



NOW I SEE

**THE MIRACULOUS
STORY OF MICHAEL**

LIVE ON YOUTUBE MONDAY JULY 26

8PM EST/5PM PST

HOSTED BY UFOJOE MURGIA

1
00:00:06,630 --> 00:00:03,270
we should

2
00:00:08,710 --> 00:00:06,640
be live and hopefully folks in the in

3
00:00:29,509 --> 00:00:08,720
the chat room just let me know

4
00:00:33,910 --> 00:00:30,950
all right you can here and see me all

5
00:00:38,869 --> 00:00:33,920
right i'm going to bring michael in

6
00:00:41,350 --> 00:00:38,879
i'm here there he is the man of the hour

7
00:00:42,549 --> 00:00:41,360
how are you michael i'm fine thank you

8
00:00:44,549 --> 00:00:42,559
joe

9
00:00:45,910 --> 00:00:44,559
how do you want this to go i mean i i'm

10
00:00:48,709 --> 00:00:45,920
nervous and i've never

11
00:00:49,510 --> 00:00:48,719
done it publicly before so so we are

12
00:00:52,150 --> 00:00:49,520
live

13
00:00:53,189 --> 00:00:52,160

and just i'll tell the story i mean when

14

00:00:54,630 --> 00:00:53,199

did we meet

15

00:00:56,709 --> 00:00:54,640

do you remember was it like two years

16

00:00:59,750 --> 00:00:56,719

ago maybe about

17

00:01:01,430 --> 00:00:59,760

about that yeah yeah and if

18

00:01:03,510 --> 00:01:01,440

any chance during this if you can get a

19

00:01:06,230 --> 00:01:03,520

light on you you're really dark

20

00:01:07,429 --> 00:01:06,240

um if not i could still see you it's all

21

00:01:09,350 --> 00:01:07,439

right

22

00:01:10,550 --> 00:01:09,360

you grab that light there yeah any light

23

00:01:13,750 --> 00:01:10,560

on your face that would help

24

00:01:15,910 --> 00:01:13,760

um so we went online i don't remember

25

00:01:18,310 --> 00:01:15,920

exactly how we met what we talked about

26

00:01:19,990 --> 00:01:18,320

all right but oh no no turn that one off

27

00:01:23,270 --> 00:01:20,000

yeah if you can bring it in the front

28

00:01:25,590 --> 00:01:23,280

uh one with it so we met

29

00:01:28,070 --> 00:01:25,600

you told me your story you shared the

30

00:01:30,630 --> 00:01:28,080

link to the story and i was amazed so

31

00:01:31,990 --> 00:01:30,640

yeah that helps a lot so just basically

32

00:01:35,270 --> 00:01:32,000

tell me

33

00:01:37,109 --> 00:01:35,280

your background where you grew up and

34

00:01:38,310 --> 00:01:37,119

we'll take it from there

35

00:01:40,170 --> 00:01:38,320

all right don't be nervous don't be

36

00:01:42,149 --> 00:01:40,180

nervous because i'm already nervous

37

00:01:45,990 --> 00:01:42,159

[Laughter]

38

00:01:48,230 --> 00:01:46,000

well first thing i want to do is um

39

00:01:50,069 --> 00:01:48,240

introduce cindy all right she's right

40

00:01:53,030 --> 00:01:50,079

she's right here by my side

41

00:01:54,389 --> 00:01:53,040

i'm just gonna i'm gonna take it hi

42

00:01:57,109 --> 00:01:54,399

cindy

43

00:01:59,749 --> 00:01:57,119

so she uh she's more nervous than i am

44

00:02:03,830 --> 00:01:59,759

and she's kind of camera shy so

45

00:02:05,190 --> 00:02:03,840

we'll go from there um i got uh

46

00:02:07,590 --> 00:02:05,200

i got three histories that i'd like to

47

00:02:09,990 --> 00:02:07,600

share tonight one is my personal history

48

00:02:11,510 --> 00:02:10,000

most of it um the second one would be my

49

00:02:12,710 --> 00:02:11,520

medical history which i think will

50

00:02:14,229 --> 00:02:12,720

intrigue a lot of people

51
00:02:15,910 --> 00:02:14,239
and the third thing would be my

52
00:02:18,309 --> 00:02:15,920
spiritual history

53
00:02:20,550 --> 00:02:18,319
and the priest knows a lot about that he

54
00:02:24,229 --> 00:02:20,560
knows a lot about all three of them

55
00:02:27,270 --> 00:02:24,239
he heard my last confession and um

56
00:02:30,550 --> 00:02:27,280
i spilled my guts and

57
00:02:32,309 --> 00:02:30,560
it was pretty loud so i was uh born in

58
00:02:35,030 --> 00:02:32,319
northern new york

59
00:02:36,309 --> 00:02:35,040
uh in fact friday will be my 61st

60
00:02:41,750 --> 00:02:36,319
birthday

61
00:02:46,630 --> 00:02:44,790
i had a pretty rough childhood my father

62
00:02:50,550 --> 00:02:46,640
abandoned my family when i was five

63
00:02:53,830 --> 00:02:50,560

my mom committed suicide when i was nine

64

00:02:58,710 --> 00:02:53,840

i ended up in foster care and

65

00:03:00,710 --> 00:02:58,720

that was pretty rough and

66

00:03:02,869 --> 00:03:00,720

a couple weeks after i turned 15 years

67

00:03:03,970 --> 00:03:02,879

old i ran away from foster care headed

68

00:03:06,949 --> 00:03:03,980

to miami and

69

00:03:08,710 --> 00:03:06,959

[Music]

70

00:03:09,990 --> 00:03:08,720

started working in the merchant marine

71

00:03:10,949 --> 00:03:10,000

in the caribbean central and south

72

00:03:14,470 --> 00:03:10,959

america

73

00:03:18,149 --> 00:03:14,480

as an able-bodied seaman

74

00:03:19,589 --> 00:03:18,159

i wanted to go to europe so i uh

75

00:03:21,910 --> 00:03:19,599

jumped to greyhound and went to new york

76

00:03:22,550 --> 00:03:21,920

city that's an interesting picture right

77

00:03:24,949 --> 00:03:22,560

there so

78

00:03:25,670 --> 00:03:24,959

yeah we'll get to that sorry that is uh

79

00:03:28,470 --> 00:03:25,680

that's

80

00:03:29,270 --> 00:03:28,480

boot camp in fort dix uh actually basic

81

00:03:31,030 --> 00:03:29,280

training

82

00:03:33,270 --> 00:03:31,040

i'm actually 15 years old in that

83

00:03:34,229 --> 00:03:33,280

photograph if you look at the top left

84

00:03:37,270 --> 00:03:34,239

hand corner that's

85

00:03:39,430 --> 00:03:37,280

that's mike smirking right there because

86

00:03:42,070 --> 00:03:39,440

i thought i was a badass and i'd gotten

87

00:03:43,430 --> 00:03:42,080

over big but the truth of it was i just

88

00:03:47,350 --> 00:03:43,440

wanted to go to europe

89

00:03:50,710 --> 00:03:47,360

and see more of the world i'd already

90

00:03:51,830 --> 00:03:50,720

i don't know how to describe it i just

91

00:03:54,070 --> 00:03:51,840

had this wanderlust

92

00:03:56,470 --> 00:03:54,080

and i was free of the chains of foster

93

00:04:00,710 --> 00:03:56,480

care i was on my own

94

00:04:02,309 --> 00:04:00,720

um i never made it to high school

95

00:04:04,869 --> 00:04:02,319

so if anybody wants to look up my

96

00:04:06,949 --> 00:04:04,879

yearbook picture there isn't one

97

00:04:09,270 --> 00:04:06,959

um the first how did you get how did you

98

00:04:11,670 --> 00:04:09,280

get in the army at 15

99

00:04:12,630 --> 00:04:11,680

well i one of the pictures that i sent

100

00:04:15,270 --> 00:04:12,640

you

101
00:04:17,030 --> 00:04:15,280
also has my older brother in it and he

102
00:04:21,590 --> 00:04:17,040
was a few years older than i was

103
00:04:24,629 --> 00:04:21,600
and i borrowed his birth certificate

104
00:04:28,070 --> 00:04:24,639
and his social security card and

105
00:04:29,670 --> 00:04:28,080
stole an id from that

106
00:04:31,430 --> 00:04:29,680
shop in the school where you buy your

107
00:04:32,950 --> 00:04:31,440
pencils and your paper and everything

108
00:04:35,430 --> 00:04:32,960
else and i

109
00:04:35,990 --> 00:04:35,440
forged it and that's how i i went out on

110
00:04:39,030 --> 00:04:36,000
the road

111
00:04:43,030 --> 00:04:39,040
and believe it or not uh

112
00:04:44,550 --> 00:04:43,040
within 48 hours of my arriving in miami

113
00:04:47,670 --> 00:04:44,560

i had to use that

114

00:04:50,550 --> 00:04:47,680

fake id and uh

115

00:04:53,510 --> 00:04:50,560

i was i had signed a contract with the

116

00:04:56,310 --> 00:04:53,520

army and they were going to send me to a

117

00:04:57,590 --> 00:04:56,320

weapons base in germany and i was pretty

118

00:04:59,350 --> 00:04:57,600

happy with it i didn't realize that

119

00:05:00,870 --> 00:04:59,360

there was a background check that was

120

00:05:04,230 --> 00:05:00,880

actually going to go with that

121

00:05:06,550 --> 00:05:04,240

so uh the

122

00:05:07,990 --> 00:05:06,560

day after i graduated boot camp i went

123

00:05:08,550 --> 00:05:08,000

to pick up my orders and there were a

124

00:05:10,469 --> 00:05:08,560

couple of

125

00:05:12,150 --> 00:05:10,479

mps standing in the first sergeant's

126

00:05:13,830 --> 00:05:12,160

office and i walked in there i looked at

127

00:05:15,670 --> 00:05:13,840

the mps and i went

128

00:05:17,590 --> 00:05:15,680

uh i wonder if this is a standard

129

00:05:20,469 --> 00:05:17,600

procedure first sergeant just sat there

130

00:05:23,110 --> 00:05:20,479

and smiled he says

131

00:05:24,150 --> 00:05:23,120

we don't know who you are but we know

132

00:05:26,790 --> 00:05:24,160

who you're not

133

00:05:28,710 --> 00:05:26,800

all right because the fingerprints uh

134

00:05:31,830 --> 00:05:28,720

didn't add up

135

00:05:33,350 --> 00:05:31,840

a long story short um i was a good

136

00:05:36,950 --> 00:05:33,360

soldier

137

00:05:37,990 --> 00:05:36,960

and as time went by they realized that i

138

00:05:40,070 --> 00:05:38,000

really had nothing to go

139

00:05:41,029 --> 00:05:40,080

back to so they they were hanging on to

140

00:05:43,749 --> 00:05:41,039

me but

141

00:05:45,350 --> 00:05:43,759

um it's tough to keep secrets in the

142

00:05:47,430 --> 00:05:45,360

barracks

143

00:05:48,870 --> 00:05:47,440

i was passing out weapons in the armory

144

00:05:51,350 --> 00:05:48,880

and next thing you know

145

00:05:53,749 --> 00:05:51,360

they paid me and dropped me off at the

146

00:05:57,110 --> 00:05:53,759

gate wright's town

147

00:06:01,830 --> 00:05:57,120

and um a few weeks later

148

00:06:05,430 --> 00:06:01,840

i was back in miami and uh

149

00:06:07,110 --> 00:06:05,440

did the sailing the seventh seas staying

150

00:06:09,110 --> 00:06:07,120

for a few more years and

151
00:06:11,670 --> 00:06:09,120
a good friend of mine we've talked about

152
00:06:14,629 --> 00:06:11,680
this privately

153
00:06:16,309 --> 00:06:14,639
i had come back off a voyage from

154
00:06:19,590 --> 00:06:16,319
trinidad and tobago

155
00:06:22,230 --> 00:06:19,600
a port of spain my girlfriend had died

156
00:06:26,150 --> 00:06:22,240
of a heroin overdose

157
00:06:31,900 --> 00:06:27,749
going to albany new york and then

158
00:06:34,790 --> 00:06:33,029
[Music]

159
00:06:37,350 --> 00:06:34,800
i was 20 years old in that photograph

160
00:06:39,990 --> 00:06:37,360
there i turned 21

161
00:06:41,590 --> 00:06:40,000
on paris island you were you're a

162
00:06:43,590 --> 00:06:41,600
good-looking guy i mean you're still a

163
00:06:45,990 --> 00:06:43,600

good-looking guy but

164

00:06:47,270 --> 00:06:46,000

i still have my rugged good looks yeah

165

00:06:48,390 --> 00:06:47,280

that's one of my favorite pictures you

166

00:06:49,990 --> 00:06:48,400

sent me

167

00:06:51,430 --> 00:06:50,000

a few you could tell the difference in

168

00:06:54,230 --> 00:06:51,440

my attitude what

169

00:06:56,390 --> 00:06:54,240

five years difference will make like i

170

00:07:00,150 --> 00:06:56,400

said i was a smart ass at 15

171

00:07:04,390 --> 00:07:00,160

and the marine corps

172

00:07:06,230 --> 00:07:04,400

kind of that smart ass out of me

173

00:07:08,469 --> 00:07:06,240

so i did a four year stint in the

174

00:07:09,430 --> 00:07:08,479

marines came out a non-commissioned

175

00:07:11,830 --> 00:07:09,440

officer

176

00:07:13,589 --> 00:07:11,840

came back to the place of my birth and

177

00:07:16,950 --> 00:07:13,599

set out to find a job

178

00:07:18,469 --> 00:07:16,960

and it wasn't easy because

179

00:07:20,950 --> 00:07:18,479

this area up here is economically

180

00:07:25,029 --> 00:07:20,960

depressed it always has been

181

00:07:26,469 --> 00:07:25,039

um i did a bunch of odd jobs

182

00:07:28,309 --> 00:07:26,479

for the next year and a half and then i

183

00:07:28,950 --> 00:07:28,319

got picked up by the fire service it was

184

00:07:32,230 --> 00:07:28,960

may

185

00:07:36,790 --> 00:07:32,240

27 1987.

