:57,000

After hours of recording vital data and utterly humiliating myself, my brain recordings can

261

00:17:57,000 --> 00:18:02,000

be linked up to my video recording and merged into a file that Alexei hopes will one day

262

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:06,000

help future scientists recreate my personality.

263

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:07,000

Good luck, guys.

264

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:08,000

It's a mess in there.

265

00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:09,000

Stop.

266

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:15,000

To transhumanists, it's all part of an inevitable march to the singularity, the moment when

267

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:21,000

artificial intelligence and technology merge with humanity to create a new, immortal species.

268

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:22,000

Don't laugh.

269

00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:27,000

Already, we have computers that can beat us in chess, artificial limbs that we can control

270

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:32,000

with our brains, and even Sophia, an android designed by a Hong Kong robotics firm that's

271

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:35,000

so lifelike she's been granted citizenship.

272

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:40,000

But what about those of us who die before we can be digitized?

273

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:43,000

Transhumanists are working on that problem too.

274

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

Alexei brings me to a gated facility at the outskirts of the city.

275

00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:52,000

Hi.

276

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:53,000

My name is Igor.

277

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:54,000

Nice to meet you.

278

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:55,000

Nice to meet you too.

279

00:18:55,000 --> 00:18:56,000

Come in, please.

280

00:18:56,000 --> 00:18:57,000

Okay.

281

00:18:57,000 --> 00:18:59,000

Wow, look at this place.

282

00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:04,000

Igor and Alexei lead me toward a towering structure in the middle of this otherwise suburban

283

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:08,000

neighborhood, and I'm not at all prepared for what's inside.

284

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

Oh, my word.

285

00:19:12,000 --> 00:19:13,000

What is this?

286

00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:17,000

This is cryo-rus, the only European cryo-rus facility.

287

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

The inside of cryo-rus is like a combination between a dairy farm and a mad scientist's

288

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:26,000

lab.

289

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:31,000

But it's actually a state-of-the-art cryo-rus facility, the only place like it in Europe.

290

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:37,000

In fact, each of the flags on display here represents the country of one of their clients.

291

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:41,000

In these tanks, there are currently 59 people.

292

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:44,000

Wait, there are 59 people in these tanks?

293

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:49,000

Some of them are full-body, others are head-only or even brain-only.

294

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:53,000

And in fact, my mother's brain is already here.

295

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:54,000

Incredible.

296

00:19:54,000 --> 00:20:00,000

Cryonics is the nascent science of preserving human beings in extremely cold temperatures,

297

00:20:00,000 --> 00:20:02,000

and the hopes of reviving them later.

298

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:07,000

So to recap, I am in a lab devoted to the idea of reviving the dead that is being run by

299

00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:09,000

a guy named Igor.

300

00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:17,000

Cryo-rus may be the only facility in Europe doing this, but it isn't the only one in the

301

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:18,000

world.

302

00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:23,000

Alcor in the United States has thousands of members with a reserved space in a tank.

303

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:28,000

But though cryonics is hot right now as a trend, the science is anything but.

304

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:30,000

And what's the temperature inside this tank?

305

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:34,000

It's negative 320 degrees Fahrenheit.

306

00:20:34,000 --> 00:20:35,000

Very cold.

307

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:39,000

It's important that tanks are kept full with liquid nitrogen.

308

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:41,000

Do you want to check the temperature?

309

00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:42,000

Do I want to check it?

310

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:43,000

Sure.

311

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:49,000

Igor needs to periodically take the temperature inside the tanks to make sure the nitrogen

312

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:52,000

is still cold enough to keep the people inside viable.

313

00:20:53,000 --> 00:20:58,000

We climb to the top of the cryo tanks and prepare to peer into immortality.

314

00:20:58,000 --> 00:20:59,000

Okay, here we go.

315

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:01,000

One, two, three.

316

00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:22,000

I'm at Cryo-rus on the outskirts of Moscow, where a group of activists is working to

317

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:28,000

make death obsolete by cryo-preserving the brain for later storage as a kind of digital

318

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:29,000

soul.

319

00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:33,000

This tank is full of ice cold bodies and body parts.

320

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

We're opening it up to make sure they're still properly frozen.

321

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:37,000

Okay, here we go.

322

00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:39,000

One, two, three.

323

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:50,000

Oh my God.

324

00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:57,000

To protect the patient's privacy and cryo-rus's trade secrets, we aren't allowed to film

325

00:21:57,000 --> 00:21:58,000

inside the tanks.

