

1

00:00:00,973 --> 00:00:07,964

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

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00:00:07,964 --> 00:00:18,949

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations, but not necessarily the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

3

00:00:31,932 --> 00:00:40,920

Ancient legends tell of abandoned children reared in the wild by wolves, apes or other beasts.

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00:00:45,913 --> 00:00:51,905

In 1800, a naked boy was seen running wild in the forest of La Bacine, France.

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00:00:53,903 --> 00:00:56,899

His background unknown.

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00:01:00,893 --> 00:01:04,888

Abandoned as an infant, he had somehow managed to survive.

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00:01:07,884 --> 00:01:10,880

Could such a child be civilized?

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00:01:20,867 --> 00:01:27,857

Rome, the busiest center of modern Italy, still clings with pride to its heritage as the eternal city.

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00:01:31,852 --> 00:01:34,848

Even its name has a romantic origin.

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00:01:36,845 --> 00:01:43,836

Legend tells us that Romulus and Remus, the founders of ancient Rome, were suckled by a wolf mother.

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00:01:45,833 --> 00:01:51,826

Notions such as this do not begin and end in ancient Rome, but continue throughout history.

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00:01:53,823 --> 00:01:58,816

Many people believe it is possible for human children to be raised by other animals.

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00:01:59,815 --> 00:02:05,807

We observe the movements and interaction of the great apes and see mirror images of our own behavior.

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00:02:12,798 --> 00:02:20,787

They seem so human that they give rise to fancies such as Tarzan of the apes and Mowgli the jungle boy.

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00:02:29,775 --> 00:02:38,763

Yet, even though apes appear humanoid, they can be ferocious killers, more likely to devour a Tarzan than to be friendly.

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00:02:41,759 --> 00:02:46,752

Many biologists believe these animals would certainly not raise a helpless infant.

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00:02:48,750 --> 00:02:55,740

How much truth is there to stories of wild children and how close is the Hollywood image to reality?

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00:02:58,737 --> 00:03:03,730

What happens if a child is raised completely devoid of human contact?

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00:03:04,729 --> 00:03:12,718

In this century alone, there are at least 20 photographed cases of children who have lived with animals in their social structure.

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00:03:14,715 --> 00:03:17,711

This is Issa, the monkey boy of Ceylon.

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00:03:18,710 --> 00:03:22,705

Found in 1973, he was reportedly abandoned by his family.

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00:03:23,703 --> 00:03:30,694

This little boy was found scrambling up a tree with a family of apes in the desolate grasslands of Burundi, Africa.

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00:03:32,691 --> 00:03:41,679

In Syria, this boy was captured running with gazelles. His captors, riding in a jeep, claim they clocked his speed at 50 miles per hour.

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00:03:42,678 --> 00:03:45,674

Why he was exiled, no one knows.

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00:03:46,673 --> 00:03:52,665

Why have these particular children either been abandoned by their families or expelled from society?

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00:03:53,663 --> 00:03:58,657

Many authenticated cases of wild children involve youngsters with some physical deformity.

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00:03:59,655 --> 00:04:05,647

There are societies which see physical deformities as being proof of being possessed by evil spirits.

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00:04:06,646 --> 00:04:11,640

These deformed youngsters then often are killed or, as we have seen, cast out.

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00:04:12,638 --> 00:04:18,630

A plastic surgeon from Glasgow, Scotland rescued the so-called Jungle Boy of Peru.

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00:04:19,629 --> 00:04:25,621

The newspapers sensationalized the story of the child and Dr. Ian Jackson.

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00:04:26,620 --> 00:04:30,614

It's very difficult to find out what the true story was.

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00:04:31,613 --> 00:04:40,601

We have been in Peru subsequent to him coming here and we've tried very hard to find out how he eventually got to the hospital.

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00:04:41,600 --> 00:04:52,585

As far as we can make out, he was suffering from some kind of illness which was slowly destroying the middle of his face.

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00:04:53,584 --> 00:04:57,578

I presume he lived in the jungle. Again, we really don't know about this.

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00:04:58,577 --> 00:05:08,564

He was taken to a mission hospital or a mission camp and the missionary said that they couldn't do anything for him.

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00:05:08,564 --> 00:05:21,547

Dr. Jackson adopted the boy and brought him to Scotland where with a program of surgery, he is gradually rebuilding the boy's face and helping the boy adapt to his new life.

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00:05:22,545 --> 00:05:28,537

Shandev, an Indian boy who growls, is believed to have been brought up by a pack of wolves.

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00:05:29,536 --> 00:05:32,532

In India, there is a long tradition of wolf children.

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00:05:32,532 --> 00:05:36,527

These photographs were taken in the 1920s by the Reverend Singh.