186

00:07:37,670 --> 00:07:36,800

um i went to the fire academy at montour

187

00:07:39,909 --> 00:07:37,680

falls

188

00:07:41,110 --> 00:07:39,919

in new york state i want to say that

189

00:07:44,309 --> 00:07:41,120

summer

190

00:07:47,909 --> 00:07:44,319

a three-month academy and

191

00:07:50,869 --> 00:07:47,919

i we call it molding into the fold i

192

00:07:53,589 --> 00:07:50,879

went back and started doing my job

193

00:07:55,270 --> 00:07:53,599

now i had learned a scuba dive actually

194

00:07:56,309 --> 00:07:55,280

the first time i'd ever scuba dived was

195

00:07:57,909 --> 00:07:56,319

in a place called st

196

00:07:59,430 --> 00:07:57,919

martin it's in the netherlands in

197

00:08:02,469 --> 00:07:59,440

tilly's

198

00:08:06,629 --> 00:08:02,479

and while i was in the marine corps i

199

00:08:10,309 --> 00:08:06,639

i certified for scuba and i also

200

00:08:12,230 --> 00:08:10,319

certified for parachuting and when i

201
00:08:13,909 --> 00:08:12,240
joined the fire service i thought that

202
00:08:16,070 --> 00:08:13,919
the diving we

203
00:08:18,150 --> 00:08:16,080
lived in a community of rivers and

204
00:08:21,830 --> 00:08:18,160
bridges

205
00:08:24,869 --> 00:08:23,749
a gift that i could i could make to my

206
00:08:27,909 --> 00:08:24,879
community we

207
00:08:29,350 --> 00:08:27,919
we people drown up here all the time we

208
00:08:31,350 --> 00:08:29,360
have smugglers that punch through the

209
00:08:35,589 --> 00:08:31,360
ice

210
00:08:40,230 --> 00:08:38,389
oh that was one of my specialties i also

211
00:08:42,709 --> 00:08:40,240
i took a lot of different schools

212
00:08:45,590 --> 00:08:42,719
associated with the fire service things

213
00:08:48,870 --> 00:08:45,600

like high angle rope rescue

214

00:08:52,310 --> 00:08:51,509

swift water rescue diving and included

215

00:08:54,870 --> 00:08:52,320

environments

216

00:08:56,949 --> 00:08:54,880

hazardous materials aircraft recovery

217

00:09:00,230 --> 00:08:56,959

evidence recovery

218

00:09:01,829 --> 00:09:00,240

just about everything you think of and

219

00:09:04,150 --> 00:09:01,839

when they put me on a performance of

220

00:09:06,829 --> 00:09:04,160

duty disability

221

00:09:08,070 --> 00:09:06,839

i retired out as a public safety diving

222

00:09:10,230 --> 00:09:08,080

supervisor

223

00:09:14,710 --> 00:09:10,240

in the recreational field i had my dive

224

00:09:21,590 --> 00:09:18,710

and i was teaching dive rescue

225

00:09:23,269 --> 00:09:21,600

so it was an interesting job it was the

226

00:09:24,389 --> 00:09:23,279

best job i ever had and the worst job i

227

00:09:27,430 --> 00:09:24,399

ever had for

228

00:09:31,430 --> 00:09:27,440

i'm sure you understand all right

229

00:09:37,670 --> 00:09:31,440

so fast forward to july 26th

230

00:09:40,630 --> 00:09:37,680

1989 july 26 1989

231

00:09:41,590 --> 00:09:40,640

um i was just coming off a night shift

232

00:09:44,790 --> 00:09:41,600

and

233

00:09:47,990 --> 00:09:44,800

a ship navigating an

234

00:09:49,590 --> 00:09:48,000

international waterway struck the

235

00:09:51,509 --> 00:09:49,600

entrance

236

00:09:52,870 --> 00:09:51,519

while coming into one of the locks up

237

00:09:56,070 --> 00:09:52,880

here breached a tall

238

00:10:00,070 --> 00:09:56,080

started spilling a chemical that

239

00:10:03,430 --> 00:10:00,080

is commonly used in paint stripper

240

00:10:07,430 --> 00:10:03,440

extremely flammable the

241

00:10:09,509 --> 00:10:07,440

vapor is heavier than air so it um

242

00:10:10,949 --> 00:10:09,519

floats over the ground and collects in

243

00:10:12,790 --> 00:10:10,959

shallow areas like ditches

244

00:10:14,310 --> 00:10:12,800

and things like that and the truck that

245

00:10:17,190 --> 00:10:14,320

i took out

246

00:10:20,150 --> 00:10:17,200

uh was used to establish a half mile

247

00:10:22,389 --> 00:10:20,160

perimeter around the spill

248

00:10:23,990 --> 00:10:22,399

and uh for 16 hours it's called an idea

249

00:10:27,910 --> 00:10:24,000

immediate danger to life and health

250

00:10:30,949 --> 00:10:27,920

for 16 hours from dawn until

251
00:10:32,470 --> 00:10:30,959
16 hours later whenever that was i was

252
00:10:36,230 --> 00:10:32,480
in

253
00:10:38,949 --> 00:10:36,240
chemical

254
00:10:41,190 --> 00:10:38,959
i'd go to the cooler and wash my face

255
00:10:45,110 --> 00:10:41,200
wet down my shirt

256
00:10:47,829 --> 00:10:45,120
but there was no escaping the vapor

257
00:10:49,030 --> 00:10:47,839
uh a couple days later i mean after the

258
00:10:50,470 --> 00:10:49,040
hull was packed

259
00:10:53,110 --> 00:10:50,480
when that was going on did you have any

260
00:10:54,550 --> 00:10:53,120
suspicions that this was not healthy i

261
00:10:55,269 --> 00:10:54,560
mean obviously you're in a situation

262
00:10:58,150 --> 00:10:55,279
like that but

263
00:10:58,790 --> 00:10:58,160

were you thinking or just doing your job

264

00:11:01,190 --> 00:10:58,800

it's called an

265

00:11:01,910 --> 00:11:01,200

insult firefighters will understand that

266

00:11:05,110 --> 00:11:01,920

term

267

00:11:06,790 --> 00:11:05,120

uh the insult to my entire body my my

268

00:11:08,630 --> 00:11:06,800

immune system everything

269

00:11:09,990 --> 00:11:08,640

and i i really didn't pay any attention

270

00:11:11,990 --> 00:11:10,000

to it like everybody else

271

00:11:13,030 --> 00:11:12,000

just he decide relief that the ship

272

00:11:16,069 --> 00:11:13,040

didn't blow up

273

00:11:18,710 --> 00:11:16,079

it was carrying 15 000 metric tons of

274

00:11:22,870 --> 00:11:18,720

xylene 15 000 metric tons of

275

00:11:24,630 --> 00:11:22,880

toweling and 15 000 metric tons of towel

276
00:11:26,230 --> 00:11:24,640
basically all the ingredients you need

277
00:11:28,230 --> 00:11:26,240
for a bomb

278
00:11:30,470 --> 00:11:28,240
and the temperature that day was in the

279
00:11:32,550 --> 00:11:30,480
mid to high 80s

280
00:11:33,829 --> 00:11:32,560
and the only thing that kept that thing

281
00:11:35,590 --> 00:11:33,839
from blowing up was the temperature of

282
00:11:39,269 --> 00:11:35,600
the water which was

283
00:11:42,630 --> 00:11:39,279
somewhere between 65 66 degrees

284
00:11:44,069 --> 00:11:42,640
i didn't dive on that but i spent 16

285
00:11:46,949 --> 00:11:44,079
hours breathing it

286
00:11:49,030 --> 00:11:46,959
and being exposed to it and two days

287
00:11:52,470 --> 00:11:49,040
about two days later

288
00:11:54,710 --> 00:11:52,480

um all of my exposed skin skin

289

00:11:57,110 --> 00:11:54,720

powdered i just turned white i look like

290

00:12:01,269 --> 00:11:57,120

casper the friendly ghost

291

00:12:03,030 --> 00:12:01,279

and for the next month or two i had

292

00:12:04,949 --> 00:12:03,040

spontaneous nosebleeds i couldn't

293

00:12:06,870 --> 00:12:04,959

control and i

294

00:12:08,310 --> 00:12:06,880

i'm going like what the hell did i get

295

00:12:11,990 --> 00:12:08,320

into

296

00:12:14,550 --> 00:12:12,000

and that was july 26th that fall

297

00:12:15,110 --> 00:12:14,560

we had uh some of our guys start to die

298

00:12:19,269 --> 00:12:15,120

off

299

00:12:21,509 --> 00:12:19,279

guys that had been at the spill and um

300

00:12:23,829 --> 00:12:21,519

they had already had a lifetime of

301
00:12:25,829 --> 00:12:23,839
insults

302
00:12:27,350 --> 00:12:25,839
and we even had a name for it was called

303
00:12:30,550 --> 00:12:27,360
winter kill

304
00:12:33,509 --> 00:12:30,560
and guys who were already sick or

305
00:12:35,030 --> 00:12:33,519
just started dying on us and you know

306
00:12:36,389 --> 00:12:35,040
did you make the connection right away i

307
00:12:38,790 --> 00:12:36,399
mean did you make a connection to that

308
00:12:40,710 --> 00:12:38,800
to the spill and them dying or no

309
00:12:41,990 --> 00:12:40,720
well i'll tell you what a lot of people

310
00:12:45,829 --> 00:12:42,000
did but

311
00:12:47,990 --> 00:12:45,839
um you just kind of go on you move and

312
00:12:49,590 --> 00:12:48,000
and you move forward and you kind of put

313
00:12:52,470 --> 00:12:49,600

that stuff in the back of your head

314

00:12:52,949 --> 00:12:52,480

and it wasn't until two uh two years

315

00:12:55,190 --> 00:12:52,959

later

316

00:12:56,230 --> 00:12:55,200

actually it'll be 30 years on friday it

317

00:12:59,030 --> 00:12:56,240

was my birthday

318

00:13:00,550 --> 00:12:59,040

fire remember so clearly i woke up in a

319

00:13:03,590 --> 00:13:00,560

puddle of blood

320

00:13:05,190 --> 00:13:03,600

um a tumor the size of a between a 50

321

00:13:07,030 --> 00:13:05,200

cent piece and a core it was pretty

322

00:13:08,629 --> 00:13:07,040

large had slopped off during the night

323

00:13:10,629 --> 00:13:08,639

and bled unchecked

324

00:13:12,629 --> 00:13:10,639

painless i didn't even know it was there

325

00:13:13,670 --> 00:13:12,639

got a scar beautiful scar right here on

326

00:13:16,870 --> 00:13:13,680

my left shoulder

327

00:13:17,670 --> 00:13:16,880

i'm not sure and tell but um so i went

328

00:13:19,190 --> 00:13:17,680

to my doctor

329

00:13:20,949 --> 00:13:19,200

my wife thought i'd been stabbed in my

330

00:13:21,670 --> 00:13:20,959

sleep so i went to my family's physician

331

00:13:25,590 --> 00:13:21,680

got in

332

00:13:28,389 --> 00:13:25,600

in that same day he excised the tumor

333

00:13:29,590 --> 00:13:28,399

what was left of it and sewed me up and

334

00:13:30,710 --> 00:13:29,600

said go back 10 days and get the

335

00:13:33,910 --> 00:13:30,720

stitches though

336

00:13:34,790 --> 00:13:33,920

i went back 10 days later and the tumor

337

00:13:37,110 --> 00:13:34,800

had emerged

338

00:13:38,550 --> 00:13:37,120

re-emerged right through the stitches so

339

00:13:39,189 --> 00:13:38,560

he didn't bother taking the stitches out

340

00:13:43,350 --> 00:13:39,199

he just

341

00:13:45,430 --> 00:13:43,360

took a bigger chunk and um

342

00:13:46,870 --> 00:13:45,440

he did a better look at me he took a

343

00:13:48,470 --> 00:13:46,880

better look at me says what the hell did

344

00:13:51,509 --> 00:13:48,480

you get into

345

00:13:53,509 --> 00:13:51,519

when i took my shirt off i was i had

346

00:13:55,910 --> 00:13:53,519

i don't know a dozen dozen a half more

347

00:13:57,750 --> 00:13:55,920

tumors i didn't know where that

348

00:14:00,870 --> 00:13:57,760

so he says you need to see a specialist

349

00:14:04,069 --> 00:14:00,880

there's a new one in pot stamp

350

00:14:05,829 --> 00:14:04,079

and he sent me to him um and he

351
00:14:07,750 --> 00:14:05,839
he's been my dermatologist for the past

352
00:14:09,590 --> 00:14:07,760
30 years he just retired this year i was

353
00:14:12,550 --> 00:14:09,600
one of his first patients

354
00:14:14,629 --> 00:14:12,560
and he watched what happened he probably

355
00:14:16,310 --> 00:14:14,639
cut me

356
00:14:18,150 --> 00:14:16,320
i don't know i lost count i stopped

357
00:14:21,509 --> 00:14:18,160
counting at 150 surgeries

358
00:14:25,030 --> 00:14:21,519
some were simple scoops i've had uh

359
00:14:29,910 --> 00:14:25,040
mohs surgery uh skin grafts

360
00:14:32,389 --> 00:14:29,920
um i've had it all i've got i've taken

361
00:14:33,350 --> 00:14:32,399
over 700 stitches in the past 30 years

362
00:14:37,269 --> 00:14:33,360
so

363
00:14:41,269 --> 00:14:37,279

that's a real thing now

364

00:14:44,150 --> 00:14:41,279

after i'd say about

365

00:14:45,030 --> 00:14:44,160

a year after that first tumor was

366

00:14:48,310 --> 00:14:45,040

removed

367

00:14:50,790 --> 00:14:48,320

my employer started buying articles of

368

00:14:53,189 --> 00:14:50,800

medical device clothing for me to wear

369

00:14:55,910 --> 00:14:53,199

as part of my uniform

370

00:14:58,470 --> 00:14:55,920

one of the most flammable fabrics in the

371

00:15:01,189 --> 00:14:58,480

world and you got a fireman

372

00:15:02,389 --> 00:15:01,199

uh wearing him you know part of his

373

00:15:04,870 --> 00:15:02,399

uniform so

374

00:15:05,990 --> 00:15:04,880

that what why did he bought it for the

375

00:15:06,790 --> 00:15:06,000

group or he bought it for you

376

00:15:09,910 --> 00:15:06,800

specifically

377

00:15:13,350 --> 00:15:09,920

they bought it for me by within a year i

378

00:15:15,030 --> 00:15:13,360

had i don't know maybe 30 40 surgeries

379

00:15:17,750 --> 00:15:15,040

so it was for it was to protect your

380

00:15:25,430 --> 00:15:17,760

skin so you didn't irritate your skin

381

00:15:30,230 --> 00:15:28,150

and we lost michael we had this problem

382

00:15:31,990 --> 00:15:30,240

earlier today

383

00:15:33,430 --> 00:15:32,000

and it usually took him a couple there

384

00:15:38,389 --> 00:15:33,440

you know i'll see the course of

385

00:15:43,030 --> 00:15:41,269

yeah but for some reason and that that

386

00:15:44,389 --> 00:15:43,040

led into a couple of other things too i

387

00:15:46,389 --> 00:15:44,399

didn't really

388

00:15:47,829 --> 00:15:46,399

pay much attention to it partly because

389

00:15:56,069 --> 00:15:47,839

uh

390

00:15:58,949 --> 00:15:56,079

yeah so i can understand you know the

391

00:16:01,030 --> 00:15:58,959

marine corps gave me the greatest

392

00:16:02,389 --> 00:16:01,040

gift i've ever had from a military

393

00:16:03,670 --> 00:16:02,399

standpoint my life they gave me their

394

00:16:06,829 --> 00:16:03,680

motto which is adapt

395

00:16:10,710 --> 00:16:06,839

improvise and overcome and i loved my

396

00:16:15,030 --> 00:16:13,829

we're losing you michael i'm so i took

397

00:16:18,790 --> 00:16:15,040

it on the chair i kept on

398

00:16:20,470 --> 00:16:18,800

doing and uh can you steal me

399

00:16:21,990 --> 00:16:20,480

yeah you're going in and out your signal

400

00:16:23,670 --> 00:16:22,000

is really nice can you hear me

401

00:16:31,110 --> 00:16:23,680

yeah i can hear you we're losing you

402

00:16:35,269 --> 00:16:33,749

he had issues earlier today and we just

403

00:16:37,990 --> 00:16:35,279

lost him

404

00:16:39,670 --> 00:16:38,000

so if we don't get michael back in a

405

00:16:43,030 --> 00:16:39,680

couple of minutes

406

00:16:44,790 --> 00:16:43,040

i will bring in our other guest in

407

00:16:46,389 --> 00:16:44,800

um we'll give him a couple of minutes so

408

00:16:48,150 --> 00:16:46,399

yeah i met michael a couple of a couple

409

00:16:51,509 --> 00:16:48,160

of years ago and

410

00:16:53,910 --> 00:16:51,519

i think most of you have read the story

411

00:16:55,509 --> 00:16:53,920

written by the in the the priest's

412

00:16:57,749 --> 00:16:55,519

viewpoint from his viewpoint

413

00:16:59,189 --> 00:16:57,759

and that's what really when i read that

414

00:17:00,150 --> 00:16:59,199

it's just amazing there's just so many

415

00:17:01,990 --> 00:17:00,160

details where

416

00:17:03,269 --> 00:17:02,000

i was like this is amazing this happened

417

00:17:05,750 --> 00:17:03,279

and i know a lot of people don't know

418

00:17:06,549 --> 00:17:05,760

what this is and hopefully we'll get

419

00:17:11,590 --> 00:17:06,559

michael back

420

00:17:14,549 --> 00:17:11,600

soon if not we'll go to plan b

421

00:17:15,909 --> 00:17:14,559

and um i'll go back to one one other

422

00:17:18,710 --> 00:17:15,919

picture

423

00:17:19,110 --> 00:17:18,720

that he sent me when this is actually

424

00:17:22,949 --> 00:17:19,120

not

425

00:17:33,029 --> 00:17:25,990

him it's him at the top right

426
00:17:35,830 --> 00:17:33,039
he's not repelling there and um

427
00:17:37,909 --> 00:17:35,840
the next step is what happened as his

428
00:17:42,150 --> 00:17:37,919
health deteriorated

429
00:17:45,990 --> 00:17:42,160
and i may go to plan b

430
00:17:48,950 --> 00:17:46,000
right now which i'm going to try

431
00:17:51,990 --> 00:17:48,960
to do so and michael could pick it up

432
00:17:58,789 --> 00:17:55,590
father demetrius and moratas

433
00:18:02,390 --> 00:18:01,029
glad you could be here michael is here

434
00:18:03,270 --> 00:18:02,400
so i will add him in i'm going to keep

435
00:18:06,470 --> 00:18:03,280
all of us in

436
00:18:10,470 --> 00:18:06,480
let's see if we can hear him michael

437
00:18:14,070 --> 00:18:10,480
he's still not back um

438
00:18:17,350 --> 00:18:14,080

so i will pick it up how did you meet

439

00:18:21,669 --> 00:18:17,360

michael and when

440

00:18:30,310 --> 00:18:27,430

november 11th 2013

441

00:18:30,870 --> 00:18:30,320

having been a contracted army chaplain

442

00:18:32,950 --> 00:18:30,880

uh

443

00:18:34,070 --> 00:18:32,960

the american legion in the town of

444

00:18:36,630 --> 00:18:34,080

greenlawn

445

00:18:37,750 --> 00:18:36,640

uh reached out to me and asked me on

446

00:18:40,070 --> 00:18:37,760

several occasions

447

00:18:41,350 --> 00:18:40,080

many years earlier if i would offer

448

00:18:45,430 --> 00:18:41,360

their prayer during

449

00:18:48,630 --> 00:18:45,440

the veterans day parade or

450

00:18:51,750 --> 00:18:48,640

memorial service i should say um on

451
00:18:53,990 --> 00:18:51,760
uh on veterans day and so

452
00:18:55,590 --> 00:18:54,000
uh i i would do that every year but on

453
00:18:57,990 --> 00:18:55,600
this particular year

454
00:18:59,990 --> 00:18:58,000
and they had a wonderful custom of uh

455
00:19:02,789 --> 00:19:00,000
after the prayer

456
00:19:03,830 --> 00:19:02,799
all those who have served were given a

457
00:19:05,430 --> 00:19:03,840
free meal

458
00:19:07,029 --> 00:19:05,440
at applebee's which is a really nice

459
00:19:10,070 --> 00:19:07,039
thing that they do so

460
00:19:13,110 --> 00:19:10,080
um everybody went to applebee's to

461
00:19:14,789 --> 00:19:13,120
uh share in that meal and it was then uh

462
00:19:18,630 --> 00:19:14,799
for the first time really that i met

463
00:19:20,390 --> 00:19:18,640

michael um the um

464

00:19:21,669 --> 00:19:20,400

the person in charge basically said

465

00:19:24,470 --> 00:19:21,679

father dimitro i want you to

466

00:19:25,750 --> 00:19:24,480

meet michael and you know i i noticed

467

00:19:27,110 --> 00:19:25,760

him from a distance but i didn't have a

468

00:19:30,310 --> 00:19:27,120

conversation he was a

469

00:19:33,669 --> 00:19:30,320

a man with uh dark sunglasses and uh

470

00:19:36,230 --> 00:19:33,679

a walking stick but uh when i went to uh

471

00:19:37,270 --> 00:19:36,240

meet him i um and that's the day you met

472

00:19:38,789 --> 00:19:37,280

i know this is

473

00:19:41,830 --> 00:19:38,799

i know the day you met this is this

474

00:19:46,630 --> 00:19:44,390

right and that is that is the area in

475

00:19:47,430 --> 00:19:46,640

green lawn the uh little triangle there

476

00:19:50,470 --> 00:19:47,440

by main by

477

00:19:53,590 --> 00:19:50,480

uh pulaski road where they have the

478

00:19:54,950 --> 00:19:53,600

uh veterans day prayer service

479

00:19:56,789 --> 00:19:54,960

and that's long island new york what

480

00:19:58,470 --> 00:19:56,799

part of what part of long island that's

481

00:20:01,590 --> 00:19:58,480

in the town of huntington and

482

00:20:03,029 --> 00:20:01,600

uh and and the the village or the town

483

00:20:06,149 --> 00:20:03,039

the city is greenlawn

484

00:20:08,310 --> 00:20:06,159

within the town of huntington i just

485

00:20:10,310 --> 00:20:08,320

i would exit 51 in the long island

486

00:20:11,990 --> 00:20:10,320

expressway for those who are new yorkers

487

00:20:13,669 --> 00:20:12,000

so yeah so that's like an hour from new

488

00:20:15,669 --> 00:20:13,679

york city about yeah yeah just on the

489

00:20:17,669 --> 00:20:15,679

other side of the nassau suffolk border

490

00:20:19,110 --> 00:20:17,679

heading east towards the hamptons but

491

00:20:22,789 --> 00:20:19,120

not as rich

492

00:20:26,630 --> 00:20:22,799

okay so uh it was there and and um

493

00:20:28,549 --> 00:20:26,640

just one michael are you here audio wise

494

00:20:29,750 --> 00:20:28,559

no all right keep going sorry all right

495

00:20:32,789 --> 00:20:29,760

sure so

496

00:20:34,950 --> 00:20:32,799

um when i was introduced i shook his

497

00:20:35,990 --> 00:20:34,960

hand and you know was it was something

498

00:20:40,310 --> 00:20:36,000

very

499

00:20:41,990 --> 00:20:40,320

weird there we go there he is michael

500

00:20:43,909 --> 00:20:42,000

hello padre it's good to see you i'm

501
00:20:45,830 --> 00:20:43,919
sorry i missed you in long island

502
00:20:47,110 --> 00:20:45,840
cindy and i if i had known you were

503
00:20:48,149 --> 00:20:47,120
going to be there on saturday we would

504
00:20:49,909 --> 00:20:48,159
have been there with belgrade

505
00:20:51,510 --> 00:20:49,919
it was it was a drive-by i literally

506
00:20:53,430 --> 00:20:51,520
drove from new hampshire

507
00:20:56,230 --> 00:20:53,440
down to do a wedding and i drove right

508
00:20:59,510 --> 00:20:56,240
back uh michael why don't you continue

509
00:21:00,950 --> 00:20:59,520
um i i know that um we

510
00:21:02,710 --> 00:21:00,960
i was just talking about the day that i

511
00:21:06,390 --> 00:21:02,720
met you but maybe you can go back

512
00:21:09,590 --> 00:21:06,400
and discuss some of the you know when

513
00:21:13,430 --> 00:21:12,710

well the first episode where i lost my

514

00:21:16,950 --> 00:21:13,440

vision was in

515

00:21:18,310 --> 00:21:16,960

the year 2000 i had left the grocery

516

00:21:19,669 --> 00:21:18,320

store my daughter my youngest daughter

517

00:21:21,909 --> 00:21:19,679

was with me

518

00:21:23,669 --> 00:21:21,919

and i was doing about 20 25 miles an

519

00:21:26,950 --> 00:21:23,679

hour approaching an intersection

520

00:21:28,870 --> 00:21:26,960

and i threw up all over myself and my

521

00:21:33,510 --> 00:21:28,880

vision completely blurred out and

522

00:21:36,789 --> 00:21:36,390

i got out put it in park got out and i

523

00:21:41,029 --> 00:21:36,799

couldn't

524

00:21:43,430 --> 00:21:41,039

out and the guy at first he thought

525

00:21:45,270 --> 00:21:43,440

maybe it was 10 o'clock in the morning

526

00:21:46,950 --> 00:21:45,280

i told him i think i'm having a medical

527

00:21:50,230 --> 00:21:46,960

episode or something

528

00:21:52,149 --> 00:21:50,240

long story short um i got my

529

00:21:53,510 --> 00:21:52,159

i got home got my daughter home got my

530

00:21:55,990 --> 00:21:53,520

truck home

531

00:21:58,310 --> 00:21:56,000

and uh i went and laid down and the next

532

00:22:01,350 --> 00:21:58,320

day i felt fine

533

00:22:04,870 --> 00:22:04,310

in 2000 what year was that when that

534

00:22:08,310 --> 00:22:04,880

happened

535

00:22:10,470 --> 00:22:08,320

that was year 2000 okay one of

536

00:22:12,630 --> 00:22:10,480

the things that i noticed was i felt

537

00:22:14,470 --> 00:22:12,640

very very nauseous sticking my stomach

538

00:22:17,669 --> 00:22:14,480

in the detergent

539

00:22:20,470 --> 00:22:17,679

and uh i don't i don't go to the

540

00:22:23,990 --> 00:22:20,480

detergent aisle anymore i let cindy go

541

00:22:26,070 --> 00:22:24,000

so i have i have the spill in the back

542

00:22:29,590 --> 00:22:26,080

of my mind and

543

00:22:31,669 --> 00:22:29,600

i've had thousands of calls and i've had

544

00:22:33,750 --> 00:22:31,679

thousands of insults to my immune system

545

00:22:34,950 --> 00:22:33,760

and everything else so

546

00:22:36,870 --> 00:22:34,960

one of the things that they teach you at

547

00:22:41,110 --> 00:22:36,880

the fire academy is that there are some

548

00:22:42,630 --> 00:22:41,120

occupational risks associated with fire

549

00:22:44,630 --> 00:22:42,640

burning to death is the least of them

550

00:22:46,149 --> 00:22:44,640

can't there's a big one

551
00:22:47,669 --> 00:22:46,159
trust me and there's a lot of guys who

552
00:22:51,270 --> 00:22:47,679
die from it

553
00:22:53,270 --> 00:22:51,280
so i really i didn't like i said i was

554
00:22:54,070 --> 00:22:53,280
more scared than anything i i didn't

555
00:22:56,310 --> 00:22:54,080
want to focus

556
00:22:57,909 --> 00:22:56,320
on on that episode so i just like i said

557
00:22:58,789 --> 00:22:57,919
adapt and provides overcome i went home

558
00:23:00,070 --> 00:22:58,799
cleaned up

559
00:23:03,669 --> 00:23:00,080
went and laid down and the next day i

560
00:23:06,470 --> 00:23:03,679
felt fine and i was in 2000

561
00:23:08,310 --> 00:23:06,480
uh i met cindy i had lost my wife the

562
00:23:10,870 --> 00:23:08,320
year before i was a single parent

563
00:23:12,710 --> 00:23:10,880

i met sam it was actually my 11 year old

564

00:23:14,230 --> 00:23:12,720

daughter's idea to jump on the internet

565

00:23:16,390 --> 00:23:14,240

and join a dating club

566

00:23:18,230 --> 00:23:16,400

she said i wasn't having any luck in the

567

00:23:21,590 --> 00:23:18,240

frozen produce section

568

00:23:23,669 --> 00:23:21,600

at pnc so so she helped me sign up and

569

00:23:25,510 --> 00:23:23,679

and that's where i met cindy and we had

570

00:23:27,270 --> 00:23:25,520

an eight month over the phone

571

00:23:29,270 --> 00:23:27,280

on the internet romance and then finally

572

00:23:33,029 --> 00:23:29,280

we agreed that she'd come and visit me

573

00:23:37,350 --> 00:23:33,039

and and see how we got along

574

00:23:40,549 --> 00:23:37,360

and um i want to say that

575

00:23:43,430 --> 00:23:40,559

summer i had my second loss of vision uh

576

00:23:44,070 --> 00:23:43,440

i was backing out of a friend's driveway

577

00:23:46,230 --> 00:23:44,080

and

578

00:23:49,350 --> 00:23:46,240

completely lost it again you know my

579

00:23:52,710 --> 00:23:49,360

vision blurred completely out

580

00:23:53,430 --> 00:23:52,720

that flush drew up took out the head of

581

00:23:57,510 --> 00:23:53,440

his

582

00:24:01,110 --> 00:23:57,520

well and uh put a nice dent in my truck

583

00:24:04,390 --> 00:24:01,120

and cindy drove us home

584

00:24:09,110 --> 00:24:04,400

and um

585

00:24:11,430 --> 00:24:09,120

it was uh i want to say 2002 cindy and i

586

00:24:13,110 --> 00:24:11,440

argue about this it could have been 2003

587

00:24:15,269 --> 00:24:13,120

but um

588

00:24:16,950 --> 00:24:15,279

i think it was 2002 cindy and i drove to

589

00:24:18,470 --> 00:24:16,960

pennsylvania to meet up with an army

590

00:24:20,149 --> 00:24:18,480

ranger buddy of mine that i've known all

591

00:24:21,909 --> 00:24:20,159

my life and

592

00:24:23,590 --> 00:24:21,919

we had to go to oil city we were in the

593

00:24:27,110 --> 00:24:23,600

vicinity in franklin county

594

00:24:28,950 --> 00:24:27,120

uh cooperstown so we took

595

00:24:30,870 --> 00:24:28,960

charlotte cindy and i and we drove to

596

00:24:34,630 --> 00:24:30,880

oil city and on the way back i had

597

00:24:36,710 --> 00:24:34,640

another episode where but this time i

598

00:24:39,830 --> 00:24:36,720

was doing 60 miles an hour and i nearly

599

00:24:42,950 --> 00:24:39,840

killed cindy and charlotte

600

00:24:45,269 --> 00:24:42,960

you know in that moment so she took the

601
00:24:49,510 --> 00:24:45,279
keys away from me

602
00:24:51,110 --> 00:24:49,520
it was june i want to say 2003 maybe

603
00:24:52,549 --> 00:24:51,120
i was already out of work the doctor

604
00:24:56,549 --> 00:24:52,559
disabled me and

605
00:24:59,350 --> 00:24:56,559
the process was working and i had to

606
00:25:01,909 --> 00:24:59,360
renew my driver's license and

607
00:25:04,950 --> 00:25:01,919
[Music]