326

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:04,000

I know we can't show this, but there's various containers and boxes and those are heads and

327

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:05,000

brains.

328

00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:06,000

Yeah, they contain heads and brains.

329

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:09,000

And the larger wrapped objects there are people.

330

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:10,000

Yes.

331

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:11,000

Unbelievable.

332

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:13,000

Okay, let me get a temperature reading.

333

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:14,000

You got this?

334

00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:15,000

Yeah.

335

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:16,000

Okay, here we go.

336

00:22:16,000 --> 00:22:17,000

I use this.

337

00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:18,000

Probe's going in.

338

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

Negative 150.

339

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

Negative 233.

340

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:25,000

246.

341

00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:26,000

It's dropping.

342

00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:27,000

Negative 310.

343

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:28,000

Negative 320.

344

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:31,000

My hand is literally freezing off.

345

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:32,000

That's good.

346

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:35,000

Okay, let's close it up.

347

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:38,000

Let's let everybody get back to rest.

348

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:46,000

Are you convinced that these people will live again?

349

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:48,000

I hope.

350

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:50,000

The technology is still very young.

351

00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:56,000

So for now, the patients here are just chilling out, waiting for science to conquer death.

352

00:22:56,000 --> 00:23:00,000

You believe the afterlife really is a second life?

353

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

No, I think it is better than second life.

354

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:06,000

A lot of new possibilities in the great future.

355

00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:07,000

Right.

356

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:11,000

Staving off the afterlife by living forever in a robot body.

357

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:14,000

It's a future that never seems to work out in science fiction.

358

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:17,000

Spoiler, the robots always take over.

359

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:22,000

These transhumanists though are hardly the first people to try to preserve the body

360

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

in the hopes of preserving the soul.

361

00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:28,000

And in fact, there's one remote culture in Indonesia

362

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:31,000

that's still doing it the way their ancient ancestors did.

363

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:34,000

To see the afterlife of the tribe time forgot,

364

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

I'm flying to the island of Sulawesi.

365

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:48,000

In a setting this isolated, the rental car desk doesn't have a lot of options.

366

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:50,000

Okay, so let's go out of this thing.

367

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:56,000

First is useless, second is first, third is okay, and fourth sticks.

368

00:23:56,000 --> 00:23:59,000

So, you know, I got one good gear.

369

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:02,000

Come on girl, come on girl.

370

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:08,000

Fortunately, one gear is all I need to drive into the back country.

371

00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:17,000

Sulawesi is a big place, actually the 11th largest island in the world.

372

00:24:17,000 --> 00:24:20,000

And on its face, Indonesia is an Islamic country.

373

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:26,000

In fact, it has the largest Muslim population of any country in the world, more than 225 million.

374

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:30,000

But as you drive around here, you notice this really interesting blend.

375

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:34,000

You see mosques, you see churches, but as you get further inland,

376

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:38,000

you start to see that those religions are blended with much older beliefs.

377

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:43,000

The island has four peninsulas and at its center, a really rugged mountain range.

378

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:48,000

That's where I'm headed, because the indigenous people there developed in isolation,

379

00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:51,000

both from each other and from the rest of the world.

380

00:24:51,000 --> 00:24:55,000

And as a result, their customs and their rituals have remained unchanged.

381

00:24:55,000 --> 00:24:59,000

And when it comes to the afterlife, there's one group whose beliefs are unique

382

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:02,000

to the world over, the Tarajans.

383

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:05,000

The Tarajans were a remote Indonesian tribe,

384

00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:10,000

who up until the early 20th century had only limited contact with the outside world.

385

00:25:13,000 --> 00:25:20,000

I drive for hours and eventually the cities and towns are replaced by a seemingly endless expanse of rice paddies.

386

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

Finally, I arrive in the Tarajan homeland

387

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

and continue on foot to a sacred site known as the Landa Caves.

388

00:25:32,000 --> 00:25:36,000

Unbelievable! Look at this!

389

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:40,000

To the Taraja people, the ground is sacred.

390

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:45,000

It is the source of life, and so they don't want to pollute it with buried bodies.

391

00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:47,000

So they've come up with a novel solution,

392

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:50,000

hanging coffins and cliffside crypts.

393

00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:54,000

It's beautiful, but eerie.

394

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:58,000

And I can't quite shake the feeling that I'm being watched.

395

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:02,000

These are known as tautaus.