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00:05:37,525 --> 00:05:43,517

He claimed that these two girls, Amala and Kamala, had been kept alive by wolves.

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00:05:46,513 --> 00:05:51,507

However, the most famous wild child of all is the Wild Boy of Avero.

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00:05:52,505 --> 00:06:00,495

In the year 1800, the people of La Bacine, France caught glimpses of a naked boy living wild in the forest.

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00:06:01,493 --> 00:06:06,487

He looked about ten years old, but nobody knew anything about his past.

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00:06:07,485 --> 00:06:12,479

Where had he come from? Had he been abandoned? How had he managed to survive?

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00:06:14,476 --> 00:06:19,469

Sometimes he would come close to the village to steal potatoes from the fields.

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00:06:20,468 --> 00:06:24,463

He seemed as unaffected by the cold of winter as by the heat of summer.

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00:06:25,461 --> 00:06:32,452

Captured, he was placed in the care of the National Institute for the Deaf and Dumb in Paris.

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00:06:35,448 --> 00:06:43,438

For much of the time, the Wild Boys seemed totally apathetic, but occasionally there were strange outbursts of emotion.

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00:06:43,438 --> 00:06:56,420

If the sun suddenly came out, he gave every impression of wanting to escape through the window.

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00:07:04,410 --> 00:07:11,400

Parisians had expected him to be the epitome of their concept of the noble savage, much like our modern-day Tarzan.

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00:07:12,399 --> 00:07:21,387

The reality was disillusioning. The authorities quickly classified him as a congenital idiot and the public lost interest.

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00:07:24,383 --> 00:07:35,368

There was one consultant at the institute, Jean-Etat, who believed that possibly the boy's apparent idiocy was only due to his lack of contact with other human beings.

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00:07:36,367 --> 00:07:45,355

The methods which Dr. Itar was to develop over the next six years represented some of the world's earliest experiments in clinical psychology.

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00:07:47,353 --> 00:07:53,345

To start with, Dr. Itar simply studied the boy's behavior and recorded his observations.

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00:07:54,343 --> 00:08:01,334

The boy seemed unable to relate in any way to other human beings and tended to totally ignore their presence.

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00:08:06,327 --> 00:08:10,322

All his moments of pleasure derived from an enjoyment of nature.

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00:08:11,321 --> 00:08:15,315

Unlike people in society, vision was not his most important sense.

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00:08:16,314 --> 00:08:21,307

He possessed an awareness of smells which were passed undetected by others.

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00:08:27,299 --> 00:08:31,294

He appeared to make no distinction between pleasant smells and foul ones.

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00:08:35,289 --> 00:08:37,286

■■■■ ■■ du■■ ■■■■ tribes did much.

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00:08:46,274 --> 00:08:51,267

Putting snuff up his nose produced no effect whatsoever.

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00:08:51,267 --> 00:09:05,249

He was unable to recognize his own reflection.

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00:09:05,249 --> 00:09:11,081

Nor could he differentiate between a picture and the real object.

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00:09:11,081 --> 00:09:13,997

He appeared to be completely impervious to temperatures.

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00:09:13,997 --> 00:09:19,550

He would put his hand in boiling water to grasp a potato without apparently feeling

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00:09:19,550 --> 00:09:26,740

the scalding heat.

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00:09:26,740 --> 00:09:30,575

He gave the impression of deafness.

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00:09:30,575 --> 00:09:37,246

An unexpected loud noise produced no effect.

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00:09:37,246 --> 00:09:44,357

But Itar found the slight sound of a walnut being cracked caused an instant reaction.

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00:09:44,357 --> 00:09:47,473

So he concluded that the boy could hear perfectly.

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00:09:47,473 --> 00:09:57,380

But his reactions were selective.

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00:09:57,380 --> 00:10:04,370

Long months of patient care went by and slowly a change began to take place.

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00:10:04,370 --> 00:10:08,844

The boy became cleaner and tidier, learning to dress himself.

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00:10:09,843 --> 00:10:13,119

For the first time in his life, he learned to play.

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00:10:13,119 --> 00:10:22,746

And although he could not speak, he now had a motive for wanting to make himself understood.

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00:10:22,746 --> 00:10:32,053

At this late stage in his life, he was beginning the childhood which the severity of his existence in the wild had denied him.

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00:10:32,053 --> 00:10:49,231

He was discovering his imagination.

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00:10:49,231 --> 00:10:55,143

How much further could he progress?

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00:10:55,263 --> 00:11:02,373

At the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, Dr. Itar and his wild child pupil forged the head.

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00:11:02,373 --> 00:11:06,887

The doctor's work and the child's learning progressed more quickly now.