608
00:25:06,710 --> 00:25:04,960
i couldn't pass the eye test so they

609
00:25:08,630 --> 00:25:06,720
sent me to a couple eye doctors i was

610
00:25:11,510 --> 00:25:08,640
diagnosed with

611
00:25:13,350 --> 00:25:11,520
binasal hemopsia also known as left

612
00:25:16,390 --> 00:25:13,360
incongruous hemiaceta

613
00:25:16,870 --> 00:25:16,400

and that's where this huge spot in your

614

00:25:19,029 --> 00:25:16,880

vision

615

00:25:20,789 --> 00:25:19,039

forms you can see out the periphery of

616

00:25:22,549 --> 00:25:20,799

your eyes and i got in the habit of

617

00:25:24,470 --> 00:25:22,559

doing this all the time looking looking

618

00:25:27,830 --> 00:25:24,480

out the corner of my eye

619

00:25:28,230 --> 00:25:27,840

because there was this this like a mist

620

00:25:31,990 --> 00:25:28,240

or

621

00:25:35,430 --> 00:25:32,000

field of vision

622

00:25:40,830 --> 00:25:37,990

i'm ashamed to admit this but i was

623

00:25:44,549 --> 00:25:40,840

putting other people's lives at risk

624

00:25:48,230 --> 00:25:44,559

by failing to acknowledge

625

00:25:56,789 --> 00:25:48,240

uh what i was terrified of that i was

626
00:26:01,669 --> 00:25:56,799
calling blind um

627
00:26:03,669 --> 00:26:01,679
in 2006 i want to say january of 2006 a

628
00:26:06,789 --> 00:26:03,679
tumor had grown

629
00:26:11,110 --> 00:26:06,799
uh right here on my right our

630
00:26:13,830 --> 00:26:11,120
nasa and it had uh intruded

631
00:26:15,830 --> 00:26:13,840
underneath my eye i had first i had

632
00:26:19,029 --> 00:26:15,840
general anesthesia to remove the

633
00:26:22,149 --> 00:26:19,039
uh tumor they took a piece of my ear

634
00:26:24,950 --> 00:26:22,159
and sewed it to my face and

635
00:26:25,590 --> 00:26:24,960
all my whole side of my face was falling

636
00:26:27,269 --> 00:26:25,600
right up

637
00:26:29,510 --> 00:26:27,279
and uh i like to say that i'm the only

638
00:26:30,630 --> 00:26:29,520

guy i know that can touch my ear with my

639

00:26:33,350 --> 00:26:30,640

tongue but

640

00:26:35,669 --> 00:26:33,360

um literally had a piece of my ear sewed

641

00:26:38,630 --> 00:26:35,679

to the side of my face

642

00:26:40,789 --> 00:26:38,640

and the skin graft failed so i ended up

643

00:26:43,430 --> 00:26:40,799

in burlington vermont for what they call

644

00:26:44,310 --> 00:26:43,440

mohs surgery now bear in mind aside from

645

00:26:46,549 --> 00:26:44,320

the actual

646

00:26:48,470 --> 00:26:46,559

operating room procedures cindy's been

647

00:26:49,350 --> 00:26:48,480

to every medical exam that i've ever

648

00:26:55,430 --> 00:26:49,360

been to

649

00:26:59,750 --> 00:26:58,149

the surgery uh to close the wound took

650

00:27:02,470 --> 00:26:59,760

70 seconds

651
00:27:02,789 --> 00:27:02,480
and the surgery of the term they used

652
00:27:04,710 --> 00:27:02,799
was

653
00:27:06,070 --> 00:27:04,720
optic nervous ischemia which is where

654
00:27:08,390 --> 00:27:06,080
the swelling my

655
00:27:09,190 --> 00:27:08,400
the discs inside my eyes were always

656
00:27:12,230 --> 00:27:09,200
swollen with

657
00:27:16,630 --> 00:27:12,240
uh i'm getting ahead of myself here

658
00:27:19,029 --> 00:27:16,640
i married cindy the first day of fall in

659
00:27:19,990 --> 00:27:19,039
2001 she'd kill me you know you remember

660
00:27:21,590 --> 00:27:20,000
your wife's

661
00:27:25,110 --> 00:27:21,600
anniversary your anniversary forget it

662
00:27:27,510 --> 00:27:25,120
one time and um

663
00:27:28,870 --> 00:27:27,520

i had three tumors blossom on my left

664

00:27:30,950 --> 00:27:28,880

hip

665

00:27:32,630 --> 00:27:30,960

and cindy was sick too she ended up

666

00:27:33,990 --> 00:27:32,640

having her gallbladder out and i ended

667

00:27:36,789 --> 00:27:34,000

up with a diagnosis

668

00:27:39,430 --> 00:27:36,799

of lymphoma from the biopsies from two

669

00:27:41,269 --> 00:27:39,440

of the tumors that they took off

670

00:27:43,350 --> 00:27:41,279

they left the third one as a control and

671

00:27:44,710 --> 00:27:43,360

that reabsorbed back into my body and i

672

00:27:47,029 --> 00:27:44,720

asked the doctor

673

00:27:49,190 --> 00:27:47,039

my family physician to get a second

674

00:27:52,950 --> 00:27:49,200

opinion to send the biopsies on to

675

00:27:54,230 --> 00:27:52,960

someone else a little bit higher up

676

00:27:57,029 --> 00:27:54,240

and they did they sent it to buffalo

677

00:27:59,669 --> 00:27:57,039

medical group and uh it came back with

678

00:28:00,710 --> 00:27:59,679

uh pseudo-lymphoma with atypical

679

00:28:03,909 --> 00:28:00,720

lymphocytic

680

00:28:06,230 --> 00:28:03,919

infiltrate my doctor basically said

681

00:28:07,510 --> 00:28:06,240

your immune system has been compromised

682

00:28:10,470 --> 00:28:07,520

and

683

00:28:11,590 --> 00:28:10,480

uh every insult is only gonna hasten the

684

00:28:13,830 --> 00:28:11,600

condition

685

00:28:15,510 --> 00:28:13,840

and he told me he said put your affairs

686

00:28:18,789 --> 00:28:15,520

in order

687

00:28:20,149 --> 00:28:18,799

and approach uh the people you work for

688

00:28:22,630 --> 00:28:20,159

and let them know that uh

689

00:28:23,990 --> 00:28:22,640

you have a obligation to let them know

690

00:28:26,950 --> 00:28:24,000

that one

691

00:28:27,669 --> 00:28:26,960

uh you become sensitive to direct and

692

00:28:29,110 --> 00:28:27,679

reflected

693

00:28:30,950 --> 00:28:29,120

sunlight that's why i started wearing

694

00:28:32,950 --> 00:28:30,960

sunglasses too

695

00:28:34,310 --> 00:28:32,960

uh you can't see anything at night

696

00:28:36,789 --> 00:28:34,320

anymore

697

00:28:40,470 --> 00:28:36,799

and three of my color perception and

698

00:28:44,070 --> 00:28:40,480

depth perception had started to erode

699

00:28:46,630 --> 00:28:44,080

so that was that was december

700

00:28:48,149 --> 00:28:46,640

uh the doctor disabled me in march i

701
00:28:49,830 --> 00:28:48,159
kept working the guys were

702
00:28:51,750 --> 00:28:49,840
i was almost at the end of my career and

703
00:28:53,269 --> 00:28:51,760
i'm going like i can do this i can

704
00:28:56,830 --> 00:28:53,279
i can make it to the finish line and the

705
00:28:59,510 --> 00:28:56,840
guys at work were ready to cover me but

706
00:29:01,190 --> 00:28:59,520
um didn't work out that way

707
00:29:02,310 --> 00:29:01,200
yeah you didn't you didn't want to take

708
00:29:04,070 --> 00:29:02,320
i mean people like oh he was just

709
00:29:06,149 --> 00:29:04,080
looking for disability from what i know

710
00:29:09,350 --> 00:29:06,159
you that's the last thing you wanted

711
00:29:10,389 --> 00:29:09,360
oh i i fought to keep my job for yeah

712
00:29:13,029 --> 00:29:10,399
for a while

713
00:29:14,630 --> 00:29:13,039

a great expense i might add but i

714

00:29:15,909 --> 00:29:14,640

couldn't find a doctor who would give me

715

00:29:17,269 --> 00:29:15,919

a note to go back to work in the fire

716

00:29:18,870 --> 00:29:17,279

department you don't need a note to stay

717

00:29:20,070 --> 00:29:18,880

home sick you need a note when you come

718

00:29:23,110 --> 00:29:20,080

back it's called the fitness

719

00:29:24,710 --> 00:29:23,120

for duty certification

720

00:29:26,549 --> 00:29:24,720

and no one would give me one my own

721

00:29:30,389 --> 00:29:26,559

doctor wouldn't give me one

722

00:29:30,710 --> 00:29:30,399

so i remember working veterans day that

723

00:29:33,029 --> 00:29:30,720

year

724

00:29:33,830 --> 00:29:33,039

cindy replaced the marine corps ring

725

00:29:35,430 --> 00:29:33,840

that i buried

726

00:29:38,070 --> 00:29:35,440

the first one i owned i buried with my

727

00:29:40,149 --> 00:29:38,080

younger brother when i brought him home

728

00:29:41,830 --> 00:29:40,159

and i remember working uh the marine

729

00:29:43,750 --> 00:29:41,840

corps birthday which is november 10th

730

00:29:45,029 --> 00:29:43,760

and november 11th which obviously was

731

00:29:48,470 --> 00:29:45,039

veterans day

732

00:29:50,870 --> 00:29:48,480

and uh

733

00:29:52,789 --> 00:29:50,880

i worked my two day shifts the following

734

00:29:53,269 --> 00:29:52,799

after we had a four days on four days

735

00:29:55,190 --> 00:29:53,279

off

736

00:29:56,870 --> 00:29:55,200

schedule and i remember going back to

737

00:29:59,269 --> 00:29:56,880

work

738

00:30:00,630 --> 00:29:59,279

uh for my two day shifts and then my

739

00:30:04,470 --> 00:30:00,640

first night shift

740

00:30:09,590 --> 00:30:04,480

was uh where i got called on being

741

00:30:12,789 --> 00:30:09,600

a nightline a long story short

742

00:30:14,070 --> 00:30:12,799

uh and coincidentally that was november

743

00:30:17,590 --> 00:30:14,080

18th

744

00:30:20,470 --> 00:30:17,600

of 2002. now i always thought my last

745

00:30:22,789 --> 00:30:20,480

day of work was veterans day but

746

00:30:24,630 --> 00:30:22,799

we looked back through the records

747

00:30:26,070 --> 00:30:24,640

actually november 18th that's also the

748

00:30:30,950 --> 00:30:26,080

day that i ran away from

749

00:30:33,110 --> 00:30:30,960

foster care it was november 18 1975.

750

00:30:35,750 --> 00:30:33,120

so and i i didn't put any of those

751
00:30:38,710 --> 00:30:35,760
things together i'd never met the priest

752
00:30:39,269 --> 00:30:38,720
i had been to long island a couple times

753
00:30:42,470 --> 00:30:39,279
cindy

754
00:30:45,350 --> 00:30:42,480
literally grew up

755
00:30:47,830 --> 00:30:45,360
from saint perescovich she literally

756
00:30:49,830 --> 00:30:47,840
grew up a block away

757
00:30:51,510 --> 00:30:49,840
that's a major it's a major coincidence

758
00:30:51,830 --> 00:30:51,520
and i know a lot of people do not know

759
00:30:55,190 --> 00:30:51,840
it's

760
00:30:57,269 --> 00:30:55,200
saint peresqv is yet which we'll get to

761
00:30:58,950 --> 00:30:57,279
and i'm going to fast forward a little

762
00:31:00,310 --> 00:30:58,960
bit when did it really get to the point

763
00:31:01,350 --> 00:31:00,320

you know we're getting closer to you

764

00:31:03,750 --> 00:31:01,360

meeting

765

00:31:05,509 --> 00:31:03,760

for the demetrius and when did it really

766

00:31:07,909 --> 00:31:05,519

get to the point where

767

00:31:08,950 --> 00:31:07,919

you know you were your eyesight was

768

00:31:12,950 --> 00:31:08,960

really

769

00:31:14,549 --> 00:31:12,960

waning um the the mohs surgery in

770

00:31:16,070 --> 00:31:14,559

burlington took out my right eye

771

00:31:17,029 --> 00:31:16,080

completely i was completely blind in my

772

00:31:19,269 --> 00:31:17,039

right eye and i

773

00:31:21,590 --> 00:31:19,279

i really got a wake-up call in dublin

774

00:31:24,070 --> 00:31:21,600

cindy and i had gone to ireland dublin

775

00:31:25,029 --> 00:31:24,080

uh on a trip but we also went to england

776

00:31:27,190 --> 00:31:25,039

in france

777

00:31:28,389 --> 00:31:27,200

part of that two of our girls were in

778

00:31:30,310 --> 00:31:28,399

spain at the time and

779

00:31:31,750 --> 00:31:30,320

and i had people friends in england that

780

00:31:33,269 --> 00:31:31,760

i wanted to see there were a couple

781

00:31:35,350 --> 00:31:33,279

things bucket list things that i wanted

782

00:31:37,430 --> 00:31:35,360

to do before i went completely blind

783

00:31:38,630 --> 00:31:37,440

so i had a little bit of vision in my

784

00:31:40,950 --> 00:31:38,640

left eye

785

00:31:42,549 --> 00:31:40,960

over here on the left and we were

786

00:31:44,549 --> 00:31:42,559

crossing the street in dublin

787

00:31:45,909 --> 00:31:44,559

and and i know that they drive on the

788

00:31:48,470 --> 00:31:45,919

other side of the road in the opposite

789

00:31:51,669 --> 00:31:48,480

direction but i wasn't really thinking

790

00:31:53,110 --> 00:31:51,679

and i stepped out into the road i

791

00:31:54,470 --> 00:31:53,120

looked to my left and there wasn't

792

00:31:55,350 --> 00:31:54,480

anything coming of course that was the

793

00:31:57,990 --> 00:31:55,360

wrong way to look

794

00:31:59,750 --> 00:31:58,000

and the bus that clipped me literally

795

00:32:01,990 --> 00:31:59,760

took my hat

796

00:32:03,590 --> 00:32:02,000

and and turned it this way and if it

797

00:32:05,509 --> 00:32:03,600

hadn't been for cindy reaching up and

798

00:32:07,110 --> 00:32:05,519

grabbing my collar and yanking me back

799

00:32:08,549 --> 00:32:07,120

onto the sidewalk i'd have been

800

00:32:11,669 --> 00:32:08,559

she'd have been coming home with me in a

801
00:32:12,950 --> 00:32:11,679
box so that was a real wake-up call for

802
00:32:16,470 --> 00:32:12,960
me

803
00:32:17,350 --> 00:32:16,480
and um by fall of that year that was

804
00:32:20,549 --> 00:32:17,360
april

805
00:32:23,110 --> 00:32:20,559
by fall of 2006 i was completely blind

806
00:32:23,830 --> 00:32:23,120
i had started training a service animal

807
00:32:26,149 --> 00:32:23,840
uh

808
00:32:27,909 --> 00:32:26,159
i want to say a year and a half earlier

809
00:32:30,950 --> 00:32:27,919
maya

810
00:32:35,269 --> 00:32:30,960
the priest that met that dog

811
00:32:38,230 --> 00:32:35,279
um the guys at the fire station pool

812
00:32:40,070 --> 00:32:38,240
and chipped in and bought me a beautiful

813
00:32:42,149 --> 00:32:40,080

animal i had trained the firehouse

814

00:32:43,990 --> 00:32:42,159

mascot previously

815

00:32:46,070 --> 00:32:44,000

i used william kohler's methods he

816

00:32:48,070 --> 00:32:46,080

trained animals for the military also

817

00:32:49,269 --> 00:32:48,080

trained him for walt disney so i trusted

818

00:32:52,549 --> 00:32:49,279

his methods

819

00:32:54,470 --> 00:32:52,559

and i needed i was having problems with

820

00:32:57,190 --> 00:32:54,480

my balance as well which was directly

821

00:32:59,190 --> 00:32:57,200

related to my deteriorating eyesight

822

00:33:01,110 --> 00:32:59,200

and if it wasn't i mean cindy literally

823

00:33:03,590 --> 00:33:01,120

taught me

824

00:33:06,389 --> 00:33:03,600

to walk again i mean it got to the point

825

00:33:08,230 --> 00:33:06,399

where i was falling all the time

826
00:33:09,750 --> 00:33:08,240
and everybody thought we were madly in

827
00:33:11,590 --> 00:33:09,760
love because they'd see us out walking

828
00:33:13,190 --> 00:33:11,600
the streets or the story trail or

829
00:33:14,710 --> 00:33:13,200
whatnot and we'd always be holding hands

830
00:33:16,470 --> 00:33:14,720
and i do i'm madly in love with this

831
00:33:18,389 --> 00:33:16,480
woman

832
00:33:20,470 --> 00:33:18,399
but that wasn't the reason why she was

833
00:33:23,669 --> 00:33:20,480
always holding my hand

834
00:33:25,430 --> 00:33:23,679
and that year was this picture taken oh

835
00:33:28,789 --> 00:33:25,440
when did we start doing that

836
00:33:30,549 --> 00:33:28,799
that was that picture there that picture

837
00:33:32,630 --> 00:33:30,559
there was taken the day that i rode with

838
00:33:33,669 --> 00:33:32,640

father dimitri to calverton for a

839

00:33:36,149 --> 00:33:33,679

funeral

840

00:33:37,509 --> 00:33:36,159

it was shortly after uh the event at

841

00:33:40,070 --> 00:33:37,519

saint peresqv

842

00:33:40,950 --> 00:33:40,080

okay so i'm gonna take us to this day

843

00:33:43,110 --> 00:33:40,960

and tell us

844

00:33:45,190 --> 00:33:43,120

that's november 11. the guy standing

845

00:33:47,190 --> 00:33:45,200

next to me his name is dominic cindy he

846

00:33:49,110 --> 00:33:47,200

lived two miles from us

847

00:33:50,710 --> 00:33:49,120

and that would be our daily walk we'd

848

00:33:52,310 --> 00:33:50,720

walk down and spend a couple of hours

849

00:33:56,310 --> 00:33:52,320

with dominic he's one of the

850

00:33:58,070 --> 00:33:56,320

highest decorated air force veterans um

851
00:33:59,750 --> 00:33:58,080
and it was a nice walk and i'd spend an

852
00:34:00,470 --> 00:33:59,760
hour with the old guy a little bit of

853
00:34:03,029 --> 00:34:00,480
company give

854
00:34:04,630 --> 00:34:03,039
his caretaker a break and and then we

855
00:34:07,269 --> 00:34:04,640
would walk home

856
00:34:07,990 --> 00:34:07,279
and that's your first guide dog what's

857
00:34:12,389 --> 00:34:08,000
that

858
00:34:15,510 --> 00:34:12,399
first guide dog

859
00:34:17,510 --> 00:34:15,520
okay the one behind me that's pima she's

860
00:34:20,230 --> 00:34:17,520
laying over on the couch right here

861
00:34:22,470 --> 00:34:20,240
uh what had happened prior to my meeting

862
00:34:24,710 --> 00:34:22,480
the priest prior to veterans day

863
00:34:25,829 --> 00:34:24,720

maya had developed a limp so i took her

864

00:34:28,950 --> 00:34:25,839

to the vet and the vet

865

00:34:31,270 --> 00:34:28,960

vet said she's worn out her right acl

866

00:34:32,629 --> 00:34:31,280

behind acl she said i could do the

867

00:34:34,470 --> 00:34:32,639

surgery i'm like

868

00:34:35,750 --> 00:34:34,480

5 thousand bucks but what she's going to

869

00:34:39,030 --> 00:34:35,760

do she's going to offset

870

00:34:39,349 --> 00:34:39,040

on her left side she's you want her out

871

00:34:43,030 --> 00:34:39,359

see

872

00:34:45,909 --> 00:34:43,040

that dog literally walked thousands and

873

00:34:49,270 --> 00:34:45,919

thousands of miles with me in harness

874

00:34:51,270 --> 00:34:49,280

kept me on my feet and

875

00:34:52,790 --> 00:34:51,280

literally saved my life gave me

876
00:34:55,829 --> 00:34:52,800
something

877
00:34:59,190 --> 00:34:55,839
to live for i mean i i

878
00:35:03,190 --> 00:34:59,200
had lost my driver's license in

879
00:35:04,950 --> 00:35:03,200
a decade earlier in 2003

880
00:35:08,069 --> 00:35:04,960
and they gave me a new york state id

881
00:35:12,710 --> 00:35:08,079
card and the dog really was my only

882
00:35:15,750 --> 00:35:12,720
freedom i'm sorry

883
00:35:17,670 --> 00:35:15,760
oh how i met the priest oh so

884
00:35:19,430 --> 00:35:17,680
the dog the dog does play a role in how

885
00:35:22,790 --> 00:35:19,440
you met so tell that story

886
00:35:26,390 --> 00:35:22,800
november 11th 2013.