396

00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:05,000

They are carved wooden effigies of the dead.

397

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:10,000

Each one of the people sitting in this gallery is somebody buried in one of these coffins.

398

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:16,000

And these are these perfect representations of them looking out over the world of the living.

399

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:23,000

For more than 500 years, tautaus like these have stood guard over these cliffside crypts.

400

00:26:23,000 --> 00:26:29,000

Inside the hill is a labyrinth of caves that thankfully I've been granted permission to enter.

401

00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:36,000

I pull a lantern out of the renter wreck and venture inside the mountain.

402

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:49,000

My God, there are bones everywhere!

403

00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:06,000

I'm on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia,

404

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:12,000

investigating the afterlife beliefs of the Tarajan people deep inside one of their burial caves.

405

00:27:12,000 --> 00:27:15,000

My God, there are bones everywhere!

406

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:22,000

Look at the piles of coffins.

407

00:27:22,000 --> 00:27:26,000

There are coffin stacks all the way up to the top of the cave.

408

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:28,000

It just keeps going back.

409

00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:38,000

And look, skulls and bones tucked into every nook and cranny everywhere you look, human remains.

410

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:45,000

The bodies are interred in elaborately carved coffins filled with clothing and objects

411

00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:48,000

meant to accompany the deceased into the afterlife.

412

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:53,000

At first glance, you might think this cave is full of trash, but in fact, these are all offerings.

413

00:27:53,000 --> 00:27:56,000

These are coins that have been offered to the dead.

414

00:27:56,000 --> 00:28:01,000

And if you look up here, you can see cigarettes, even bottles of water.

415

00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:06,000

All of these are active offerings being made by the Tarajan people.

416

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:12,000

I retreat through the maze of chambers, stunned by what I've seen.

417

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:17,000

But in many cases, these bodies weren't placed here until long after these people passed.

418

00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:23,000

That's because Tarajans believe that when you first die, you can still be very much alive.

419

00:28:28,000 --> 00:28:32,000

To learn how, I continue on to the nearby Taraja village of Kedikesu,

420

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:35,000

where I meet with my local contact named Aru.

421

00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:36,000

Aru, Josh.

422

00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:38,000

Josh, Aru, nice to meet you.

423

00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:39,000

Nice to meet you too.

424

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:40,000

This is incredible.

425

00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:42,000

This is traditional Taraja architecture.

426

00:28:42,000 --> 00:28:44,000

Yeah, this is called Tunkkonen House.

427

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:49,000

The distinctive Tunkkonen Houses are built this way for a very specific reason.

428

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:53,000

It's all about how the locals view life and the afterlife.

429

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:56,000

The shape of the house in both shape because like cosmos,

430

00:28:56,000 --> 00:29:02,000

north part symbol of life, south part symbolizes death.

431

00:29:02,000 --> 00:29:05,000

So it's like the passage of life.

432

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:07,000

Yeah, passage of life.

433

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:10,000

It's how the Tarajans view that passage that makes them unique.

434

00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:17,000

Unlike almost every other religion, the Tarajans believe that death is not the end for the physical body.

435

00:29:17,000 --> 00:29:20,000

In Tarajan culture, what do you believe happens when you die?

436

00:29:20,000 --> 00:29:24,000

We believe that when we die, there's a lot of life.

437

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

But when we die, the spirit doesn't leave.

438

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

The spirit doesn't leave.

439

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

It stays in the body.

440

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:31,000

It stays in the body.

441

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:33,000

And so where does the body go?

442

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:35,000

The bodies go to the house.

443

00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:39,000

So people will actually keep dead bodies in their home?

444

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:41,000

Yeah.

445

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:45,000

Aru isn't describing some obscure outdated practice.

446

00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:52,000

Hundreds of houses in this area may be cohabited by dead people.

447

00:29:52,000 --> 00:29:55,000

It brings me to one such home, that of his friend David.

448

00:29:55,000 --> 00:29:58,000

Hi David, how are you? Nice to meet you. How are you?

449

00:29:58,000 --> 00:29:59,000

Fine, thank you.

450

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:01,000

And so David, this is your home?

451

00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:02,000

Yeah.

452

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:05,000

And is it possible for me to meet your family?

453

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:07,000

Yeah, please.

454

00:30:07,000 --> 00:30:08,000

Please.

455

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:20,000

David leads me up into the house where I'm greeted not by an aura of death, but emphatic life.