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00:11:06,887 --> 00:11:18,911

They had the additional influence of the boy's governess, Madame Guerin.

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00:11:18,911 --> 00:11:24,544

Through his actions, the boy gained the ability to express himself with increasing clarity.

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00:11:24,544 --> 00:11:29,497

But speech eluded him.

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00:11:29,497 --> 00:11:36,048

Dr. Itar noticed that one sound, O, always attracted the boy's attention.

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00:11:36,048 --> 00:11:43,638

So Dr. Itar gave him a name which included this sound.

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00:11:43,638 --> 00:11:50,269

From now on, he was called Victor.

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00:11:50,269 --> 00:11:58,698

Anxious for Victor to speak, the doctor decided to concentrate on O, the French word for water.

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00:13:13,039 --> 00:13:15,836

First by matching objects to drawings.

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00:13:21,828 --> 00:13:23,066

And then...

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00:13:26,381 --> 00:13:28,099

shapes to shapes.

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00:13:28,698 --> 00:13:30,296

The doctor's goal?

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00:13:30,496 --> 00:13:33,652

To develop Victor's memory of a sequence of shapes

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00:13:33,852 --> 00:13:36,568

which in time would be replaced with letters.

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00:13:36,768 --> 00:13:39,564

The letters then formed into words.

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00:13:49,670 --> 00:13:54,025

To Victor, these exercises seemed pointless and boring.

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00:13:54,105 --> 00:13:57,620

He could not appreciate the goals Dr. Itar had set.

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00:13:57,820 --> 00:14:01,015

And now, the learning had ceased to be fun.

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00:14:02,014 --> 00:14:04,611

As the tasks became more complex,

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00:14:04,810 --> 00:14:08,006

he became increasingly difficult and frustrated.

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00:14:12,400 --> 00:14:15,995

Had Itar's revolutionary experiments reached their limit?

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00:14:16,195 --> 00:14:19,191

Did Victor's learning abilities have boundaries

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00:14:19,391 --> 00:14:21,189

that Dr. couldn't have?

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00:14:22,187 --> 00:14:26,182

Itar persisted and slowly, Victor began to recognize words.

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00:14:28,379 --> 00:14:32,174

The doctor would give him a piece of paper with the name of an article

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00:14:32,374 --> 00:14:35,170

and the boy would fetch it from the next room.

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00:14:40,563 --> 00:14:44,158

Dr. Itar then took the experiment one stage further.

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00:14:45,356 --> 00:14:48,352

He locked the door to the door of the doctor.

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00:14:49,351 --> 00:14:51,348

He locked the door to the room.

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00:14:59,338 --> 00:15:03,332

What would Victor do when asked to find an item?

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00:15:18,313 --> 00:15:20,310

Victor ignored Victor.

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00:15:28,299 --> 00:15:33,293

Although similar objects were in the room with them, Victor ignored them.

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00:15:33,293 --> 00:15:37,287

Itar suddenly realized that knife, box and book

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00:15:37,487 --> 00:15:42,480

meant only those particular items they habitually used in their experiments.

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00:16:03,253 --> 00:16:08,246

So Itar had to explain that a book was any book.

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00:16:08,246 --> 00:16:13,200

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00:16:29,817 --> 00:16:35,210

Gradually, Victor's vocabulary increased to include the use of adjectives.

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00:16:35,210 --> 00:16:45,037

Grand livre, petit livre, grand livre.

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00:16:45,037 --> 00:16:56,023

And finally, the ultimate achievement, writing.

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00:16:56,023 --> 00:17:10,004

Victor never learned to speak more than a few words, but he could write his needs.

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00:17:10,004 --> 00:17:15,597

After six years of study with Dr. Itar, he moved out of the institute to live a long

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00:17:15,597 --> 00:17:20,989

and reasonably normal life in the care of his governess.

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00:17:20,989 --> 00:17:26,981

Dr. Itar had kept his journals faithfully throughout his association with Victor.

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00:17:26,981 --> 00:17:33,053

Their publication revolutionized educational treatment of the mentally handicapped.

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00:17:33,053 --> 00:17:39,125

As for the wild boy of Avero, certainly he could no longer be classed as an idiot or

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00:17:39,125 --> 00:17:42,840

a savage.

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00:17:42,840 --> 00:17:47,953

We have always been fascinated by creatures that lurk within our imaginations.

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00:17:47,953 --> 00:17:53,626

Fantastic creatures which are half man, half beast.

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00:17:53,626 --> 00:18:00,697

Where our ancestors marveled at mermaids and centaurs, we wonder about Yeti and the Sasquatch.