887
00:35:28,150 --> 00:35:26,400
is that so um the va

888
00:35:29,750 --> 00:35:28,160

uh they were getting ready to send me to

889

00:35:32,230 --> 00:35:29,760

a school for the blind in

890

00:35:33,349 --> 00:35:32,240

new haven connecticut i was learning

891

00:35:37,430 --> 00:35:33,359

braille

892

00:35:40,230 --> 00:35:37,440

i was using dragon software for emails

893

00:35:42,230 --> 00:35:40,240

and cindy and i the va suggests we go to

894

00:35:44,790 --> 00:35:42,240

a dobbs ferry new york state

895

00:35:47,910 --> 00:35:44,800

and check out their they they trained

896

00:35:51,349 --> 00:35:47,920

service animals guide dogs for the blind

897

00:35:53,910 --> 00:35:51,359

and we took a drive up there and uh

898

00:35:56,069 --> 00:35:53,920

put maya through all our paces and put

899

00:35:57,190 --> 00:35:56,079

their best trained dog through its paces

900

00:35:59,829 --> 00:35:57,200

and

901
00:36:02,069 --> 00:35:59,839
it was a kind of a funny experience the

902
00:36:03,430 --> 00:36:02,079
whole thing because their best dog lost

903
00:36:04,390 --> 00:36:03,440
it when a squirrel came around the

904
00:36:07,109 --> 00:36:04,400
building

905
00:36:08,550 --> 00:36:07,119
maya just sat there and said stay the

906
00:36:12,230 --> 00:36:08,560
other dog took off like a bat

907
00:36:14,550 --> 00:36:12,240
out of hell so so we decided to

908
00:36:15,829 --> 00:36:14,560
purchase an animal as a puppy and train

909
00:36:17,430 --> 00:36:15,839
her from there and that's what cindy and

910
00:36:19,589 --> 00:36:17,440
i did

911
00:36:21,270 --> 00:36:19,599
what i wanted to do was that there was a

912
00:36:22,790 --> 00:36:21,280
football field behind the nursery i

913
00:36:26,150 --> 00:36:22,800

wanted to take and train

914

00:36:28,230 --> 00:36:26,160

have maya help me train my new dog and

915

00:36:29,990 --> 00:36:28,240

sidney and i argue about this

916

00:36:31,670 --> 00:36:30,000

the message i got through the american

917

00:36:34,230 --> 00:36:31,680

legion was they considered me a

918

00:36:35,670 --> 00:36:34,240

liability risk and a distraction to the

919

00:36:38,390 --> 00:36:35,680

students because that's what i was doing

920

00:36:40,710 --> 00:36:38,400

i was training my new service animal

921

00:36:42,390 --> 00:36:40,720

out on the high school at the high

922

00:36:45,750 --> 00:36:42,400

school yeah

923

00:36:47,589 --> 00:36:45,760

and when they kicked me off

924

00:36:49,270 --> 00:36:47,599

i asked any i said where else can i go

925

00:36:50,470 --> 00:36:49,280

to i need to be able to train this

926
00:36:52,550 --> 00:36:50,480
animal to take

927
00:36:54,470 --> 00:36:52,560
maya's place and she said well there's

928
00:36:58,069 --> 00:36:54,480
the greek church a block away

929
00:36:59,510 --> 00:36:58,079
maybe they'll let you use their backyard

930
00:37:01,750 --> 00:36:59,520
and parking lot

931
00:37:03,670 --> 00:37:01,760
maybe all we need to do is find out who

932
00:37:04,470 --> 00:37:03,680
who the priest is there and ask them the

933
00:37:07,589 --> 00:37:04,480
worst that

934
00:37:11,109 --> 00:37:07,599
they can say is no so that was

935
00:37:13,829 --> 00:37:11,119
already on the schedule but a couple

936
00:37:17,349 --> 00:37:13,839
other things were going on uh cindy's

937
00:37:20,550 --> 00:37:17,359
andrea got married uh at the vanderbilt

938
00:37:23,670 --> 00:37:20,560

estate and then we had the reception at

939

00:37:26,470 --> 00:37:23,680

uh cindy's sister's house and we

940

00:37:29,430 --> 00:37:26,480

discovered that her mom was sick

941

00:37:31,030 --> 00:37:29,440

and that threw a wrench into everything

942

00:37:33,190 --> 00:37:31,040

oh it really did i was

943

00:37:35,510 --> 00:37:33,200

i mean i had cindy's mom longer than i

944

00:37:38,310 --> 00:37:35,520

had my own

945

00:37:42,710 --> 00:37:38,320

i i loved her with all my heart and um

946

00:37:47,589 --> 00:37:46,310

and uh i've seen so much death and

947

00:37:50,710 --> 00:37:47,599

destruction in my life and

948

00:37:52,390 --> 00:37:50,720

everybody in my world not just the

949

00:37:54,230 --> 00:37:52,400

little bit of family that i have up but

950

00:37:55,910 --> 00:37:54,240

my friends were my they were

951
00:37:58,150 --> 00:37:55,920
my family i mean cindy's mom came and

952
00:38:00,230 --> 00:37:58,160
lived with us for a while and

953
00:38:01,750 --> 00:38:00,240
she knew the struggle that i was going

954
00:38:03,270 --> 00:38:01,760
through she's one of the few people who

955
00:38:06,630 --> 00:38:03,280
did

956
00:38:09,670 --> 00:38:06,640
and um so i had that on my heart as well

957
00:38:11,109 --> 00:38:09,680
and when they threw me off the field i i

958
00:38:14,550 --> 00:38:11,119
was super angry

959
00:38:17,349 --> 00:38:14,560
i was bitter and i was

960
00:38:18,870 --> 00:38:17,359
i was pissed and and i just i wanted it

961
00:38:20,710 --> 00:38:18,880
to be over

962
00:38:23,270 --> 00:38:20,720
i felt like a burden on everybody i

963
00:38:26,150 --> 00:38:23,280

loved cindy's mom's kind

964

00:38:27,990 --> 00:38:26,160

and i was the bus thing that was the the

965

00:38:29,589 --> 00:38:28,000

bus thing in dublin was the seed in my

966

00:38:31,510 --> 00:38:29,599

head you know all you got to do mike is

967

00:38:32,870 --> 00:38:31,520

seven steps out you're in the center of

968

00:38:35,190 --> 00:38:32,880

the bus and boom and i'd

969

00:38:37,510 --> 00:38:35,200

sit on a park bench directly across the

970

00:38:40,710 --> 00:38:37,520

street from the church

971

00:38:42,310 --> 00:38:40,720

and count the steps in my head listen to

972

00:38:43,750 --> 00:38:42,320

them as they roared by

973

00:38:46,069 --> 00:38:43,760

every now and then one would stop you

974

00:38:49,750 --> 00:38:46,079

getting on no i'm not just

975

00:38:52,790 --> 00:38:49,760

chilling out so

976

00:38:54,790 --> 00:38:52,800

i um we had been down there for a while

977

00:38:56,790 --> 00:38:54,800

and i had marched in the parade the year

978

00:39:00,069 --> 00:38:56,800

before with my dog and

979

00:39:06,069 --> 00:39:00,079

with with my detachment

980

00:39:12,829 --> 00:39:10,069

contemplating that was i was devising a

981

00:39:15,109 --> 00:39:12,839

plan to make it look like an

982

00:39:17,750 --> 00:39:15,119

accident so

983

00:39:18,470 --> 00:39:17,760

i went to the the the prayer service at

984

00:39:20,069 --> 00:39:18,480

the park

985

00:39:22,069 --> 00:39:20,079

um that's the first time i ever saw

986

00:39:24,230 --> 00:39:22,079

father d and

987

00:39:26,630 --> 00:39:24,240

afterwards uh took a few photographs

988

00:39:28,470 --> 00:39:26,640

with other members and

989

00:39:30,230 --> 00:39:28,480

we went back to our apartment and

990

00:39:31,670 --> 00:39:30,240

dropped the animals off and then cindy

991

00:39:33,670 --> 00:39:31,680

brought me to applebee's where

992

00:39:35,349 --> 00:39:33,680

he found a spot for us out of the way i

993

00:39:37,270 --> 00:39:35,359

sat down and then

994

00:39:39,670 --> 00:39:37,280

i hear this man come up and ask cindy

995

00:39:41,670 --> 00:39:39,680

she actually changed seats

996

00:39:43,190 --> 00:39:41,680

for him so that he could sit next to me

997

00:39:44,069 --> 00:39:43,200

and he reached over and he touched my

998

00:39:47,510 --> 00:39:44,079

hand

999

00:39:49,430 --> 00:39:47,520

and there was like an electricity you

1000

00:39:52,950 --> 00:39:49,440

know some people you just get this

1001
00:39:54,150 --> 00:39:52,960
incredible vibe off the person

1002
00:39:56,550 --> 00:39:54,160
and now let me tell you something about

1003
00:39:58,390 --> 00:39:56,560
being blind okay your other senses do

1004
00:40:00,310 --> 00:39:58,400
kick in to compensate

1005
00:40:02,870 --> 00:40:00,320
you can feel changes in temperature you

1006
00:40:05,670 --> 00:40:02,880
can feel changes in proximity

1007
00:40:06,870 --> 00:40:05,680
close to you away from you uh your sense

1008
00:40:10,390 --> 00:40:06,880
of smell picks up

1009
00:40:13,670 --> 00:40:10,400
your sense of taste picks up um

1010
00:40:14,710 --> 00:40:13,680
touch and when he took my hand it was

1011
00:40:17,030 --> 00:40:14,720
like someone

1012
00:40:19,030 --> 00:40:17,040
some guy nobody had done that before

1013
00:40:22,829 --> 00:40:19,040

nobody had ever said hey

1014

00:40:28,150 --> 00:40:22,839

how you doing i can see you're carrying

1015

00:40:32,309 --> 00:40:31,589

and we'll have perfect time father

1016

00:40:34,550 --> 00:40:32,319

dimitri

1017

00:40:35,990 --> 00:40:34,560

take it from there no i saw that i said

1018

00:40:37,109 --> 00:40:36,000

i i saw i see that you're wearing

1019

00:40:38,790 --> 00:40:37,119

sunglasses

1020

00:40:41,109 --> 00:40:38,800

and carrying a walking stick my

1021

00:40:45,109 --> 00:40:41,119

assumption is that you're blind

1022

00:40:48,230 --> 00:40:45,119

and and he basically said yeah

1023

00:40:50,309 --> 00:40:48,240

and um then he asked me uh

1024

00:40:52,069 --> 00:40:50,319

are you the greek priest i introduced

1025

00:40:53,750 --> 00:40:52,079

myself my father demetrius he goes are

1026

00:40:56,550 --> 00:40:53,760

you the greek priest and i said

1027

00:40:58,470 --> 00:40:56,560

yeah and he goes i was going to stop by

1028

00:41:00,950 --> 00:40:58,480

and talk to you

1029

00:41:01,910 --> 00:41:00,960

at the church and i go really he goes

1030

00:41:04,470 --> 00:41:01,920

yeah i go

1031

00:41:05,030 --> 00:41:04,480

were you planning on coming to uh for

1032

00:41:08,150 --> 00:41:05,040

for the

1033

00:41:09,270 --> 00:41:08,160

hollywood i go for in our shrine he goes

1034

00:41:11,910 --> 00:41:09,280

what's rhine

1035

00:41:13,829 --> 00:41:11,920

and i said saint patrick's give me the

1036

00:41:16,309 --> 00:41:13,839

patron saint of our church

1037

00:41:18,390 --> 00:41:16,319

is the patron saint for blind people or

1038

00:41:20,309 --> 00:41:18,400

for people with eye problems

1039

00:41:21,430 --> 00:41:20,319

and so i just assumed they know when he

1040

00:41:22,630 --> 00:41:21,440

confirmed that he was blind that he

1041

00:41:26,309 --> 00:41:22,640

wanted to come and

1042

00:41:29,589 --> 00:41:26,319

and and possibly uh do that you know uh

1043

00:41:32,390 --> 00:41:29,599

the shrine was established in 1969

1044

00:41:33,270 --> 00:41:32,400

um saint patrick being the patron saint

1045

00:41:35,270 --> 00:41:33,280

of the blind

1046

00:41:36,870 --> 00:41:35,280

uh and it's the only saint paraskevi

1047

00:41:37,670 --> 00:41:36,880

greek orthodox church in the united

1048

00:41:40,069 --> 00:41:37,680

states

1049

00:41:41,829 --> 00:41:40,079

that's amazing so the only saint perez

1050

00:41:45,270 --> 00:41:41,839

can be church in the united states

1051
00:41:47,270 --> 00:41:45,280
she's known for healing killing blood

1052
00:41:49,190 --> 00:41:47,280
hailing blind and the funny thing is if

1053
00:41:50,630 --> 00:41:49,200
you go to greece every village has the

1054
00:41:52,309 --> 00:41:50,640
same paraskevi

1055
00:41:54,790 --> 00:41:52,319
that's the odd thing like every village

1056
00:41:56,950 --> 00:41:54,800
will have one church

1057
00:41:57,990 --> 00:41:56,960
dedicated to that saint because she's so

1058
00:41:59,510 --> 00:41:58,000
beloved

1059
00:42:01,510 --> 00:41:59,520
and a lot of miracles have happened

1060
00:42:03,109 --> 00:42:01,520
there so that's what the odd thing is

1061
00:42:05,589 --> 00:42:03,119
but nevertheless

1062
00:42:07,030 --> 00:42:05,599
what what there's michael so we were

1063
00:42:10,150 --> 00:42:07,040

just talking about

1064

00:42:13,270 --> 00:42:10,160

how you asked if i was the um

1065

00:42:14,230 --> 00:42:13,280

the priest the the greek priest and i

1066

00:42:16,150 --> 00:42:14,240

said yes and

1067

00:42:17,589 --> 00:42:16,160

and i mentioned something about the

1068

00:42:18,870 --> 00:42:17,599

shrine and the holy water and you're

1069

00:42:20,390 --> 00:42:18,880

like what holy water

1070

00:42:22,470 --> 00:42:20,400

that's when you told me no no i wanted

1071

00:42:24,069 --> 00:42:22,480

to come and ask permission to uh

1072

00:42:25,510 --> 00:42:24,079

walk my guide dog there i'm training a

1073

00:42:27,990 --> 00:42:25,520

new guide dog and i said so

1074

00:42:28,710 --> 00:42:28,000

you would think he made it to greenlawn

1075

00:42:30,870 --> 00:42:28,720

because

1076
00:42:32,870 --> 00:42:30,880
that church is known for healing people

1077
00:42:34,309 --> 00:42:32,880
he had no idea it's just a major

1078
00:42:36,950 --> 00:42:34,319
coincidence he wound up

1079
00:42:37,829 --> 00:42:36,960
not the only church in the united states

1080
00:42:40,069 --> 00:42:37,839
where

1081
00:42:41,430 --> 00:42:40,079
the saint known for healing eyesight was

1082
00:42:43,510 --> 00:42:41,440
there so sorry

1083
00:42:44,870 --> 00:42:43,520
there are many people there are too many

1084
00:42:48,390 --> 00:42:44,880
coincidences

1085
00:42:49,430 --> 00:42:48,400
this uh january i'm sorry um july 26th

1086
00:42:53,510 --> 00:42:49,440
today

1087
00:42:55,829 --> 00:42:53,520
it was on january 26th

1088
00:42:57,990 --> 00:42:55,839

that he was exposed to that xylene and

1089

00:43:01,510 --> 00:42:58,000

november 23 and the downturn

1090

00:43:03,750 --> 00:43:01,520

to his eye health no coincidences

1091

00:43:05,510 --> 00:43:03,760

that we have here it's just it's amazing

1092

00:43:08,150 --> 00:43:05,520

but he he asked me

1093

00:43:10,150 --> 00:43:08,160

and i you know and i said of course of

1094

00:43:11,589 --> 00:43:10,160

course i'll let my parish council know

1095

00:43:13,190 --> 00:43:11,599

so that when they see you walking

1096

00:43:13,990 --> 00:43:13,200

they're not gonna ask who's this person

1097

00:43:16,230 --> 00:43:14,000

here

1098

00:43:17,109 --> 00:43:16,240

but i said but when you come please let

1099

00:43:19,430 --> 00:43:17,119

me know

1100

00:43:21,030 --> 00:43:19,440

so i can read some prayers over you and

1101
00:43:22,950 --> 00:43:21,040
just he he asked you if he can walk his

1102
00:43:24,309 --> 00:43:22,960
dog at the church because the school had

1103
00:43:25,910 --> 00:43:24,319
rejected him and said you're

1104
00:43:27,510 --> 00:43:25,920
a liability right that's what happened

1105
00:43:28,550 --> 00:43:27,520
right and i thought to myself how could

1106
00:43:30,550 --> 00:43:28,560
i say no to him

1107
00:43:31,910 --> 00:43:30,560
not that i would but i couldn't say no

1108
00:43:33,109 --> 00:43:31,920
to him i mean of course

1109
00:43:36,390 --> 00:43:33,119
[Music]