456

00:30:22,000 --> 00:30:26,000

Look at all these cute kids. Hi baby.

457

00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:29,000

You have a big family, David.

458

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:32,000

Nice to meet everybody. Bye bye.

459

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:40,000

After I meet most of David's family, he brings me into the back hall to meet his mom and dad.

460

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:42,000

Oh my.

461

00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:44,000

And these are your parents?

462

00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:46,000

Yes.

463

00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:53,000

This is my mother and then this is my father.

464

00:30:53,000 --> 00:31:00,000

These two people have been dead for more than a year and have been effectively mummified using age-old techniques,

465

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

along with some modern chemicals for preserving the body.

466

00:31:04,000 --> 00:31:09,000

But it isn't just a way to honor them. They're still active members of the family.

467

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:13,000

Do you... do you talk to them?

468

00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:19,000

Yes, when I speak with them and when my children speak with them, we're speaking with their spirit.

469

00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:22,000

I believe their spirit can hear us.

470

00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:26,000

Aru has instructed me to pay my respects as though these are living people.

471

00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:29,000

Can you introduce me to your parents?

472

00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:37,000

This is my mother and this is my father.

473

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:42,000

It's an honor to meet you both. Thank you for letting me into your home.

474

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:52,000

For David and others who have grown up with mummies in the house, this is a normal interaction.

475

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:59,000

They talk to, wash and even bring offerings of food to their dearly departed.

476

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:04,000

David's folks even get some quality time with their grandchildren.

477

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:06,000

Saying hi to their grandparents?

478

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:08,000

Yes.

479

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:16,000

I have to admit as an outsider this isn't the easiest thing to process, let alone look at.

480

00:32:16,000 --> 00:32:24,000

But there is a feeling of warmth and love here and the family connection is clearly alive and well.

481

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:28,000

Well, thank you very much, David, for letting me into your home. I appreciate it.

482

00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:33,000

And thank you both very much. It was very nice to meet both of you.

483

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:36,000

The Tarajans don't live with their dead forever though.

484

00:32:36,000 --> 00:32:40,000

Eventually their spirits must pass on.

485

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:47,000

And to do that, they need to send off in the form of a one-of-a-kind funeral known as a Rambo solo.

486

00:32:55,000 --> 00:33:02,000

There's one taking place in the village this morning and Aru has arranged rare permission for me to participate.

487

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:06,000

So Aru, who is this man? When did he die?

488

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:12,000

He died one year ago. He was the important person like a ritual king in this village.

489

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:18,000

Relatives have gathered from far and wide and the village has been transformed into a grand reception area.

490

00:33:18,000 --> 00:33:24,000

It's like an Irish wake, a wedding and a family reunion rolled into one and it's already getting rowdy.

491

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:35,000

The casket is modeled after a Tonkonen house and accompanied by a carved wooden Tautau statue of the deceased, complete with sunglasses.

492

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:42,000

The entire structure weighs nearly a thousand pounds and has to be carried through the entire village to a ceremony site.

493

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:49,000

This is definitely going to take more than six pallbearers and lucky for me, big guys are encouraged to help.

494

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:55,000

I don traditional Tarajan garb, grab a pole and get ready for a full contact funeral.

495

00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:08,000

We heaved the casket down a muddy winding road that isn't wide enough to handle the mob.

496

00:34:11,000 --> 00:34:18,000

The chanting and the beating of drums drive us forward at a speed which could and sometimes does crush unfortunate stragglers.

497

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:30,000

We're not even halfway through the course and this is moving way too fast. We're barely clearing the electrical wires.

498

00:34:30,000 --> 00:34:37,000

The road is literally moving beneath our feet. It's getting more and more possible that someone could get seriously hurt.

499

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:39,000

Someone like me.

500

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:59,000

You might think the Indonesian burial caves were creepy but for me, they're just another day at the office.

501

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:03,000

Here are more of my close encounters with the world of the dead.

502

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:07,000

I got a bone down here. Part of a vertebrae.

503

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:10,000

That is a bone. I mean that looks like a human bone to me.

504

00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:13,000

It might be time to call the police department.

505

00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:15,000

Oh, what is that?

506

00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:20,000

There's gotta be a skull there. I'm gonna lift this vessel up. There it is right there.

507

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:26,000

Wow, Josh. The first time someone has ever seen this since, that today it was put in there. Oh my God.

508

00:35:31,000 --> 00:35:34,000

Unbelievable. Another skull.