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00:18:00,697 --> 00:18:04,651

If they exist, are these really wild men?

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00:18:04,651 --> 00:18:08,886

Have they perhaps been reared by animal parents?

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00:18:08,886 --> 00:18:14,878

Is it credible that a ferocious beast would actually suckle a man cub and defend it against

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00:18:14,878 --> 00:18:15,876

other animals?

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00:18:15,876 --> 00:18:22,587

For one answer, we went to a remote part of the Scottish Highlands where one man has

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00:18:22,587 --> 00:18:28,100

devoted his life to the study of wolves and their behavior, Ian Brody.

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00:18:28,100 --> 00:18:37,528

To my mind, it's quite possible that particularly a bitch who's lost a litter may well respond

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00:18:37,528 --> 00:18:41,682

favorably to the cries of a human infant.

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00:18:41,682 --> 00:18:47,554

It's not necessarily conclusive that she would do so, but it does suggest it's possible.

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00:18:47,554 --> 00:18:49,591

It is man's oldest friend, after all.

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00:18:49,591 --> 00:18:50,750

It's also our oldest enemy.

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00:18:50,750 --> 00:18:53,826

So we brought it into the house.

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00:18:53,826 --> 00:18:57,341

It's quite likely a reverse adoption could take place.

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00:18:57,341 --> 00:19:02,654

In the same way that a human baby cries, the mother then feeds it at her breast.

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00:19:02,654 --> 00:19:11,243

Well, if the child cries and the wolf is prepared to allow it to suckle, then the cry is satisfied

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00:19:12,042 --> 00:19:15,477

no more crying, no more problems.

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00:19:15,477 --> 00:19:20,071

I think man and wolf being two social animals get on very well together.

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00:19:20,071 --> 00:19:22,308

I think this is highly unlikely.

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00:19:22,308 --> 00:19:28,460

And the reason I say this is that the human infant is the poorest of all survivors.

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00:19:28,460 --> 00:19:34,652

Therefore, if a child is abandoned as an infant, there is no doubt that that child will probably

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00:19:34,652 --> 00:19:41,123

die or be killed by predators, particularly in a wild area of country.

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00:19:41,123 --> 00:19:45,996

But I think what happens if a child is going to survive, then he probably is older, he

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00:19:45,996 --> 00:19:49,632

finds some way of surviving for himself.

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00:19:49,632 --> 00:19:52,228

And because of that, he naturally becomes wild.

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00:19:52,228 --> 00:19:53,706

He's got to steal.

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00:19:53,706 --> 00:19:56,423

He's got to kill if necessary.

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00:19:56,423 --> 00:19:58,779

He's got to keep himself warm.

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00:19:58,779 --> 00:20:02,095

He's got to hide away from other wild animals.

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00:20:02,095 --> 00:20:10,204

And so it's simply a striving for survival that will condition his behavior.

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00:20:10,204 --> 00:20:16,476

But I really can't imagine that these children have been brought up by animals.

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00:20:16,476 --> 00:20:22,428

In search of has investigated isolated societies where survival is not taught, but must be

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00:20:22,428 --> 00:20:31,736

learned by trial and error.

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00:20:31,736 --> 00:20:37,088

These children may be a link to the totally isolated wild children who had only animals

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00:20:37,088 --> 00:20:44,199

to use as examples.

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00:20:44,199 --> 00:20:49,112

Perhaps the closest modern counterpart to wild children is a California girl, Jeanne,

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00:20:49,112 --> 00:20:51,509

who was discovered in 1970.

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00:20:51,509 --> 00:20:55,025

Her story is recreated here for in search of.

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00:20:55,025 --> 00:21:00,058

She had been kept in a small room, tied to a potty chair from the age of 20 months until

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00:21:00,058 --> 00:21:02,295

she was nearly 14 years old.

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00:21:02,295 --> 00:21:05,730

Her parents were charged with child abuse.

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00:21:05,730 --> 00:21:07,848

Her father later committed suicide.

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00:21:07,848 --> 00:21:11,882

Her mother was sentenced to prison.

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00:21:11,882 --> 00:21:18,354

Since her release, Jeanne has begun learning basic skills, but progress is slow.

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00:21:18,354 --> 00:21:24,226

Apparently, there is a time in our lives for learning such skills.

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00:21:24,226 --> 00:21:39,885

If that period is missed, the full mastery of those skills may be lost forever.

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00:21:39,885 --> 00:21:44,439

Coming up next, one week in time holds an amazing wealth of history as this week in

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00:21:44,439 --> 00:21:49,592

history takes a look at the opening of the Panama Canal, VJ Day, and other extraordinary

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00:21:49,592 --> 00:21:50,790

events.