1110
00:43:38,230 --> 00:43:36,400
so and then came the other question

1111
00:43:41,030 --> 00:43:38,240
that night because i gave him my card

1112
00:43:44,470 --> 00:43:41,040
and he sent me an email

1113
00:43:45,670 --> 00:43:44,480

and um and the email said something like

1114

00:43:50,630 --> 00:43:45,680

um

1115

00:43:54,950 --> 00:43:50,640

confession is a a wonderful discipline

1116

00:43:56,950 --> 00:43:54,960

ancient discipline it's

1117

00:43:58,950 --> 00:43:56,960

yeah it's been many years since anyone

1118

00:43:59,510 --> 00:43:58,960

has heard mine i would have you hear

1119

00:44:02,630 --> 00:43:59,520

mine

1120

00:44:04,710 --> 00:44:02,640

would you now for us as an

1121

00:44:06,069 --> 00:44:04,720

arthur a greek orthodox priest we're

1122

00:44:07,829 --> 00:44:06,079

we're of course we're allowed to give

1123

00:44:09,510 --> 00:44:07,839

sacraments to people who are orthodox

1124

00:44:12,950 --> 00:44:09,520

christians but

1125

00:44:15,430 --> 00:44:12,960

a confession is a a sacrament

1126

00:44:16,069 --> 00:44:15,440

um so i said to myself how can i say no

1127

00:44:18,630 --> 00:44:16,079

to him

1128

00:44:19,109 --> 00:44:18,640

he's already been rejected i can't say

1129

00:44:21,030 --> 00:44:19,119

that

1130

00:44:22,550 --> 00:44:21,040

then i just thought to myself you know

1131

00:44:25,589 --> 00:44:22,560

what i'll just wear

1132

00:44:26,790 --> 00:44:25,599

my robe without the stall and

1133

00:44:28,150 --> 00:44:26,800

i'm going to stop you right there just

1134

00:44:29,270 --> 00:44:28,160

i'm just sorry just so people know

1135

00:44:30,790 --> 00:44:29,280

that's

1136

00:44:32,150 --> 00:44:30,800

if you want to just talk over this stuff

1137

00:44:34,309 --> 00:44:32,160

just so we get the background on the

1138

00:44:36,710 --> 00:44:34,319

church so yeah so that's saint podeski

1139

00:44:38,630 --> 00:44:36,720

that's the icon of saint patrick she's

1140

00:44:41,349 --> 00:44:38,640

wearing uh she's holding a cross

1141

00:44:42,150 --> 00:44:41,359

because she's a martyr and then do you

1142

00:44:45,510 --> 00:44:42,160

see the eyes

1143

00:44:46,390 --> 00:44:45,520

in the bowl uh and i and i i mean maybe

1144

00:44:48,630 --> 00:44:46,400

i can tell you

1145

00:44:50,230 --> 00:44:48,640

in a little bit as we tell the story her

1146

00:44:51,589 --> 00:44:50,240

life because

1147

00:44:54,309 --> 00:44:51,599

this is one of the reasons that's the

1148

00:44:57,349 --> 00:44:54,319

main entrance to the to the main church

1149

00:45:00,550 --> 00:44:57,359

there those brass doors uh in between

1150

00:45:01,910 --> 00:45:00,560

um the main church and the office and

1151
00:45:05,670 --> 00:45:01,920
classroom building

1152
00:45:07,589 --> 00:45:05,680
is a breezeway and off the breezeway

1153
00:45:09,190 --> 00:45:07,599
so that this is again the main church

1154
00:45:11,510 --> 00:45:09,200
the ceiling is painted

1155
00:45:12,309 --> 00:45:11,520
in the seven days of creation which is

1156
00:45:14,550 --> 00:45:12,319
just a unique

1157
00:45:16,150 --> 00:45:14,560
unique painting just wanted to see

1158
00:45:17,990 --> 00:45:16,160
people to see some of these pictures

1159
00:45:22,710 --> 00:45:18,000
it's amazing it's beautiful

1160
00:45:26,630 --> 00:45:24,309
and these are the pictures you sent me

1161
00:45:29,910 --> 00:45:26,640
right here

1162
00:45:34,790 --> 00:45:32,470
and this was a wedding that's the

1163
00:45:37,910 --> 00:45:34,800

wedding that michael just missed me at

1164

00:45:40,069 --> 00:45:37,920

that was a few weeks ago

1165

00:45:42,069 --> 00:45:40,079

and which we'll get to that and so

1166

00:45:45,030 --> 00:45:42,079

that's the entrance into so

1167

00:45:46,150 --> 00:45:45,040

there's a stairwell that goes down into

1168

00:45:49,589 --> 00:45:46,160

this underground

1169

00:45:52,550 --> 00:45:49,599

chapel and inside that chapel is where

1170

00:45:53,510 --> 00:45:52,560

um the shrine is and i'm going to

1171

00:45:55,030 --> 00:45:53,520

interrupt just because i

1172

00:45:57,270 --> 00:45:55,040

interrupted you before so just take us

1173

00:45:59,349 --> 00:45:57,280

back he said

1174

00:46:00,950 --> 00:45:59,359

he would like a confession with you

1175

00:46:04,390 --> 00:46:00,960

right and so i just i

1176

00:46:06,470 --> 00:46:04,400

my i i talked within myself and i said

1177

00:46:08,950 --> 00:46:06,480

i can't say no to this man worst case

1178

00:46:10,950 --> 00:46:08,960

scenario i just won't wear my stole so

1179

00:46:12,390 --> 00:46:10,960

it won't be a quote-unquote sacrament

1180

00:46:14,150 --> 00:46:12,400

any christian can hear the confession

1181

00:46:15,109 --> 00:46:14,160

another christian and then jokingly i

1182

00:46:16,710 --> 00:46:15,119

said to myself

1183

00:46:18,309 --> 00:46:16,720

he's blind he won't tell whether he

1184

00:46:21,589 --> 00:46:18,319

can't tell whether i'm wearing it or not

1185

00:46:23,030 --> 00:46:21,599

anyway so i'll i'll do that and and so

1186

00:46:25,109 --> 00:46:23,040

my response to him was simply

1187

00:46:26,230 --> 00:46:25,119

of course of course i'll hear your

1188

00:46:29,430 --> 00:46:26,240

confession

1189

00:46:31,109 --> 00:46:29,440

so um and uh and then

1190

00:46:32,550 --> 00:46:31,119

we had tried to find the day in the

1191

00:46:34,309 --> 00:46:32,560

meantime he

1192

00:46:36,069 --> 00:46:34,319

every day he was writing me emails or

1193

00:46:38,550 --> 00:46:36,079

every other day in the beginning before

1194

00:46:40,710 --> 00:46:38,560

the 18th we ended up meeting on the 18th

1195

00:46:42,230 --> 00:46:40,720

but i i knew a couple of things one

1196

00:46:44,390 --> 00:46:42,240

he was a person of great faith because

1197

00:46:48,390 --> 00:46:44,400

he said to me i can't

1198

00:46:51,589 --> 00:46:48,400

expect to to have anything happen

1199

00:46:52,630 --> 00:46:51,599

good to me unless i sort of clear my

1200

00:46:54,470 --> 00:46:52,640

soul like

1201
00:46:56,550 --> 00:46:54,480
he understood that if there was a

1202
00:46:58,150 --> 00:46:56,560
physical healing to be done

1203
00:46:59,589 --> 00:46:58,160
that he needed to cleanse himself

1204
00:47:01,910 --> 00:46:59,599
spiritually as well

1205
00:47:03,990 --> 00:47:01,920
and as i was reading that those emails i

1206
00:47:05,670 --> 00:47:04,000
said you know i only got a chance to

1207
00:47:08,230 --> 00:47:05,680
have a quick conversation with him

1208
00:47:10,230 --> 00:47:08,240
i didn't know the depth of his space but

1209
00:47:11,990 --> 00:47:10,240
slowly and surely i was embarrassed

1210
00:47:13,990 --> 00:47:12,000
at the weakness of my compared to the

1211
00:47:15,349 --> 00:47:14,000
strength of his uh when he was sharing

1212
00:47:18,710 --> 00:47:15,359
in his emails

1213
00:47:20,630 --> 00:47:18,720

and so we ended up that on the eight we

1214

00:47:23,349 --> 00:47:20,640

decided on the 18th

1215

00:47:24,390 --> 00:47:23,359

that he would come for that uh

1216

00:47:28,230 --> 00:47:24,400

confession

1217

00:47:28,240 --> 00:47:32,630

that's mostly true

1218

00:47:39,910 --> 00:47:37,990

i uh we cindy and i had a beautiful home

1219

00:47:42,710 --> 00:47:39,920

and we lived next to a catholic church

1220

00:47:44,470 --> 00:47:42,720

i'm not catholic i was

1221

00:47:47,270 --> 00:47:44,480

baptized in a small chapel in camp

1222

00:47:51,510 --> 00:47:47,280

hanson okinawa i was in the marines

1223

00:47:55,430 --> 00:47:51,520

only because i felt compelled to do that

1224

00:47:58,309 --> 00:47:55,440

um i agreed to go and meet the priest

1225

00:47:58,870 --> 00:47:58,319

but i had like he said no expectation of

1226

00:48:03,190 --> 00:47:58,880

anything

1227

00:48:05,990 --> 00:48:03,200

happening i wanted my heart to be clear

1228

00:48:06,390 --> 00:48:06,000

in the event that i followed through

1229

00:48:08,549 --> 00:48:06,400

with

1230

00:48:10,150 --> 00:48:08,559

my original plan which was to end my

1231

00:48:13,670 --> 00:48:10,160

life prematurely

1232

00:48:16,710 --> 00:48:13,680

and and i'm all kind of embarrassed to

1233

00:48:21,430 --> 00:48:19,829

and i went to the priest of that

1234

00:48:23,030 --> 00:48:21,440

catholic church that we lived next to

1235

00:48:24,790 --> 00:48:23,040

and i asked him to say a blessing for me

1236

00:48:27,750 --> 00:48:24,800

and hear my confession

1237

00:48:28,870 --> 00:48:27,760

he did he he heard it and that was years

1238

00:48:30,870 --> 00:48:28,880

before ever but

1239

00:48:33,349 --> 00:48:30,880

that was when i knew deep down inside i

1240

00:48:35,910 --> 00:48:33,359

was going blind

1241

00:48:37,510 --> 00:48:35,920

and then um while we were in europe we

1242

00:48:38,390 --> 00:48:37,520

were in england we went to stonehenge

1243

00:48:40,870 --> 00:48:38,400

and then we went to

1244

00:48:43,030 --> 00:48:40,880

salisbury cathedral which is maybe eight

1245

00:48:46,870 --> 00:48:43,040

miles away from stonehenge

1246

00:48:49,670 --> 00:48:46,880

and we arrived just in time for new mass

1247

00:48:51,670 --> 00:48:49,680

and i i just love being inside churches

1248

00:48:52,390 --> 00:48:51,680

of it i've been inside synagogues and

1249

00:48:54,630 --> 00:48:52,400

mosques

1250

00:48:55,430 --> 00:48:54,640

and just being surrounded by people of

1251

00:48:57,349 --> 00:48:55,440

faith

1252

00:48:58,470 --> 00:48:57,359

i don't have any friends who aren't

1253

00:49:00,549 --> 00:48:58,480

people of faith

1254

00:49:02,230 --> 00:49:00,559

and and let me just say this the first

1255

00:49:04,870 --> 00:49:02,240

amendment gives everybody to worship

1256

00:49:08,230 --> 00:49:04,880

freely or not worship at all

1257

00:49:12,150 --> 00:49:08,240

that's a a cornerstone of our

1258

00:49:14,470 --> 00:49:12,160

our country so

1259

00:49:16,390 --> 00:49:14,480

when we we got the salisbury they were

1260

00:49:17,670 --> 00:49:16,400

doing renovations and they had they had

1261

00:49:21,190 --> 00:49:17,680

put up

1262

00:49:22,390 --> 00:49:21,200

just a few pews inside the church center

1263

00:49:24,870 --> 00:49:22,400

and then there were a lot of tourists

1264

00:49:27,750 --> 00:49:24,880

it's a tourist destination as well

1265

00:49:30,309 --> 00:49:27,760

and one of the the people who maybe was

1266

00:49:32,630 --> 00:49:30,319

a priest director i don't know

1267

00:49:34,630 --> 00:49:32,640

but i i said he would come up to this

1268

00:49:35,270 --> 00:49:34,640

huge fountain inside salisbury cathedral

1269

00:49:38,870 --> 00:49:35,280

and i

1270

00:49:42,470 --> 00:49:38,880

and sat down

1271

00:49:45,910 --> 00:49:42,480

and the the priest's name was

1272

00:49:47,829 --> 00:49:45,920

mcfar right father mcfar

1273

00:49:50,069 --> 00:49:47,839

and he was from scotland he's sitting up

1274

00:49:50,950 --> 00:49:50,079

in this big crow's nest a beautiful

1275

00:49:53,670 --> 00:49:50,960

cathedral

1276

00:49:55,109 --> 00:49:53,680

the walls are they're like this gold

1277

00:49:57,349 --> 00:49:55,119

brown because

1278

00:49:59,349 --> 00:49:57,359

of all the incense from centuries it has

1279

00:50:01,270 --> 00:49:59,359

one of the last remaining

1280

00:50:02,870 --> 00:50:01,280

one of the four remaining copies of the

1281

00:50:06,470 --> 00:50:02,880

magna carta

1282

00:50:09,270 --> 00:50:06,480

and i just wanted to hear it and um

1283

00:50:11,190 --> 00:50:09,280

so he said it and he talked about how

1284

00:50:13,270 --> 00:50:11,200

we're all a community in in

1285

00:50:15,109 --> 00:50:13,280

in the world and i don't remember most

1286

00:50:16,549 --> 00:50:15,119

of it but at the end he says and i'd

1287

00:50:18,470 --> 00:50:16,559

like to close

1288

00:50:20,630 --> 00:50:18,480

this mask by saying a prayer that we all

1289

00:50:23,670 --> 00:50:20,640

know the lord's prayer

1290

00:50:25,990 --> 00:50:23,680

so everybody started and he asked the

1291

00:50:29,030 --> 00:50:26,000

people behind a red

1292

00:50:30,710 --> 00:50:29,040

belt line a fence line there to please

1293

00:50:32,309 --> 00:50:30,720

respect the service and whatnot and they

1294

00:50:34,230 --> 00:50:32,319

did so

1295

00:50:36,230 --> 00:50:34,240

everybody there was only like 30 or 40

1296

00:50:39,589 --> 00:50:36,240

of us sitting inside

1297

00:50:41,510 --> 00:50:39,599

inside that perimeter so i i don't have

1298

00:50:44,150 --> 00:50:41,520

any problem saying it i have

1299

00:50:45,589 --> 00:50:44,160

one of my favorite prayers so i started

1300

00:50:47,990 --> 00:50:45,599

saying it and

1301
00:50:48,630 --> 00:50:48,000
it was it was really funny because

1302
00:50:50,230 --> 00:50:48,640
everybody

1303
00:50:52,150 --> 00:50:50,240
jumped because you got to think of this

1304
00:50:54,230 --> 00:50:52,160
cathedral and i

1305
00:50:55,990 --> 00:50:54,240
kind of got a deep baritone voice and it

1306
00:50:56,710 --> 00:50:56,000
just echoed off the walls while the

1307
00:50:59,109 --> 00:50:56,720
priest

1308
00:51:00,870 --> 00:50:59,119
stopped saying it the people next to us

1309
00:51:03,190 --> 00:51:00,880
stopped saying it and i i had the

1310
00:51:06,390 --> 00:51:03,200
opportunity to say the lord's prayer

1311
00:51:09,829 --> 00:51:06,400
in salisbury cathedral all by myself

1312
00:51:11,030 --> 00:51:09,839
and when i was done

1313
00:51:12,549 --> 00:51:11,040

the priest says oh my god what a

1314

00:51:12,870 --> 00:51:12,559

beautiful beautiful service this has

1315

00:51:14,790 --> 00:51:12,880

been

1316

00:51:16,069 --> 00:51:14,800

and just for you weary wanderers we want

1317

00:51:17,829 --> 00:51:16,079

you to know that we're going to hold a

1318

00:51:19,430 --> 00:51:17,839

special mass for you right after this

1319

00:51:20,950 --> 00:51:19,440

we're going to bring in another priest

1320

00:51:22,470 --> 00:51:20,960

but we're going to hold a special mass

1321

00:51:25,109 --> 00:51:22,480

just for the travelers

1322

00:51:26,470 --> 00:51:25,119

on their weary road and he pointed right

1323

00:51:29,589 --> 00:51:26,480

at cindy and i so

1324

00:51:31,910 --> 00:51:29,599

we lingered after the service and he did

1325

00:51:35,030 --> 00:51:31,920

and he saw my stick

1326

00:51:37,349 --> 00:51:35,040

and he prayed for me and

1327

00:51:39,829 --> 00:51:37,359

and it was beautiful and he's going like

1328

00:51:43,030 --> 00:51:39,839

i have a lot to face myself

1329

00:51:44,390 --> 00:51:43,040

but i i guess

1330

00:51:47,510 --> 00:51:44,400

cindy's going to reach over and pop me

1331

00:51:51,190 --> 00:51:47,520

here because i'm wandering

1332

00:51:53,270 --> 00:51:51,200

so so 2013

1333

00:51:54,230 --> 00:51:53,280

you're going in for confession take us

1334

00:52:00,230 --> 00:51:54,240

through

1335

00:52:06,790 --> 00:52:04,390

i i didn't know what to expect

1336

00:52:08,069 --> 00:52:06,800

cindy grew up playing in the grotto when

1337

00:52:09,750 --> 00:52:08,079

she was babysitting 10

1338

00:52:11,910 --> 00:52:09,760

12 years old she's over here snickering

1339

00:52:14,710 --> 00:52:11,920

at me going like this is so cool

1340

00:52:16,470 --> 00:52:14,720

but and when when i went there i'm going

1341

00:52:18,710 --> 00:52:16,480

like what i'm already thinking what are

1342

00:52:19,270 --> 00:52:18,720

the odds what are the possible odds of

1343

00:52:21,589 --> 00:52:19,280

this here

1344

00:52:22,790 --> 00:52:21,599

here i meet a woman on the internet who

1345

00:52:25,270 --> 00:52:22,800

lost her husband a year

1346

00:52:27,190 --> 00:52:25,280

before to pancreatic cancer i'm a single

1347

00:52:29,910 --> 00:52:27,200

parent she's a single parent

1348

00:52:31,349 --> 00:52:29,920

and my eleven-year-old daughter hooks me

1349

00:52:33,589 --> 00:52:31,359

up on due date which is now i think

1350

00:52:35,430 --> 00:52:33,599

called match.com and i meet her and fall

1351

00:52:38,549 --> 00:52:35,440

in love with her

1352

00:52:39,430 --> 00:52:38,559

and oh she lives next to a church for

1353

00:52:41,990 --> 00:52:39,440

the blind i

1354

00:52:44,390 --> 00:52:42,000

she didn't even know that she just they

1355

00:52:47,349 --> 00:52:44,400

always called it the greek church

1356

00:52:48,950 --> 00:52:47,359

so okay it's it's the day i'm going and

1357

00:52:50,390 --> 00:52:48,960

the padre is going to hear my confession

1358

00:52:53,109 --> 00:52:50,400

and i'm going to dump it all

1359

00:52:54,710 --> 00:52:53,119

i'm i'm because i got a bus stop waiting

1360

00:52:56,630 --> 00:52:54,720

for me

1361

00:52:57,750 --> 00:52:56,640

that was your plan so confess and then

1362

00:53:00,390 --> 00:52:57,760

step in front of a bus

1363

00:53:01,109 --> 00:53:00,400

that's what you have i really had no i

1364

00:53:02,790 --> 00:53:01,119

really

1365

00:53:04,870 --> 00:53:02,800

you know what i i always considered

1366

00:53:05,990 --> 00:53:04,880

myself a spiritual person but i wasn't

1367

00:53:07,589 --> 00:53:06,000

particularly religious

1368

00:53:10,470 --> 00:53:07,599

in fact i'm probably going to hell in

1369

00:53:14,150 --> 00:53:10,480

every religion not just greek orthodoxy

1370

00:53:16,309 --> 00:53:14,160

all right but but you know what i was

1371

00:53:17,349 --> 00:53:16,319

i was at that point i was so desperate

1372

00:53:19,990 --> 00:53:17,359

my life had become

1373

00:53:20,790 --> 00:53:20,000

so small i had lost everything i had

1374

00:53:24,150 --> 00:53:20,800

worked for

1375

00:53:27,670 --> 00:53:24,160

and and everybody that i loved was was

1376

00:53:29,910 --> 00:53:27,680

disappearing in this darkness

1377

00:53:32,630 --> 00:53:29,920

and i really was i was at the end of my

1378

00:53:41,990 --> 00:53:36,950

i and then cindy's mom was dying

1379

00:53:44,549 --> 00:53:42,000

and i had no expectation so so

1380

00:53:45,349 --> 00:53:44,559

cindy waited out in the anna room in a

1381

00:53:48,390 --> 00:53:45,359

breezeway

1382

00:53:51,109 --> 00:53:48,400

and uh i went in there and uh

1383

00:53:52,790 --> 00:53:51,119

i made my confession and i i spilled my

1384

00:53:53,910 --> 00:53:52,800

guts i spilled it all and i just felt

1385

00:53:57,589 --> 00:53:53,920

this huge

1386

00:53:59,270 --> 00:53:57,599

huge huge weight lift off my shoulders

1387

00:54:00,790 --> 00:53:59,280

and it was over and the priest helped me

1388

00:54:02,470 --> 00:54:00,800

to my feet and brought me to that

1389

00:54:04,710 --> 00:54:02,480

diamond that you see on the floor and

1390

00:54:07,910 --> 00:54:04,720

had me kneel on it

1391

00:54:09,829 --> 00:54:07,920

and i'm thinking at least my heart is my

1392

00:54:12,390 --> 00:54:09,839

heart my soul was as clean as i could

1393

00:54:14,309 --> 00:54:12,400

possibly hope it to be

1394

00:54:16,630 --> 00:54:14,319

anyway he started praying on me and i

1395

00:54:18,230 --> 00:54:16,640

could feel his hand above my head

1396

00:54:20,230 --> 00:54:18,240

and most people can do this if you hold

1397

00:54:23,109 --> 00:54:20,240

your hands together you can feel

1398

00:54:24,870 --> 00:54:23,119

a radiant heat or an energy between them

1399

00:54:28,470 --> 00:54:24,880

but his hand was

1400

00:54:30,309 --> 00:54:28,480

right here he didn't touch me and

1401
00:54:31,670 --> 00:54:30,319
he's so you're kneeling and he's

1402
00:54:38,309 --> 00:54:31,680
standing

1403
00:54:43,190 --> 00:54:38,319
off my right shoulder and

1404
00:54:47,030 --> 00:54:45,270
i just started sobbing i mean it was

1405
00:54:50,470 --> 00:54:47,040
like it was this beautiful

1406
00:54:52,390 --> 00:54:50,480
ribula of golden light that

1407
00:54:55,270 --> 00:54:52,400
coursed out of the priest's hand above

1408
00:54:57,190 --> 00:54:55,280
my head came straight through my body

1409
00:54:59,589 --> 00:54:57,200
lingered a moment right here and then

1410
00:55:00,789 --> 00:54:59,599
went out the bottom of the soles of my

1411
00:55:02,390 --> 00:55:00,799
feet

1412
00:55:03,990 --> 00:55:02,400
now you felt something you didn't see

1413
00:55:07,349 --> 00:55:04,000

something you felt something

1414

00:55:08,710 --> 00:55:07,359

oh yeah i felt it anyway so the priest

1415

00:55:11,750 --> 00:55:08,720

helps me to my feet

1416

00:55:14,950 --> 00:55:11,760

and i open my eyes and i'm going like

1417

00:55:17,829 --> 00:55:14,960

so freaking blind and he

1418

00:55:18,549 --> 00:55:17,839

takes me out into the breezeway cindy's

1419

00:55:20,069 --> 00:55:18,559

going like

1420

00:55:21,670 --> 00:55:20,079

what the what the heck just happened i

1421

00:55:24,390 --> 00:55:21,680

mean michael i'm gonna stop you because

1422

00:55:26,630 --> 00:55:24,400

i wanna i wanna just you what what did

1423

00:55:30,230 --> 00:55:26,640

you feel

1424

00:55:34,549 --> 00:55:30,240

love the most unconditional love

1425

00:55:37,829 --> 00:55:34,559

i had ever experienced in my life

1426

00:55:40,950 --> 00:55:37,839

it was it was like

1427

00:55:43,190 --> 00:55:40,960

i can't even describe it i mean it was

1428

00:55:44,390 --> 00:55:43,200

it was so overwhelming i was sobbing i

1429

00:55:47,190 --> 00:55:44,400

wasn't crying i was

1430

00:55:48,069 --> 00:55:47,200

heavy i was sobbing i'm going like oh my

1431

00:55:50,230 --> 00:55:48,079

god what just

1432

00:55:51,589 --> 00:55:50,240

happened did you feel that energy going

1433

00:55:52,630 --> 00:55:51,599

through you was that am i remembering