509

00:35:46,000 --> 00:36:00,000

I'm on the remote island of Sulawesi in Indonesia where the Chirajan people help the souls of their dead move into the afterlife with a huge funeral festival known as a Rambusolo.

510

00:36:00,000 --> 00:36:06,000

I'm on pallbearer duty for a casket that's as big as a car but doesn't corner like one.

511

00:36:11,000 --> 00:36:13,000

I recover.

512

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:20,000

And continue on until we reach the funeral grounds.

513

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:26,000

What the hell is a funeral?

514

00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:29,000

That's one way to get to the afterlife.

515

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:32,000

I'm rewarded for my hard work.

516

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:37,000

I didn't realize you got beer with this. It's the best funeral there have been do.

517

00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:41,000

FYI, it's nine o'clock in the morning.

518

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:44,000

Oh, that just changed my life.

519

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:51,000

The body is positioned overlooking a huge arena that has been built from scratch just for this funeral.

520

00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:57,000

Aru and I take our seats in a set of risers where we can overlook the proceedings.

521

00:36:57,000 --> 00:36:58,000

So what will happen now?

522

00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:00,000

Now it's bullfighting.

523

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

Bullfighting?

524

00:37:01,000 --> 00:37:11,000

The bulls in this case are buffalo who the Chirajans believe will escort the deceased soul into the afterlife.

525

00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:17,000

Families spend thousands of dollars on these expensive animals who fight and are then sacrificed.

526

00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:26,000

The proceedings are brutal, hard to watch, and utterly sacred to the Chirajans.

527

00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:30,000

Loose bull, loose bull.

528

00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:35,000

Pick up Dave, these seats are not safe.

529

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

The bulls will fight back. They know what's up.

530

00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:51,000

The bullfighting, eulogies, and feasting will continue on for an entire week.

531

00:37:51,000 --> 00:37:56,000

Here, death is a joyful process and a publicly shared event.

532

00:37:56,000 --> 00:38:00,000

The bodies I've seen certainly don't exhibit any outer signs of life.

533

00:38:00,000 --> 00:38:06,000

But to the living, they offer the promise that none of us are ever truly gone.

534

00:38:06,000 --> 00:38:11,000

Thanks for having me here. Safe travels, sir. Thank you, Aru.

535

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:12,000

You're welcome.

536

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:28,000

The veil between life and death is one that cultures around the world have tried to pierce for thousands of years.

537

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:32,000

But the only way to truly know what's on the other side is to die.

538

00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:35,000

Or is it?

539

00:38:35,000 --> 00:38:39,000

What if one could visit the afterlife temporarily?

540

00:38:39,000 --> 00:38:47,000

To meet death for myself, I grab a flight halfway around the world to Peru and the jungles of the Amazon.

541

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:10,000

You know, long before Europeans came to the Americas, these continents were home to countless thousands of tribes and vast civilizations.

542

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:17,000

And one of the things they all had in common were complex religions that combined nature and spirits,

543

00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:24,000

and believed that through rituals and the use of psychotropic plants, one could reach out and connect with the other side.

544

00:39:24,000 --> 00:39:29,000

And that's why I've come here, to the Amazon, to experience the effects of drinking ayahuasca.

545

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:36,000

It's a Ketchu word that translates either as the vine of the soul or the vine of death.

546

00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:46,000

I want to be clear about something really clear. This is not an endorsement of drugs. I don't do drugs.

547

00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:51,000

Ayahuasca is very powerful and it can't be dangerous. It has killed people.

548

00:39:51,000 --> 00:39:58,000

But the people of the Amazon, this isn't a drug. This is a medicine that awakens the soul.

549

00:40:00,000 --> 00:40:01,000

I want to see what it does.

550

00:40:05,000 --> 00:40:12,000

The river is carrying me toward the unknown. When I get off this boat, I could experience a pure vision of the afterlife,

551

00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:15,000

or gaze into the abyss of madness.

552

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:29,000

My journey down the Amazon becomes a journey to the edge of the afterlife.

553

00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:30,000

Oh man.

554

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:40,000

Then, alongside America's most famous paranormal investigators, I explore one of the country's most haunted locations.

555

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:44,000

That is literally saying help.

556

00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:51,000

And to capture evidence of the afterlife, we embark on a ghost hunt that's never been attempted before.

557

00:40:56,000 --> 00:41:02,000

It's time for a final answer to the eternal question, is there life after death?