1434

00:55:57,829 --> 00:55:52,640

yeah

1435

00:56:05,510 --> 00:55:59,190

and if you need a break we can have

1436

00:56:09,750 --> 00:56:07,430

it was it was like being it was like

1437

00:56:11,910 --> 00:56:09,760

waking up

1438

00:56:13,750 --> 00:56:11,920

from a deep sleep and being wrapped in

1439

00:56:15,750 --> 00:56:13,760

the most comfortable blanket

1440

00:56:17,510 --> 00:56:15,760

it's the most comfortable warmth that

1441

00:56:20,069 --> 00:56:17,520

you've ever known and just

1442

00:56:20,710 --> 00:56:20,079

wanting to linger there forever because

1443

00:56:24,789 --> 00:56:20,720

you feel

1444

00:56:28,470 --> 00:56:24,799

safe and secure and and loved and

1445

00:56:30,710 --> 00:56:28,480

forgiven and all those other adjectives

1446

00:56:32,549 --> 00:56:30,720

that go with it's like

1447

00:56:33,750 --> 00:56:32,559

i don't know what does it what does an

1448

00:56:35,829 --> 00:56:33,760

infant

1449

00:56:37,430 --> 00:56:35,839

feel in his arms i mean it doesn't know

1450

00:56:39,109 --> 00:56:37,440

anything but love

1451
00:56:43,589 --> 00:56:39,119
you know i had a lifetime of memories of

1452
00:56:46,710 --> 00:56:43,599
mistakes and and horror shows that

1453
00:56:50,150 --> 00:56:46,720
i was just trying to

1454
00:56:52,150 --> 00:56:50,160
figure out what part of me to let go and

1455
00:56:54,470 --> 00:56:52,160
when i was on my knees i let it all go i

1456
00:56:57,670 --> 00:56:56,309
there's a greater power there's a higher

1457
00:56:59,270 --> 00:56:57,680
power worker here

1458
00:57:00,789 --> 00:56:59,280
what just happened to me i didn't say

1459
00:57:01,270 --> 00:57:00,799
anything to the priest in the moment he

1460
00:57:03,829 --> 00:57:01,280
just

1461
00:57:04,549 --> 00:57:03,839
helped me to my feet and walked me out

1462
00:57:10,390 --> 00:57:04,559
and

1463
00:57:12,710 --> 00:57:10,400

to be honest i didn't say anything to

1464

00:57:15,349 --> 00:57:12,720

you either michael because

1465

00:57:17,030 --> 00:57:15,359

the truth is i was freaking out i had

1466

00:57:19,829 --> 00:57:17,040

never felt anything like that

1467

00:57:22,630 --> 00:57:19,839

i tried to explain it as it felt like a

1468

00:57:25,670 --> 00:57:22,640

little tap on the top of my head

1469

00:57:26,470 --> 00:57:25,680

while i had my hand over your head and a

1470

00:57:28,870 --> 00:57:26,480

sort of

1471

00:57:29,589 --> 00:57:28,880

vibration that ran from the top of my

1472

00:57:32,470 --> 00:57:29,599

head

1473

00:57:33,589 --> 00:57:32,480

down my body and the only thing that

1474

00:57:36,870 --> 00:57:33,599

gave me a hint

1475

00:57:39,670 --> 00:57:36,880

that um that it might have gone through

1476
00:57:41,670 --> 00:57:39,680
to you as well was i felt you sort of i

1477
00:57:45,030 --> 00:57:41,680
felt your head shake a little bit

1478
00:57:46,309 --> 00:57:45,040
but it was so i've never felt anything

1479
00:57:49,349 --> 00:57:46,319
like that before

1480
00:57:51,270 --> 00:57:49,359
or since i felt a little bit

1481
00:57:52,789 --> 00:57:51,280
here and there since but nothing like

1482
00:57:54,789 --> 00:57:52,799
that day and so

1483
00:57:57,589 --> 00:57:54,799
i didn't know how to respond to it

1484
00:57:59,030 --> 00:57:57,599
because i was freaking out i had no idea

1485
00:58:02,470 --> 00:57:59,040
what it was

1486
00:58:03,750 --> 00:58:02,480
but um i just i was already crying from

1487
00:58:07,270 --> 00:58:03,760
hearing this confession

1488
00:58:09,910 --> 00:58:07,280

so i was already teared teary-eyed

1489

00:58:11,589 --> 00:58:09,920

throughout this whole process and and

1490

00:58:12,870 --> 00:58:11,599

you know i lifted him up and i just kind

1491

00:58:16,150 --> 00:58:12,880

of we just walked

1492

00:58:16,470 --> 00:58:16,160

out the door where sandy did see us and

1493

00:58:19,910 --> 00:58:16,480

uh

1494

00:58:23,430 --> 00:58:19,920

and cindy helped michael down the stairs

1495

00:58:26,309 --> 00:58:23,440

into the shrine that underground chapel

1496

00:58:27,109 --> 00:58:26,319

with the the with the water and when we

1497

00:58:30,309 --> 00:58:27,119

got there

1498

00:58:32,069 --> 00:58:30,319

i explained to michael that um there was

1499

00:58:32,470 --> 00:58:32,079

a beautiful there still is a beautiful

1500

00:58:35,589 --> 00:58:32,480

four

1501
00:58:36,390 --> 00:58:35,599
panel icon in on the wall in the shrine

1502
00:58:39,349 --> 00:58:36,400
and it kind of

1503
00:58:39,990 --> 00:58:39,359
it just just inside those doors to the

1504
00:58:44,950 --> 00:58:40,000
right

1505
00:58:47,109 --> 00:58:44,960
and and um it it explains how

1506
00:58:48,789 --> 00:58:47,119
this this young woman who lived in the

1507
00:58:49,510 --> 00:58:48,799
late part of the second century if you

1508
00:58:51,030 --> 00:58:49,520
look at right

1509
00:58:52,870 --> 00:58:51,040
you can't see this just to the right of

1510
00:58:55,190 --> 00:58:52,880
that picture she's right above right

1511
00:58:57,510 --> 00:58:55,200
or is it that's that's that's where the

1512
00:58:57,829 --> 00:58:57,520
holy water comes down that's a mosaic on

1513
00:59:00,150 --> 00:58:57,839

top

1514

00:59:01,990 --> 00:59:00,160

you see right there but to the right of

1515

00:59:05,270 --> 00:59:02,000

that there's a four panel

1516

00:59:07,829 --> 00:59:05,280

icon and you see her um so

1517

00:59:09,270 --> 00:59:07,839

she so she's a beautiful woman a

1518

00:59:10,230 --> 00:59:09,280

christian wanted to commit herself to

1519

00:59:12,230 --> 00:59:10,240

christ

1520

00:59:13,510 --> 00:59:12,240

the local ruler sees her and wants to

1521

00:59:15,109 --> 00:59:13,520

make her one of her

1522

00:59:16,789 --> 00:59:15,119

one of his concubine one of his many

1523

00:59:18,950 --> 00:59:16,799

wives and uh

1524

00:59:20,470 --> 00:59:18,960

she refuses because she really wants to

1525

00:59:23,030 --> 00:59:20,480

commit herself to jesus

1526
00:59:24,630 --> 00:59:23,040
and because if christianity was an

1527
00:59:26,549 --> 00:59:24,640
illegal religion

1528
00:59:28,549 --> 00:59:26,559
she's arrested and so you see now the

1529
00:59:31,109 --> 00:59:28,559
next panel that

1530
00:59:33,109 --> 00:59:31,119
while she's arrested she's tortured and

1531
00:59:35,829 --> 00:59:33,119
one of the ways she's tortured

1532
00:59:36,470 --> 00:59:35,839
is she's put in a cauldron of boiling

1533
00:59:39,990 --> 00:59:36,480
all

1534
00:59:43,030 --> 00:59:40,000
of boiling oil

1535
00:59:46,309 --> 00:59:43,040
and for some reason

1536
00:59:48,789 --> 00:59:46,319
she's not being hurt by it and the ruler

1537
00:59:50,549 --> 00:59:48,799
thinking that uh that it wasn't hot

1538
00:59:52,150 --> 00:59:50,559

enough was screaming to his servants you

1539

00:59:55,190 --> 00:59:52,160

fools it's not hot enough

1540

00:59:56,789 --> 00:59:55,200

and and dips her hand into the oil

1541

00:59:58,309 --> 00:59:56,799

and she goes it's hot enough and she

1542

01:00:00,549 --> 00:59:58,319

flicks it into his eyes

1543

01:00:01,750 --> 01:00:00,559

and and immediately he's burnt and his

1544

01:00:03,670 --> 01:00:01,760

and he's blind

1545

01:00:05,430 --> 01:00:03,680

and she says to him if you believe in my

1546

01:00:07,829 --> 01:00:05,440

lord and savior jesus christ

1547

01:00:09,270 --> 01:00:07,839

you'll be able to see again and she

1548

01:00:11,589 --> 01:00:09,280

touches his eyes and

1549

01:00:13,190 --> 01:00:11,599

he's able to see again and immediately

1550

01:00:15,430 --> 01:00:13,200

he tells his servants

1551

01:00:16,549 --> 01:00:15,440

get her out of there and he becomes

1552

01:00:19,670 --> 01:00:16,559

baptized

1553

01:00:22,630 --> 01:00:19,680

but uh the new ruler eventually comes

1554

01:00:22,950 --> 01:00:22,640

um and her fame now is getting spreading

1555

01:00:25,270 --> 01:00:22,960

so

1556

01:00:26,309 --> 01:00:25,280

he has her beheaded and i'm telling

1557

01:00:28,549 --> 01:00:26,319

michael that

1558

01:00:29,349 --> 01:00:28,559

at that place where they beheaded her in

1559

01:00:32,549 --> 01:00:29,359

a town called

1560

01:00:36,069 --> 01:00:32,559

therapia which is in modern-day turkey

1561

01:00:38,470 --> 01:00:36,079

um they built a a chapel

1562

01:00:39,750 --> 01:00:38,480

and sometime after that chapel was built

1563

01:00:41,990 --> 01:00:39,760

a spring

1564

01:00:44,789 --> 01:00:42,000

came out of that a natural spring of

1565

01:00:47,270 --> 01:00:44,799

water and people would come there

1566

01:00:48,710 --> 01:00:47,280

and anoint themselves or drink the water

1567

01:00:51,030 --> 01:00:48,720

from that shrine

1568

01:00:52,710 --> 01:00:51,040

and a lot of people especially with eye

1569

01:00:55,430 --> 01:00:52,720

problems would be healed

1570

01:00:57,270 --> 01:00:55,440

so she became known over time as the

1571

01:00:59,430 --> 01:00:57,280

patron saint for i helped

1572

01:01:00,390 --> 01:00:59,440

in the in the eastern christian uh

1573

01:01:03,349 --> 01:01:00,400

tradition

1574

01:01:03,910 --> 01:01:03,359

um since this church saint paraskevi was

1575

01:01:05,030 --> 01:01:03,920

the only

1576

01:01:07,510 --> 01:01:05,040

saiyan palace could be in the united

1577

01:01:09,670 --> 01:01:07,520

states a number of parishioners in the

1578

01:01:13,109 --> 01:01:09,680

60s decided to go

1579

01:01:14,870 --> 01:01:13,119

to that church in asia minor and get the

1580

01:01:15,829 --> 01:01:14,880

blessing of the patriarch the head of

1581

01:01:18,789 --> 01:01:15,839

our church

1582

01:01:19,589 --> 01:01:18,799

and bring back some of that holy water

1583

01:01:21,430 --> 01:01:19,599

and so

1584

01:01:23,670 --> 01:01:21,440

that's what they did and they built this

1585

01:01:27,109 --> 01:01:23,680

uh shrine this underground shrine

1586

01:01:30,069 --> 01:01:27,119

and they have the holy water

1587

01:01:30,870 --> 01:01:30,079

that uh was retrieved from the actual

1588

01:01:33,030 --> 01:01:30,880

spring

1589

01:01:35,349 --> 01:01:33,040

and there's basically the long island

1590

01:01:37,750 --> 01:01:35,359

water pours into the holy water

1591

01:01:39,589 --> 01:01:37,760

and it's and then it overflows and comes

1592

01:01:41,109 --> 01:01:39,599

out so it's always constantly

1593

01:01:43,030 --> 01:01:41,119

and that little spout right there is

1594

01:01:44,230 --> 01:01:43,040

where it comes out of so it's always

1595

01:01:48,630 --> 01:01:44,240

being sanctified

1596

01:01:51,190 --> 01:01:48,640

there you go and and so people come

1597

01:01:52,069 --> 01:01:51,200

from all over the country to receive

1598

01:01:54,950 --> 01:01:52,079

this water

1599

01:01:55,829 --> 01:01:54,960

and to be prayed over especially you

1600

01:01:58,549 --> 01:01:55,839

know people with

1601
01:02:00,390 --> 01:01:58,559
immaculate degeneration and and and

1602
01:02:02,470 --> 01:02:00,400
detached retinas and other

1603
01:02:04,309 --> 01:02:02,480
uh the funny thing is not very many

1604
01:02:06,950 --> 01:02:04,319
people who are blind come

1605
01:02:08,230 --> 01:02:06,960
to the shrine and michael has a uh he

1606
01:02:10,549 --> 01:02:08,240
shared with me his uh

1607
01:02:11,750 --> 01:02:10,559
his theory on that actually people tend

1608
01:02:14,230 --> 01:02:11,760
to give up

1609
01:02:16,470 --> 01:02:14,240
and uh and and his story is very very

1610
01:02:19,270 --> 01:02:16,480
you know it sounds just like that but

1611
01:02:20,710 --> 01:02:19,280
so so we even get i've even gotten you

1612
01:02:23,510 --> 01:02:20,720
know letters

1613
01:02:24,789 --> 01:02:23,520

and phone calls from ophthalmologists

1614

01:02:26,309 --> 01:02:24,799

who say

1615

01:02:28,069 --> 01:02:26,319

i can't believe what do you have in that

1616

01:02:30,789 --> 01:02:28,079

water my you know my patient

1617

01:02:33,029 --> 01:02:30,799

had x y and z and and how is it that you

1618

01:02:34,950 --> 01:02:33,039

know their their eyesight is back

1619

01:02:36,230 --> 01:02:34,960

um and we probably have you know

1620

01:02:38,789 --> 01:02:36,240

hundreds of people

1621

01:02:40,470 --> 01:02:38,799

who've written testimonies of and people

1622

01:02:42,710 --> 01:02:40,480

have come back and let me know

1623

01:02:43,829 --> 01:02:42,720

anyway so here it is i'm explaining

1624

01:02:46,230 --> 01:02:43,839

explain to him that

1625

01:02:48,309 --> 01:02:46,240

in 1969 we brought the water back the

1626

01:02:50,309 --> 01:02:48,319

water's flowing out of here this is the

1627

01:02:52,390 --> 01:02:50,319

holy water i said a prayer for him

1628

01:02:54,309 --> 01:02:52,400

i anointed him with the holy water and

1629

01:02:56,789 --> 01:02:54,319

then i saw michael

1630

01:02:58,470 --> 01:02:56,799

what i thought he was doing was you know

1631

01:03:01,670 --> 01:02:58,480

anointing his face

1632

01:03:02,470 --> 01:03:01,680

with with the water but michael what

1633

01:03:04,069 --> 01:03:02,480

were you doing

1634

01:03:06,470 --> 01:03:04,079

at that point when you put your hands

1635

01:03:06,950 --> 01:03:06,480

like a sink uh over that shrine the

1636

01:03:09,910 --> 01:03:06,960

water

1637

01:03:11,430 --> 01:03:09,920

and and washed your face that was

1638

01:03:12,150 --> 01:03:11,440

probably the longest walk i've ever

1639

01:03:15,670 --> 01:03:12,160

taken

1640

01:03:19,270 --> 01:03:15,680

from when you picked me up off the

1641

01:03:21,109 --> 01:03:19,280

floor and my that walk to the grotto

1642

01:03:22,470 --> 01:03:21,119

was probably the longest walk of my life

1643

01:03:25,349 --> 01:03:22,480

i had zero

1644

01:03:27,029 --> 01:03:25,359

expectations i didn't tell the priestess

1645

01:03:29,190 --> 01:03:27,039

right all i was doing was washing the

1646

01:03:31,349 --> 01:03:29,200

tears off my face

1647

01:03:33,349 --> 01:03:31,359

and while i was doing that was it was

1648

01:03:34,069 --> 01:03:33,359

like looking through a kaleidoscope i'm

1649

01:03:37,750 --> 01:03:34,079

thinking

1650

01:03:38,950 --> 01:03:37,760

i'm going what the hell and i opened my

1651

01:03:42,549 --> 01:03:38,960

eyes that i look up

1652

01:03:44,150 --> 01:03:42,559

and i after

1653

01:03:47,190 --> 01:03:44,160

so after you washed your eyes in the

1654

01:03:48,870 --> 01:03:47,200

holy water then you looked up

1655

01:03:50,470 --> 01:03:48,880

and i'm i'm thinking to myself i'm

1656

01:03:52,150 --> 01:03:50,480

having a stroke because the hair on the

1657

01:03:54,069 --> 01:03:52,160

back of my i knew where the priest was i

1658

01:03:55,029 --> 01:03:54,079

knew where cindy was they were behind me

1659

01:03:57,990 --> 01:03:55,039

to my right

1660

01:03:59,109 --> 01:03:58,000

and my first i have a problem with

1661

01:04:01,430 --> 01:03:59,119

birding it's one of

1662

01:04:03,109 --> 01:04:01,440

it's in one of tony robbins books i

1663

01:04:07,589 --> 01:04:03,119

think it's chapter seven

1664

01:04:11,029 --> 01:04:07,599

i went there's a woman here and

1665

01:04:13,510 --> 01:04:11,039

and it i could feel this heat this this

1666

01:04:15,910 --> 01:04:13,520

on my left side of my my face and the

1667

01:04:19,190 --> 01:04:15,920

back of my neck so i turned

1668

01:04:21,349 --> 01:04:19,200

and it was it was like this i don't know

1669

01:04:22,950 --> 01:04:21,359

how to describe like a tornado of colors

1670

01:04:24,950 --> 01:04:22,960

the colors of the rainbow and then they

1671

01:04:26,309 --> 01:04:24,960

just slowed and then stopped and then

1672

01:04:28,789 --> 01:04:26,319

there's this beautiful

1673

01:04:30,789 --> 01:04:28,799

woman kind of got a mediterranean

1674

01:04:34,069 --> 01:04:30,799

complexion standing there

1675

01:04:37,430 --> 01:04:34,079

in this i mean

1676

01:04:38,789 --> 01:04:37,440

it was emerald this beautiful beautiful

1677

01:04:41,990 --> 01:04:38,799

emerald

1678

01:04:44,230 --> 01:04:42,000

and i didn't know this until later but

1679

01:04:46,069 --> 01:04:44,240

green is the middle color of the rainbow

1680

01:04:46,630 --> 01:04:46,079

it's also the one color that human

1681

01:04:50,150 --> 01:04:46,640

beings

1682

01:04:51,990 --> 01:04:50,160

can see the most shades of and it's also

1683

01:04:54,710 --> 01:04:52,000

my favorite color

1684

01:04:55,589 --> 01:04:54,720

just look at all the houses i painted

1685

01:04:58,789 --> 01:04:55,599

and

1686

01:05:01,109 --> 01:04:58,799

then she

1687

01:05:02,549 --> 01:05:01,119

she kind of turned her head and towards

1688

01:05:05,670 --> 01:05:02,559

the priest and sydney so i

1689

01:05:06,950 --> 01:05:05,680

kept spinning i i saw cindy and i'm

1690

01:05:10,549 --> 01:05:06,960

going like

1691

01:05:14,309 --> 01:05:10,559

a stroke or

1692

01:05:15,029 --> 01:05:14,319

a was there something in that water i

1693

01:05:16,390 --> 01:05:15,039

don't know

1694

01:05:17,829 --> 01:05:16,400

i mean did you immediately did you

1695

01:05:19,190 --> 01:05:17,839

realize right away that nobody else

1696

01:05:21,349 --> 01:05:19,200

could see her

1697

01:05:22,870 --> 01:05:21,359

no i didn't so you thought you just

1698

01:05:25,750 --> 01:05:22,880

thought i had somebody there

1699

01:05:27,510 --> 01:05:25,760

i felt the temperature in the room go up

1700

01:05:28,710 --> 01:05:27,520

okay it was it was cool in there when we

1701

01:05:32,549 --> 01:05:28,720

walked in it was like maybe

1702

01:05:35,829 --> 01:05:32,559

60 degrees but i felt a palpable

1703

01:05:37,670 --> 01:05:35,839

rise in temperature and i was so

1704

01:05:40,150 --> 01:05:37,680

distracted in that moment i was

1705

01:05:41,670 --> 01:05:40,160

so i mean completely disoriented i

1706

01:05:43,190 --> 01:05:41,680

thought it was going to fall over

1707

01:05:44,390 --> 01:05:43,200

i looked at cindy and then i looked at

1708

01:05:47,190 --> 01:05:44,400

the priest and the first thing he did

1709

01:05:50,309 --> 01:05:47,200

was he connected with my eyes and i said

1710

01:05:52,710 --> 01:05:50,319

your eyes are green and and for

1711

01:05:54,549 --> 01:05:52,720

the next several days everybody that i

1712

01:05:55,270 --> 01:05:54,559

looked into their eyes their eyes were

1713

01:05:56,630 --> 01:05:55,280

green it was

1714

01:05:57,670 --> 01:05:56,640

you know how you look into a bright

1715

01:05:59,109 --> 01:05:57,680

light for a minute and then you look

1716

01:06:01,270 --> 01:05:59,119

away in the dark and you have that

1717

01:06:03,029 --> 01:06:01,280

spot in front of you i'm going like what

1718

01:06:05,829 --> 01:06:03,039

what's going on i'm having a stroke

1719

01:06:06,870 --> 01:06:05,839

or i'm unconscious and this is part of

1720

01:06:16,870 --> 01:06:06,880

it

1721

01:06:17,589 --> 01:06:16,880

all kinds of chaos erupted then because

1722

01:06:20,630 --> 01:06:17,599

i'm going like

1723

01:06:21,750 --> 01:06:20,640

i can see this i could see this i could

1724

01:06:24,309 --> 01:06:21,760

see this

1725

01:06:25,190 --> 01:06:24,319

and touch me and tell me this is really

1726

01:06:28,710 --> 01:06:25,200

happening i had

1727

01:06:30,630 --> 01:06:28,720

absolutely no expectation at all of that

1728

01:06:34,150 --> 01:06:30,640

happening

1729

01:06:38,710 --> 01:06:34,160

call me the faithless if you want but

1730

01:06:41,990 --> 01:06:38,720

that moment was so intense i i

1731

01:06:42,230 --> 01:06:42,000

i think about it every day i think about

1732

01:06:46,549 --> 01:06:42,240

it

1733

01:06:48,870 --> 01:06:46,559

remember

1734

01:06:50,309 --> 01:06:48,880

the the my the second priest my

1735

01:06:52,549 --> 01:06:50,319

assistant came down

1736

01:06:54,470 --> 01:06:52,559

to see what was going on and then the

1737

01:06:58,829 --> 01:06:54,480

secretary came down

1738

01:07:00,150 --> 01:06:58,839

and we were all basically crying it was

1739

01:07:04,390 --> 01:07:00,160

um

1740

01:07:05,670 --> 01:07:04,400

remarkable i left my blind man's cane in

1741

01:07:08,309 --> 01:07:05,680

the grotto that day

1742

01:07:10,150 --> 01:07:08,319

and walked home with cindy it's still

1743

01:07:12,549 --> 01:07:10,160

suspended there

1744

01:07:14,230 --> 01:07:12,559

and and i i had to hold her hand because

1745

01:07:16,150 --> 01:07:14,240

that was completely disoriented you're

1746

01:07:17,270 --> 01:07:16,160

talking to a guy who was counting steps

1747

01:07:19,510 --> 01:07:17,280

and turns and

1748

01:07:21,829 --> 01:07:19,520

my whole world had collapsed into this

1749

01:07:24,230 --> 01:07:21,839

dark hole

1750

01:07:25,349 --> 01:07:24,240

and all of a sudden i'm like i have

1751

01:07:30,309 --> 01:07:25,359

vision back

1752

01:07:34,150 --> 01:07:31,510

i don't know there's something

1753

01:07:38,069 --> 01:07:34,160

everything has a radiant shine to it

1754

01:07:39,589 --> 01:07:38,079

and it's i'd call it an

1755

01:07:42,390 --> 01:07:39,599

aura i don't even know how to describe

1756

01:07:47,670 --> 01:07:42,400

it it's just it's like there's a

1757

01:07:52,870 --> 01:07:49,430

i don't know i'm still at a loss word

1758

01:07:55,190 --> 01:07:52,880

sometimes trying to describe it right

1759

01:07:56,789 --> 01:07:55,200

and i'll tell you what that was an

1760

01:08:00,150 --> 01:07:56,799

interesting day

1761

01:08:01,589 --> 01:08:00,160

i i i uh

1762

01:08:03,190 --> 01:08:01,599

the next couple weeks were really

1763

01:08:04,950 --> 01:08:03,200

interesting because yeah the next

1764

01:08:05,430 --> 01:08:04,960

morning the next morning i got i was

1765

01:08:09,589 --> 01:08:05,440

still

1766

01:08:12,630 --> 01:08:09,599

crossed the street

1767

01:08:14,950 --> 01:08:12,640

over to the next we crossed the driveway

1768

01:08:16,950 --> 01:08:14,960

to say peresqv i looked at that park

1769

01:08:18,149 --> 01:08:16,960

bench and i just felt this enormous

1770

01:08:22,829 --> 01:08:18,159

sense of shame

1771

01:08:27,829 --> 01:08:25,829

and i went back to the next day i mean

1772

01:08:29,829 --> 01:08:27,839

that afternoon was really wild i

1773

01:08:31,669 --> 01:08:29,839

literally retreated into my cave because

1774

01:08:34,709 --> 01:08:31,679

i was completely overwhelmed

1775

01:08:39,269 --> 01:08:34,719

all my senses had kicked in all at once

1776

01:08:41,269 --> 01:08:39,279

and i i didn't know what was happening

1777

01:08:43,430 --> 01:08:41,279

michael did you tell them at the time

1778

01:08:44,870 --> 01:08:43,440

that you saw somebody that you know

1779

01:08:46,789 --> 01:08:44,880

i know father you thought he was talking

1780

01:08:48,149 --> 01:08:46,799

about the icon on the wall and michael

1781

01:08:48,630 --> 01:08:48,159

you were talking about you were seeing a

1782

01:08:51,110 --> 01:08:48,640

phys

1783

01:08:51,829 --> 01:08:51,120

actual person did you tell them at the

1784

01:08:54,550 --> 01:08:51,839

time that you

1785

01:08:55,269 --> 01:08:54,560

or did that come later that came later i

1786

01:08:56,870 --> 01:08:55,279

mean i was

1787

01:08:59,110 --> 01:08:56,880

so i thought i was i thought i had

1788

01:09:02,229 --> 01:08:59,120

stroked out and i was lying

1789

01:09:05,269 --> 01:09:02,239

you know intubated in a hospital room uh

1790

01:09:08,470 --> 01:09:05,279

you know and having some sort of dream

1791

01:09:10,070 --> 01:09:08,480

and i mean there were a lot of i had a

1792

01:09:13,110 --> 01:09:10,080

lot of interesting thoughts and that

1793

01:09:15,349 --> 01:09:13,120

very very few brief moments where i

1794

01:09:19,510 --> 01:09:15,359

realized that i had regained my vision

1795

01:09:22,630 --> 01:09:19,520

and um

1796

01:09:23,030 --> 01:09:22,640

you know um father just i just want to

1797

01:09:27,189 --> 01:09:23,040

take

1798

01:09:29,269 --> 01:09:27,199

what you felt when that was going on

1799

01:09:31,030 --> 01:09:29,279

when you were when you were listening to

1800

01:09:32,789 --> 01:09:31,040

his confession what exactly did it feel

1801

01:09:34,229 --> 01:09:32,799

like that went through your body

1802

01:09:36,390 --> 01:09:34,239

well it wasn't when i was hearing his

1803

01:09:37,510 --> 01:09:36,400

confession it was when he was kneeling

1804

01:09:40,070 --> 01:09:37,520

and i was reading the prayer of

1805

01:09:41,189 --> 01:09:40,080

absolution over him it was then and i

1806

01:09:43,510 --> 01:09:41,199

like i said

1807

01:09:44,229 --> 01:09:43,520

the closest thing that i can explain it

1808

01:09:50,950 --> 01:09:44,239

to

1809

01:09:53,030 --> 01:09:50,960

it was it was a warm incredible i

1810

01:09:54,709 --> 01:09:53,040

you we get goosebumps right we get

1811

01:09:57,430 --> 01:09:54,719

chills down our spine

1812

01:09:59,590 --> 01:09:57,440

this is that times a hundred i'd never

1813

01:10:00,950 --> 01:09:59,600

felt anything like that before

1814

01:10:03,030 --> 01:10:00,960

and the funny thing is he didn't get his

1815

01:10:04,709 --> 01:10:03,040

eyesight back then maybe he was

1816

01:10:07,030 --> 01:10:04,719

spiritually healed then

1817

01:10:08,390 --> 01:10:07,040

and the spiritual healing came before

1818

01:10:10,149 --> 01:10:08,400

the physical healing

1819

01:10:11,910 --> 01:10:10,159

i don't know i mean i'm thinking about

1820

01:10:13,189 --> 01:10:11,920

the gospels and thinking about how jesus

1821

01:10:15,110 --> 01:10:13,199

heals the paralytic

1822

01:10:16,630 --> 01:10:15,120

first he forgives his sins and then when

1823

01:10:18,229 --> 01:10:16,640

people start saying oh

1824

01:10:20,470 --> 01:10:18,239

what kind of authority does he have to

1825

01:10:22,310 --> 01:10:20,480

to heal those you know a person's sins

1826
01:10:24,229 --> 01:10:22,320
or forgive someone's sins and then he he

1827
01:10:27,270 --> 01:10:24,239
says oh let me show you what i could do

1828
01:10:29,110 --> 01:10:27,280
by the way understand i am not the

1829
01:10:30,950 --> 01:10:29,120
author of any of this

1830
01:10:32,870 --> 01:10:30,960
michael will say over and up and down

1831
01:10:35,270 --> 01:10:32,880
he's not the author of any of it

1832
01:10:37,350 --> 01:10:35,280
the way that i simply see it is that we

1833
01:10:39,030 --> 01:10:37,360
were both at the same place and struck

1834
01:10:42,070 --> 01:10:39,040
by a bolt of lightning

1835
01:10:42,790 --> 01:10:42,080
it was similar to that experience we

1836
01:10:44,470 --> 01:10:42,800
both

1837
01:10:46,149 --> 01:10:44,480
and i actually not i'm not going to get

1838
01:10:47,750 --> 01:10:46,159

into it right now but i had some

1839

01:10:49,350 --> 01:10:47,760

struggles at that time

1840

01:10:51,189 --> 01:10:49,360

and and the way the timing that

1841

01:10:52,310 --> 01:10:51,199

everything happened it was a reassurance

1842

01:10:55,350 --> 01:10:52,320

to me

1843

01:10:57,110 --> 01:10:55,360

that everything was okay so

1844

01:10:58,950 --> 01:10:57,120

everything worked out in a way that is

1845

01:11:00,390 --> 01:10:58,960

beyond my understanding i think beyond

1846

01:11:02,709 --> 01:11:00,400

any human understanding

1847

01:11:04,630 --> 01:11:02,719

i just did i just i knew that i was

1848

01:11:06,390 --> 01:11:04,640

floating the rest of that day

1849

01:11:08,470 --> 01:11:06,400

uh unbel you know i just could not

1850

01:11:09,990 --> 01:11:08,480

believe trying to pinch myself

1851
01:11:11,510 --> 01:11:10,000
to see did that really happen and then

1852
01:11:14,149 --> 01:11:11,520
when i showed up the next morning

1853
01:11:15,189 --> 01:11:14,159
and my secretary says he's here and i

1854
01:11:17,189 --> 01:11:15,199
said who's here

1855
01:11:19,350 --> 01:11:17,199
the man who was blind but he's not blind

1856
01:11:21,189 --> 01:11:19,360
anymore he's here waiting for you in the

1857
01:11:23,590 --> 01:11:21,199
church and i walked in and he said

1858
01:11:25,110 --> 01:11:23,600
father i never got a chance to see the

1859
01:11:25,990 --> 01:11:25,120
big church remember the church with the

1860
01:11:27,910 --> 01:11:26,000
one the pictures with

1861
01:11:29,270 --> 01:11:27,920
all those the seven day creation there

1862
01:11:30,709 --> 01:11:29,280
he goes oh my goodness this is

1863
01:11:32,070 --> 01:11:30,719

incredibly beautiful i've never seen

1864

01:11:33,750 --> 01:11:32,080

anything like this

1865

01:11:35,830 --> 01:11:33,760

and then we proceeded to sit down and

1866

01:11:37,510 --> 01:11:35,840

talk for two hours

1867

01:11:40,390 --> 01:11:37,520

and i just i remember the two questions

1868

01:11:42,709 --> 01:11:40,400

he asked me one was

1869

01:11:43,430 --> 01:11:42,719

how can i say thank you and i said don't

1870

01:11:45,350 --> 01:11:43,440

thank me

1871

01:11:47,270 --> 01:11:45,360

you know thank god how can i do that i

1872

01:11:48,709 --> 01:11:47,280

go i don't know and all i know is that

1873

01:11:50,390 --> 01:11:48,719

when jesus healed people

1874

01:11:51,990 --> 01:11:50,400

he would say your faith has made you

1875

01:11:53,189 --> 01:11:52,000

well go and sin no more i said that's

1876

01:11:55,669 --> 01:11:53,199

all i can give you

1877

01:11:57,430 --> 01:11:55,679

the next question really broke my heart

1878

01:11:58,870 --> 01:11:57,440

and that question was how long will this

1879

01:12:00,950 --> 01:11:58,880

last

1880

01:12:02,709 --> 01:12:00,960

i kept keep on thinking to myself how

1881

01:12:04,390 --> 01:12:02,719

long will this last

1882

01:12:06,070 --> 01:12:04,400

i don't know those are questions beyond

1883

01:12:07,910 --> 01:12:06,080

my uh pay grade

1884

01:12:10,790 --> 01:12:07,920

i go but i don't think god saves us from

1885

01:12:13,990 --> 01:12:10,800

drowning just to drop us in deeper water

1886

01:12:15,590 --> 01:12:14,000

and that's all that i had for him um

1887

01:12:17,830 --> 01:12:15,600

and then every night michael would write

1888

01:12:21,669 --> 01:12:17,840

me a letter uh emails

1889

01:12:22,070 --> 01:12:21,679

and and you know i i i had just written

1890

01:12:24,310 --> 01:12:22,080

or

1891

01:12:25,830 --> 01:12:24,320

edited my dissertation and published it

1892

01:12:28,149 --> 01:12:25,840

i love writing

1893

01:12:28,870 --> 01:12:28,159

but every night he would write me an

1894

01:12:31,750 --> 01:12:28,880

email

1895

01:12:32,149 --> 01:12:31,760

to talk about his experiences or talk

1896

01:12:35,110 --> 01:12:32,159

about

1897

01:12:37,110 --> 01:12:35,120

some aspect of the journey and and he

1898

01:12:39,910 --> 01:12:37,120

wrote so eloquently

1899

01:12:41,830 --> 01:12:39,920

that i i would spend hours in trying to

1900

01:12:46,070 --> 01:12:41,840

respond back to him

1901
01:12:48,790 --> 01:12:46,080
to give him the same care in my response

1902
01:12:49,750 --> 01:12:48,800
as he used in his writing earlier in the

1903
01:12:52,310 --> 01:12:49,760
day

1904
01:12:53,669 --> 01:12:52,320
and i and i think there's there's one i

1905
01:12:54,390 --> 01:12:53,679
i have it by the way i have it in front

1906
01:12:55,590 --> 01:12:54,400
of my hands

1907
01:12:57,590 --> 01:12:55,600
i'm going to pull it up print some

1908
01:12:59,510 --> 01:12:57,600
people she printed it but

1909
01:13:00,630 --> 01:12:59,520
i'm going to read this because uh and

1910
01:13:01,669 --> 01:13:00,640
you don't have to put that up because i

1911
01:13:03,430 --> 01:13:01,679
have it in front of me

1912
01:13:05,910 --> 01:13:03,440
okay people ultimately for the people

1913
01:13:07,430 --> 01:13:05,920

watching so this is what he wrote to me

1914

01:13:08,390 --> 01:13:07,440

and what you have is some other things

1915

01:13:11,990 --> 01:13:08,400

but anyway

1916

01:13:15,110 --> 01:13:12,000

he this he wrote this on the 24th

1917

01:13:15,990 --> 01:13:15,120

of november okay so this is six days

1918

01:13:18,550 --> 01:13:16,000

later

1919

01:13:20,470 --> 01:13:18,560

father demetrius as one might expect the

1920

01:13:22,070 --> 01:13:20,480

past few days have been extraordinary

1921

01:13:23,750 --> 01:13:22,080

indescribably slow

1922

01:13:26,229 --> 01:13:23,760

cindy and i are having an ongoing

1923

01:13:27,830 --> 01:13:26,239

conversation of incredulous seeing is

1924

01:13:29,669 --> 01:13:27,840

believing disbelief

1925

01:13:32,470 --> 01:13:29,679

fueled by the events of these past few

1926

01:13:34,630 --> 01:13:32,480

weeks and most notably the past few days

1927

01:13:36,070 --> 01:13:34,640

to put it mildly father both of us are

1928

01:13:38,070 --> 01:13:36,080

somewhat overwhelmed

1929

01:13:39,350 --> 01:13:38,080

i'm not asking a question so much as i'm

1930

01:13:41,590 --> 01:13:39,360

trying to ascertain

1931

01:13:43,669 --> 01:13:41,600

where it is exactly i am in this

1932

01:13:45,030 --> 01:13:43,679

unfolding situation

1933

01:13:46,630 --> 01:13:45,040

i don't know if you will be able to

1934

01:13:47,510 --> 01:13:46,640

offer any insight at all as to the

1935

01:13:49,270 --> 01:13:47,520

recollections

1936

01:13:50,709 --> 01:13:49,280

or reflections of others who have may

1937

01:13:52,950 --> 01:13:50,719

have gone undergone

1938

01:13:53,990 --> 01:13:52,960

a similar experience as the one i am

1939

01:13:56,310 --> 01:13:54,000

currently in

1940

01:13:58,070 --> 01:13:56,320

but any observations you would have

1941

01:13:59,430 --> 01:13:58,080

would be greatly appreciated

1942

01:14:01,189 --> 01:13:59,440

i don't know if i can accurately

1943

01:14:01,990 --> 01:14:01,199

describe it or coherently state my

1944

01:14:04,870 --> 01:14:02,000

situation

1945

01:14:06,790 --> 01:14:04,880

but i will make an honest attempt i am

1946

01:14:10,070 --> 01:14:06,800

discovering that there appears to be

1947

01:14:12,070 --> 01:14:10,080

an intangible apogee and perigee

1948

01:14:13,990 --> 01:14:12,080

to the wild swing of this strange

1949

01:14:17,270 --> 01:14:14,000

pendulum on which i am now

1950

01:14:19,110 --> 01:14:17,280

thoroughly suspended and wholly invested

1951

01:14:21,030 --> 01:14:19,120

to give you some idea of how completely

1952

01:14:23,590 --> 01:14:21,040

disoriented i feel at this moment

1953

01:14:25,669 --> 01:14:23,600

and how confusing it has become let me

1954

01:14:26,390 --> 01:14:25,679

share just a little of its nature with

1955

01:14:28,950 --> 01:14:26,400

you

1956

01:14:30,229 --> 01:14:28,960

i would deeply appreciate any observance

1957

01:14:32,390 --> 01:14:30,239

any observations

1958

01:14:34,709 --> 01:14:32,400

you may make or any impressions you may

1959

01:14:36,390 --> 01:14:34,719

harvest in my sharing of it with you

1960

01:14:38,390 --> 01:14:36,400

i have talked about it at great length

1961

01:14:40,630 --> 01:14:38,400

with cindy and she agrees

1962

01:14:42,470 --> 01:14:40,640

you are probably the best candidate and

1963

01:14:43,270 --> 01:14:42,480

perhaps the only person with any

1964

01:14:46,229 --> 01:14:43,280

semblance of

1965

01:14:47,750 --> 01:14:46,239

answers or an idea of direction of this

1966

01:14:51,430 --> 01:14:47,760

undiscovered country

1967

01:14:53,990 --> 01:14:51,440

a knife i now find myself in simply put

1968

01:14:54,709 --> 01:14:54,000

in the moment i do not know where i am

1969

01:14:56,870 --> 01:14:54,719

in it

1970

01:14:59,110 --> 01:14:56,880

and i am completely and totally lost

1971

01:15:00,550 --> 01:14:59,120

with regards to where it's heading

1972

01:15:02,870 --> 01:15:00,560

i feel as though i am being

1973

01:15:03,590 --> 01:15:02,880

uncontrollably swept along an unfamiliar

1974

01:15:05,430 --> 01:15:03,600

shore

1975

01:15:08,070 --> 01:15:05,440

by a benign current i can neither

1976

01:15:09,830 --> 01:15:08,080

control or anticipate

1977

01:15:11,910 --> 01:15:09,840

there is no feeling of immediacy or

1978

01:15:13,189 --> 01:15:11,920

urgency to it and i have found that all

1979

01:15:15,110 --> 01:15:13,199

i need to do is close

1980

01:15:17,430 --> 01:15:15,120

my eyes to retreat from it but the

1981

01:15:19,110 --> 01:15:17,440

overlapping exposition of my senses is

1982

01:15:20,390 --> 01:15:19,120

causing me enormous confusion and

1983

01:15:22,149 --> 01:15:20,400

distraction

1984

01:15:23,990 --> 01:15:22,159

i am left to wonder if this is an

1985

01:15:27,189 --> 01:15:24,000

altogether shared experience

1986

01:15:30,630 --> 01:15:27,199

or is it unique to me

1987

01:15:33,990 --> 01:15:30,640

i did not know what make or color car

1988

01:15:35,830 --> 01:15:34,000

my sister-in-law drove until yesterday

1989

01:15:37,590 --> 01:15:35,840

i am seeing people i have never seen

1990

01:15:40,070 --> 01:15:37,600

before speaking voices

1991

01:15:41,830 --> 01:15:40,080

i have heard many times over but never

1992

01:15:44,149 --> 01:15:41,840

placed to a face

1993

01:15:45,030 --> 01:15:44,159

they are both familiar and unfamiliar to

1994

01:15:47,990 --> 01:15:45,040

me in

1995

01:15:49,669 --> 01:15:48,000

the instant i connect the two i could

1996

01:15:52,149 --> 01:15:49,679

always feel the wind on my skin and hear

1997

01:15:53,990 --> 01:15:52,159

the leaves rustling because of it but

1998

01:15:55,590 --> 01:15:54,000

now i see that invisible breeze move

1999

01:15:58,470 --> 01:15:55,600

through the trees and i feel it

2000

01:16:00,390 --> 01:15:58,480

and see it move the branches as it does

2001
01:16:02,229 --> 01:16:00,400
the gentle and persistent assault upon

2002
01:16:05,030 --> 01:16:02,239
the totality of my awareness

2003
01:16:06,950 --> 01:16:05,040
is unnerving at times up till monday i

2004
01:16:08,709 --> 01:16:06,960
had no perception of depth

2005
01:16:10,470 --> 01:16:08,719
and now it is all that i see in the

2006
01:16:12,950 --> 01:16:10,480
rainbow of colors and the

2007
01:16:14,550 --> 01:16:12,960
forgotten scales of structures and the

2008
01:16:17,430 --> 01:16:14,560
textures of touch

2009
01:16:18,229 --> 01:16:17,440
the simplest step has become to me an

2010
01:16:20,790 --> 01:16:18,239
unfolding

2011
01:16:22,709 --> 01:16:20,800
blossoming moment of discovery

2012
01:16:26,950 --> 01:16:22,719
everything has a radiant

2013
01:16:29,270 --> 01:16:26,960

shine to it a subtle radiant shine to it

2014

01:16:31,590 --> 01:16:29,280

i have not seen my lovely bride's face

2015

01:16:33,510 --> 01:16:31,600

clearly for over 10 years

2016

01:16:35,189 --> 01:16:33,520

and i have not seen it at all for over

2017

01:16:38,310 --> 01:16:35,199

seven

2018

01:16:40,310 --> 01:16:38,320

she is more beautiful than i remember

2019

01:16:42,149 --> 01:16:40,320

i have finally seen the faces of my

2020

01:16:43,750 --> 01:16:42,159

grandchildren for the first time since

2021

01:16:46,229 --> 01:16:43,760

they were born

2022

01:16:47,990 --> 01:16:46,239

all i knew of them were their blurred

2023

01:16:51,510 --> 01:16:48,000

embraces and the smiles in their

2024

01:16:54,630 --> 01:16:51,520

voices can you help me to understand why

2025

01:16:56,550 --> 01:16:54,640

and how completely lost i feel now

2026

01:16:57,750 --> 01:16:56,560

what once were vague impressions in

2027

01:16:59,750 --> 01:16:57,760

ephemeral shadows

2028

01:17:02,709 --> 01:16:59,760

have now become concrete and material

2029

01:17:05,189 --> 01:17:02,719

objects with angles points and corners

2030

01:17:06,070 --> 01:17:05,199

i can now see every single thing that i

2031

01:17:08,310 --> 01:17:06,080

stumbled

2032

01:17:09,430 --> 01:17:08,320

uh over that twisted an ankle sprained

2033

01:17:15,510 --> 01:17:09,440

the wrist

2034

01:17:19,510 --> 01:17:17,270

i could not be more helpless in my

2035

01:17:21,030 --> 01:17:19,520

distractions it is one of the strangest

2036

01:17:22,790 --> 01:17:21,040

feelings i have ever had

2037

01:17:24,470 --> 01:17:22,800

where just days ago i was content to

2038

01:17:26,470 --> 01:17:24,480

count steps and turns

2039

01:17:28,709 --> 01:17:26,480

now i am overjoyed to count ceiling and

2040

01:17:29,510 --> 01:17:28,719

floor tiles and telephone poles sidewall

2041

01:17:31,750 --> 01:17:29,520

cracks

2042

01:17:33,750 --> 01:17:31,760

street lights road signs it is all

2043

01:17:35,110 --> 01:17:33,760

beyond me beyond any memory i may have

2044

01:17:36,470 --> 01:17:35,120

held of them

2045

01:17:39,030 --> 01:17:36,480

i know some of this continual

2046

01:17:41,110 --> 01:17:39,040

distraction should have been expected

2047

01:17:42,950 --> 01:17:41,120

but the sheer enormity of it almost is

2048

01:17:44,790 --> 01:17:42,960

almost beyond belief

2049

01:17:46,950 --> 01:17:44,800

it is certainly outside the realm of any

2050

01:17:49,990 --> 01:17:46,960

of my experiences in life

2051

01:17:52,870 --> 01:17:50,000

i find myself closing my eyes to do

2052

01:17:54,390 --> 01:17:52,880

things i am so used to doing in the dark

2053

01:17:56,790 --> 01:17:54,400

when i open my eyes

2054

01:17:58,149 --> 01:17:56,800

i feel lost in the visual cornucopia of

2055

01:18:00,470 --> 01:17:58,159

the sighted world

2056

01:18:02,149 --> 01:18:00,480

adrift and an uncharted ocean filled

2057

01:18:05,270 --> 01:18:02,159

with images and feelings

2058

01:18:08,149 --> 01:18:05,280

i had long ago given up as lost i

2059

01:18:09,189 --> 01:18:08,159

actually tie my shoes easier with my

2060

01:18:11,590 --> 01:18:09,199

eyes closed

2061

01:18:13,189 --> 01:18:11,600

than with them open and that is just one

2062

01:18:14,709 --> 01:18:13,199

example of the countless heart-wrenching

2063

01:18:16,470 --> 01:18:14,719

discoveries i've made

2064

01:18:19,430 --> 01:18:16,480

i hear myself saying to myself over and

2065

01:18:21,750 --> 01:18:19,440

over again so that is what it looks like

2066

01:18:23,830 --> 01:18:21,760

i've forgotten and abandoned so much to

2067

01:18:25,510 --> 01:18:23,840

the darkness which was my world

2068

01:18:27,910 --> 01:18:25,520

it is not like forgetting how to ride a

2069

01:18:29,750 --> 01:18:27,920

bicycle i have no reference point by

2070

01:18:30,950 --> 01:18:29,760

which a reasonable comparison can be

2071

01:18:33,189 --> 01:18:30,960

made

2072

01:18:33,990 --> 01:18:33,199

all i really know and i'm completely

2073

01:18:35,990 --> 01:18:34,000

sure of

2074

01:18:37,669 --> 01:18:36,000

in the mystery of this moment is that

2075

01:18:39,189 --> 01:18:37,679

what has happened to me is a genuine and

2076

01:18:41,750 --> 01:18:39,199

authentic miracle

2077

01:18:42,550 --> 01:18:41,760

i hear the law of parsimony echoing in

2078

01:18:45,189 --> 01:18:42,560

my mind

2079

01:18:46,149 --> 01:18:45,199

and realize that in all truth all things

2080

01:18:48,310 --> 01:18:46,159

being equal

2081

01:18:49,270 --> 01:18:48,320

the simplest explanation is usually the

2082

01:18:51,590 --> 01:18:49,280

right one

2083

01:18:54,229 --> 01:18:51,600

it cut it could not be more simple and i

2084

01:18:56,390 --> 01:18:54,239

have already experienced some great uh

2085

01:18:58,149 --> 01:18:56,400

some suspicion that doubt entails i've

2086

01:18:59,750 --> 01:18:58,159

already been asked if it could not

2087

01:19:01,430 --> 01:18:59,760

possibly be something

2088

01:19:02,870 --> 01:19:01,440

far more complex of medical or

2089

01:19:05,350 --> 01:19:02,880

scientific origin

2090

01:19:06,870 --> 01:19:05,360

unbeknownst to me my wife had our

2091

01:19:08,149 --> 01:19:06,880

daughter follow me from a discreet

2092

01:19:10,070 --> 01:19:08,159

distance yesterday

2093

01:19:11,910 --> 01:19:10,080

for fear that i would end up laying up

2094

01:19:13,669 --> 01:19:11,920

and laying up in a

2095

01:19:15,590 --> 01:19:13,679

laying in an injured heap somewhere

2096

01:19:17,910 --> 01:19:15,600

along my daily walk

2097

01:19:19,110 --> 01:19:17,920

as i feudally tried to explain what has

2098

01:19:21,430 --> 01:19:19,120

happened to me

2099

01:19:22,229 --> 01:19:21,440

for me to my closest friends and

2100

01:19:25,110 --> 01:19:22,239

children

2101

01:19:26,470 --> 01:19:25,120

i find that little to no explanations is

2102

01:19:28,390 --> 01:19:26,480

even possible

2103

01:19:30,709 --> 01:19:28,400

my son called me this morning at cindy's

2104

01:19:32,950 --> 01:19:30,719

request and implored me to see an optima

2105

01:19:34,709 --> 01:19:32,960

optometrist and my cardiologist

2106

01:19:36,390 --> 01:19:34,719

he was fervently convinced that i have

2107

01:19:39,110 --> 01:19:36,400

suffered some manner of stroke

2108

01:19:40,229 --> 01:19:39,120

or other neurological blow and that my

2109

01:19:42,550 --> 01:19:40,239

repossessed sight

2110

01:19:44,550 --> 01:19:42,560

as unfamiliar as it currently is to me

2111

01:19:46,870 --> 01:19:44,560

is telling is a telling symptom

2112

01:19:49,270 --> 01:19:46,880

of some sort or indication that my

2113

01:19:50,709 --> 01:19:49,280

vision has in fact taken a final turn

2114

01:19:52,630 --> 01:19:50,719

for the worst

2115

01:19:54,470 --> 01:19:52,640

i readily and honestly admit a severe

2116

01:19:56,870 --> 01:19:54,480

impairment of distraction

2117

01:19:58,950 --> 01:19:56,880

but my heart and spirit tells me this

2118

01:20:00,470 --> 01:19:58,960

too will eventually pass

2119

01:20:02,550 --> 01:20:00,480

as i wait for the intensity of

2120

01:20:05,270 --> 01:20:02,560

distraction to dissipate

2121

01:20:06,470 --> 01:20:05,280

i stand dumbfounded at the thousands of

2122

01:20:09,430 --> 01:20:06,480

emerging

2123

01:20:12,070 --> 01:20:09,440

unwilling compromises and concessions i

2124

01:20:14,470 --> 01:20:12,080

made to the darkness of my world

2125

01:20:16,790 --> 01:20:14,480

this is where i am in this moment this

2126
01:20:17,590 --> 01:20:16,800
is the tip of an epic iceberg i cannot

2127
01:20:20,229 --> 01:20:17,600
see

2128
01:20:22,310 --> 01:20:20,239
and yet is impossible for me to describe

2129
01:20:23,590 --> 01:20:22,320
the dimensions of it are still beyond my

2130
01:20:25,990 --> 01:20:23,600
grasp

2131
01:20:27,830 --> 01:20:26,000
have i made any sense at all father

2132
01:20:29,270 --> 01:20:27,840
because truly my world has not been

2133
01:20:31,750 --> 01:20:29,280
turned upside down

2134
01:20:33,189 --> 01:20:31,760
as your wife laura suggested a more

2135
01:20:35,590 --> 01:20:33,199
accurate description

2136
01:20:37,110 --> 01:20:35,600
is that it has in reality be turned

2137
01:20:42,070 --> 01:20:37,120
inside out

2138
01:20:45,590 --> 01:20:42,080

michael now when he sent this to me

2139

01:20:49,430 --> 01:20:45,600

i was blown away

2140

01:20:52,950 --> 01:20:49,440

only because he had said to me that he

2141

01:20:56,550 --> 01:20:52,960

was that that the the depth of his

2142

01:20:58,470 --> 01:20:56,560

vision was was i'm guessing michael had

2143

01:20:59,510 --> 01:20:58,480

said this to me and and you said it many

2144

01:21:01,189 --> 01:20:59,520

times michael

2145

01:21:03,030 --> 01:21:01,199

that when someone loses one of their

2146

01:21:05,430 --> 01:21:03,040

senses all the other senses

2147

01:21:06,310 --> 01:21:05,440

sort of become more acutely aware and

2148

01:21:08,629 --> 01:21:06,320

sensitive

2149

01:21:10,709 --> 01:21:08,639

and so now you the way that i try to

2150

01:21:12,950 --> 01:21:10,719

explain it to people who ask me

2151
01:21:13,990 --> 01:21:12,960
and by the way every time i share the

2152
01:21:18,470 --> 01:21:14,000
story with someone which

2153
01:21:21,510 --> 01:21:18,480
is not as often as i used to i feel a

2154
01:21:22,550 --> 01:21:21,520
depth of of love and the chills down my

2155
01:21:25,110 --> 01:21:22,560
spine and i

2156
01:21:26,790 --> 01:21:25,120
i feel like i'm there again and it's

2157
01:21:27,750 --> 01:21:26,800
it's an incredible feeling but let me go

2158
01:21:30,870 --> 01:21:27,760
back

2159
01:21:34,790 --> 01:21:30,880
so michael

2160
01:21:36,870 --> 01:21:34,800
had been developing a picture in his

2161
01:21:39,510 --> 01:21:36,880
mind of what was in front of him

2162
01:21:40,070 --> 01:21:39,520
by using all of his senses now that he

2163
01:21:43,590 --> 01:21:40,080

had

2164

01:21:46,310 --> 01:21:43,600

his vision he could see what was there

2165

01:21:47,350 --> 01:21:46,320

but now he was he still got all that

2166

01:21:51,189 --> 01:21:47,360

other

2167

01:21:53,350 --> 01:21:51,199

extra um um stimuli

2168

01:21:54,790 --> 01:21:53,360

from the other senses and it took a

2169

01:21:58,310 --> 01:21:54,800

while for him

2170

01:22:00,310 --> 01:21:58,320

to be able to to make everything right

2171

01:22:01,510 --> 01:22:00,320

you know i i always whenever someone

2172

01:22:02,950 --> 01:22:01,520

asks me i say

2173

01:22:04,950 --> 01:22:02,960

you know in the bible we hear about

2174

01:22:06,950 --> 01:22:04,960

people being healed uh

2175

01:22:08,709 --> 01:22:06,960

who are blind but we don't really know

2176
01:22:09,990 --> 01:22:08,719
about what happened afterwards their

2177
01:22:11,669 --> 01:22:10,000
adjustment period

2178
01:22:13,430 --> 01:22:11,679
you know here for the first time we sort

2179
01:22:15,189 --> 01:22:13,440
of have an insight

2180
01:22:17,990 --> 01:22:15,199
of what it's like for someone who could

2181
01:22:19,430 --> 01:22:18,000
not see adjust to be able to have his

2182
01:22:21,030 --> 01:22:19,440
vision back

2183
01:22:22,709 --> 01:22:21,040
but again it wasn't just him seeing

2184
01:22:25,030 --> 01:22:22,719
again it was

2185
01:22:26,310 --> 01:22:25,040
him being propelled on this beautiful

2186
01:22:29,110 --> 01:22:26,320
spiritual journey which

2187
01:22:29,669 --> 01:22:29,120
ice he still is on i mean we had the

2188
01:22:33,510 --> 01:22:29,679

blessing

2189

01:22:35,110 --> 01:22:33,520

uh in 2019 for for him to come and visit

2190

01:22:38,390 --> 01:22:35,120

for a while with cindy

2191

01:22:40,629 --> 01:22:38,400

and we rekindled that friendship um

2192

01:22:41,510 --> 01:22:40,639

and it's funny how we we can call each

2193

01:22:44,550 --> 01:22:41,520

other out of

2194

01:22:46,149 --> 01:22:44,560

nowhere exactly when we need each other

2195

01:22:49,189 --> 01:22:46,159

um it's so it's like a spiritual

2196

01:22:50,870 --> 01:22:49,199

connection that i think will always have

2197

01:22:53,510 --> 01:22:50,880

for all of eternity as far as i'm

2198

01:22:55,990 --> 01:22:53,520

concerned whatever happened

2199

01:22:57,669 --> 01:22:56,000

that day will always connect us to each

2200

01:23:01,189 --> 01:22:57,679

other spiritually for the rest of

2201
01:23:01,830 --> 01:23:01,199
eternity thank you thank you so much for

2202
01:23:04,950 --> 01:23:01,840
reading that

2203
01:23:06,550 --> 01:23:04,960
um first of all he's an amazing writer

2204
01:23:08,550 --> 01:23:06,560
i mean when i when i first read that i'm

2205
01:23:10,470 --> 01:23:08,560
like oh my god i'm like

2206
01:23:11,990 --> 01:23:10,480
this guy is amazing i'm like i haven't

2207
01:23:14,149 --> 01:23:12,000
read anything like this and like people

2208
01:23:15,510 --> 01:23:14,159
have no idea i tried to i posted some of

2209
01:23:18,070 --> 01:23:15,520
it today on twitter and i'm like

2210
01:23:19,910 --> 01:23:18,080
people need to read this michael doesn't

2211
01:23:22,870 --> 01:23:19,920
he won't take credit for it but he's a

2212
01:23:24,390 --> 01:23:22,880
he could be a professional writer and um

2213
01:23:27,590 --> 01:23:24,400

so thank you for reading that

2214

01:23:33,990 --> 01:23:32,390

um i went to the church every day for 30

2215

01:23:37,750 --> 01:23:34,000

days afterwards i

2216

01:23:39,669 --> 01:23:37,760

wanted to pray about the priest doesn't

2217

01:23:41,189 --> 01:23:39,679

know this but

2218

01:23:44,470 --> 01:23:41,199

that first night i was afraid to go to

2219

01:23:49,189 --> 01:23:47,669

i was terrified of going to sleep

2220

01:23:54,070 --> 01:23:49,199

because i was afraid that in the morning

2221

01:23:57,430 --> 01:23:56,950

i went to my first service there i asked

2222

01:23:59,669 --> 01:23:57,440

the priest

2223

01:24:01,189 --> 01:23:59,679

i'm not greek i'm not orthodox i'm a

2224

01:24:03,189 --> 01:24:01,199

christian

2225

01:24:04,709 --> 01:24:03,199

and i met flora his wife for the first

2226

01:24:07,990 --> 01:24:04,719

time and she said

2227

01:24:09,910 --> 01:24:08,000

can you really see again and i turned to

2228

01:24:10,790 --> 01:24:09,920

one of the stained glass windows to my

2229

01:24:12,310 --> 01:24:10,800

left and i said

2230

01:24:14,870 --> 01:24:12,320

those are the beatitudes that's the

2231

01:24:16,709 --> 01:24:14,880

first thing my eyes fell upon

2232

01:24:18,950 --> 01:24:16,719

and i read them to her i said yes i

2233

01:24:21,270 --> 01:24:18,960

could see

2234

01:24:22,390 --> 01:24:21,280

but what a lot of people don't know is

2235

01:24:24,950 --> 01:24:22,400

that

2236

01:24:25,830 --> 01:24:24,960

before i went before i took him up on

2237

01:24:29,189 --> 01:24:25,840

his offer

2238

01:24:32,149 --> 01:24:29,199

i um i was very angry

2239

01:24:32,550 --> 01:24:32,159

i spent my entire adult life in service

2240

01:24:36,550 --> 01:24:32,560

to my

2241

01:24:39,430 --> 01:24:36,560

community my family

2242

01:24:41,270 --> 01:24:39,440

and i felt abandoned i felt like i was

2243

01:24:45,669 --> 01:24:41,280

being punished

2244

01:24:48,950 --> 01:24:45,679

and i felt unloved by my creator

2245

01:24:51,270 --> 01:24:48,960

so it was a it was more than more than

2246

01:24:53,110 --> 01:24:51,280

just a physical turnaround there was a

2247

01:24:55,590 --> 01:24:53,120

spiritual turn around there as well

2248

01:25:00,070 --> 01:24:55,600

because all that anger just

2249

01:25:02,390 --> 01:25:00,080

dissolved in slipped away

2250

01:25:04,149 --> 01:25:02,400

i i i still have one thing i do every

2251

01:25:05,669 --> 01:25:04,159

night when i say my prayers so i'm ready

2252

01:25:07,110 --> 01:25:05,679

to close my eyes i look

2253

01:25:09,189 --> 01:25:07,120

i have this little sliver of light that

2254

01:25:11,590 --> 01:25:09,199

comes through my window

2255

01:25:13,830 --> 01:25:11,600

and i look at it one last time and i say

2256

01:25:17,110 --> 01:25:13,840

thank you for this day

2257

01:25:24,830 --> 01:25:17,120

please let me see tomorrow and

2258

01:25:31,590 --> 01:25:28,390

ongoing realization of gratitude

2259

01:25:34,870 --> 01:25:31,600

and and love and

2260

01:25:37,669 --> 01:25:34,880

and i i asked the priest i said why me

2261

01:25:40,790 --> 01:25:37,679

he didn't say what his response was he

2262

01:25:42,950 --> 01:25:40,800

said why not you

2263

01:25:44,950 --> 01:25:42,960

and i've kept that in my heart all these

2264

01:25:48,470 --> 01:25:44,960

years and i'm going like why not you

2265

01:25:50,550 --> 01:25:48,480

like you're not a bad guy

2266

01:25:53,590 --> 01:25:50,560

i have all the flaws and character

2267

01:25:57,990 --> 01:25:53,600

defects that everybody else has

2268

01:26:00,229 --> 01:25:58,000

so i was i was really disoriented for

2269

01:26:03,830 --> 01:26:00,239

quite some time there and

2270

01:26:07,669 --> 01:26:03,840

it is intensely emotional for me intense

2271

01:26:11,110 --> 01:26:09,110

all i have to do is think about it and

2272

01:26:12,790 --> 01:26:11,120

it literally brings me to tears

2273

01:26:15,030 --> 01:26:12,800

thinking about it just like father

2274

01:26:18,550 --> 01:26:15,040

dimitri said i can't escape it

2275

01:26:20,830 --> 01:26:18,560

i don't want to escape it it is

2276

01:26:22,709 --> 01:26:20,840

without question one of the most

2277

01:26:24,149 --> 01:26:22,719

profound

2278

01:26:26,870 --> 01:26:24,159

feelings of love that i've ever

2279

01:26:30,310 --> 01:26:26,880

experienced in my life

2280

01:26:32,790 --> 01:26:30,320

and the first month

2281

01:26:33,910 --> 01:26:32,800

cindy's mom died exactly three four

2282

01:26:36,709 --> 01:26:33,920

weeks later

2283

01:26:38,310 --> 01:26:36,719

and father demetri came to her awake and

2284

01:26:41,350 --> 01:26:38,320

blessed us

2285

01:26:42,950 --> 01:26:41,360

and and then we realized that we had to

2286

01:26:46,229 --> 01:26:42,960

make decisions about our world

2287

01:26:47,270 --> 01:26:46,239

i i i didn't have my driver's license at

2288

01:26:49,910 --> 01:26:47,280

the time

2289

01:26:51,910 --> 01:26:49,920

and i was excited about the prospects of

2290

01:26:55,910 --> 01:26:51,920

attempting to get it back

2291

01:26:57,510 --> 01:26:55,920

and you know everybody on my side is

2292

01:26:59,110 --> 01:26:57,520

saying you need to go see the doctor you

2293

01:27:00,950 --> 01:26:59,120

need to go

2294

01:27:02,870 --> 01:27:00,960

joe you worked at the northport va you

2295

01:27:04,229 --> 01:27:02,880

know how big a facility it is right

2296

01:27:06,310 --> 01:27:04,239

yeah that was another coincidence we

2297

01:27:11,110 --> 01:27:06,320

both spent time in the northport va

2298

01:27:14,310 --> 01:27:11,120

yeah and uh afterwards

2299

01:27:16,950 --> 01:27:14,320

uh chaperoscope had a homeless

2300

01:27:17,990 --> 01:27:16,960

uh homeless outreach they they did it

2301

01:27:19,270 --> 01:27:18,000

with several other churches

2302

01:27:20,870 --> 01:27:19,280

in the community and they'd bring

2303

01:27:21,590 --> 01:27:20,880

homeless guys in so they didn't freeze

2304

01:27:23,830 --> 01:27:21,600

the death

2305

01:27:24,870 --> 01:27:23,840

it was now we're talking december you

2306

01:27:26,390 --> 01:27:24,880

know

2307

01:27:27,910 --> 01:27:26,400

and and i'd go there looking for

2308

01:27:29,590 --> 01:27:27,920

homeless veterans and then see if i

2309

01:27:31,990 --> 01:27:29,600

couldn't help them up with benefits so

2310

01:27:35,110 --> 01:27:32,000

that the va offered and

2311

01:27:36,870 --> 01:27:35,120

found a couple and then the priest asked

2312

01:27:38,310 --> 01:27:36,880

me if i'd like to go on a midnight run

2313

01:27:40,310 --> 01:27:38,320

to new york city where we

2314

01:27:41,430 --> 01:27:40,320

pass out mittens and toiletries and

2315

01:27:43,750 --> 01:27:41,440

things like that to the

2316

01:27:45,110 --> 01:27:43,760

people in the bowery living on the

2317

01:27:48,870 --> 01:27:45,120

street

2318

01:27:51,750 --> 01:27:48,880

and everything was so mesmerizing

2319

01:27:55,510 --> 01:27:51,760

the city lights and i didn't know he had

2320

01:27:58,830 --> 01:27:55,520

an ophthalmologist sitting next to me

2321

01:28:01,910 --> 01:27:58,840

but it was one of the i'm trying va

2322

01:28:02,470 --> 01:28:01,920

ophthalmologist yeah yeah it wasn't the

2323

01:28:04,870 --> 01:28:02,480

guy

2324

01:28:06,709 --> 01:28:04,880

these coincidences just blow my mind

2325

01:28:09,270 --> 01:28:06,719

which i call god incidences

2326

01:28:09,990 --> 01:28:09,280

yeah yeah it wasn't the guy i saw so i i

2327

01:28:13,350 --> 01:28:10,000

did that

2328

01:28:16,950 --> 01:28:13,360

and and i remember just the

2329

01:28:19,030 --> 01:28:16,960

the depth of gratitude that i felt i i

2330

01:28:20,870 --> 01:28:19,040

had had something to eat that day i

2331

01:28:22,950 --> 01:28:20,880

had someone to love someone who loved me

2332

01:28:23,510 --> 01:28:22,960

back i had a warm place to sleep that

2333

01:28:26,310 --> 01:28:23,520

night and i

2334

01:28:27,430 --> 01:28:26,320

felt like i had a a new purpose for

2335

01:28:29,830 --> 01:28:27,440

myself

2336

01:28:31,910 --> 01:28:29,840

everything had been taken away i lost

2337

01:28:35,430 --> 01:28:31,920

everything i thought was of value

2338

01:28:37,669 --> 01:28:35,440

and kept everything and i'm embarrassed

2339

01:28:39,830 --> 01:28:37,679

to admit this too that i didn't place as

2340

01:28:42,310 --> 01:28:39,840

much importance on the things of real

2341

01:28:44,470 --> 01:28:42,320

value in my life that

2342

01:28:45,430 --> 01:28:44,480

i mean i had a nice house a nice

2343

01:28:49,030 --> 01:28:45,440

motorcycle

2344

01:28:51,669 --> 01:28:49,040

nice truck uh a second home on

2345

01:28:53,590 --> 01:28:51,679

on the brook and i had everything a man

2346

01:28:56,070 --> 01:28:53,600

could want and i had a beautiful woman

2347

01:28:57,030 --> 01:28:56,080

chair in my bed i had five beautiful

2348

01:28:59,030 --> 01:28:57,040

kids

2349

01:29:00,629 --> 01:28:59,040

cindy had two girls i had two girls and

2350

01:29:03,590 --> 01:29:00,639

a boy

2351
01:29:06,709 --> 01:29:03,600
and i had a beautiful family and and i

2352
01:29:09,830 --> 01:29:06,719
had to lose it all

2353
01:29:11,750 --> 01:29:09,840
eventually lost my motorcycle after i

2354
01:29:13,990 --> 01:29:11,760
lost my license i

2355
01:29:15,430 --> 01:29:14,000
spawned over it because i didn't want to

2356
01:29:16,709 --> 01:29:15,440
let it go and then one day i was out

2357
01:29:17,990 --> 01:29:16,719
running it it fell over

2358
01:29:19,910 --> 01:29:18,000
pinned me on the ground i thought i was

2359
01:29:23,189 --> 01:29:19,920
gonna burn to death in my garage well it

2360
01:29:25,270 --> 01:29:23,199
took city a while to hear me screaming

2361
01:29:27,350 --> 01:29:25,280
but all those things i've spent the past

2362
01:29:29,750 --> 01:29:27,360
seven years thinking about them how

2363
01:29:31,270 --> 01:29:29,760

unappreciative i was of the simple

2364

01:29:34,470 --> 01:29:31,280

important things in my life

2365

01:29:36,629 --> 01:29:34,480

i had to lose it all and like i said i

2366

01:29:40,709 --> 01:29:36,639

felt like i was being punished

2367

01:29:41,910 --> 01:29:40,719

and uh i i i didn't feel like i deserved

2368

01:29:46,070 --> 01:29:41,920

it

2369

01:29:48,229 --> 01:29:46,080

adapted i improvised and i tried to

2370

01:29:51,270 --> 01:29:48,239

overcome but anyway

2371

01:29:55,350 --> 01:29:51,280

um cindy i said let's

2372

01:29:56,870 --> 01:29:55,360

you got to take me to the dmv so i told

2373

01:29:58,550 --> 01:29:56,880

father dmitry i was going to see if i

2374

01:30:00,870 --> 01:29:58,560

could get my driver's license back again

2375

01:30:04,149 --> 01:30:00,880

i hadn't had one in 10 years

2376

01:30:05,750 --> 01:30:04,159

so i went in there and i said i'd like

2377

01:30:07,510 --> 01:30:05,760

to reapply for my driver's license i

2378

01:30:08,870 --> 01:30:07,520

have a new york state id card and they

2379

01:30:11,350 --> 01:30:08,880

looked me up and they said

2380

01:30:12,950 --> 01:30:11,360

we have you you're legally blind i

2381

01:30:14,470 --> 01:30:12,960

wasn't legally blind i was completely

2382

01:30:18,470 --> 01:30:14,480

blind

2383

01:30:21,750 --> 01:30:18,480

and um said you've been to the doctor

2384

01:30:29,189 --> 01:30:26,950

surgery no let me get my supervisor

2385

01:30:31,270 --> 01:30:29,199

so she went and got her supervisor she

2386

01:30:32,070 --> 01:30:31,280

said we don't really have a policy for

2387

01:30:33,990 --> 01:30:32,080

this

2388

01:30:35,590 --> 01:30:34,000

so you're going to have to provide

2389

01:30:38,149 --> 01:30:35,600

something i said listen the only thing

2390

01:30:41,430 --> 01:30:38,159

i'm required to do is read the

2391

01:30:42,310 --> 01:30:41,440

what is called a snell in chart uh on

2392

01:30:45,110 --> 01:30:42,320

the wall

2393

01:30:47,590 --> 01:30:45,120

begins with a big e on the top i think

2394

01:30:49,910 --> 01:30:47,600

and then it gets progressively smaller

2395

01:30:51,830 --> 01:30:49,920

i said i could read anything on that

2396

01:30:52,470 --> 01:30:51,840

chart the made in china thing on the

2397

01:30:55,430 --> 01:30:52,480

bottom that

2398

01:30:57,189 --> 01:30:55,440

really small branch but here let me do

2399

01:30:58,629 --> 01:30:57,199

this there's a break room 30 feet down

2400

01:30:59,669 --> 01:30:58,639

the hall and the lights are off i can

2401

01:31:03,590 --> 01:30:59,679

read the rules on

2402

01:31:04,470 --> 01:31:03,600

on the on the poster on the inside door

2403

01:31:08,310 --> 01:31:04,480

of that wall

2404

01:31:10,950 --> 01:31:08,320

she said we're good

2405

01:31:12,149 --> 01:31:10,960

uh let's get your picture taken and get

2406

01:31:14,950 --> 01:31:12,159

you on your way

2407

01:31:16,470 --> 01:31:14,960

well in new york state uh the only thing

2408

01:31:19,189 --> 01:31:16,480

that you can wear is headgear

2409

01:31:20,870 --> 01:31:19,199

in a dmv a driver's license photograph

2410

01:31:23,350 --> 01:31:20,880

is a colander and that's only if you

2411

01:31:26,550 --> 01:31:23,360

happen to be a pastafarian

2412

01:31:27,830 --> 01:31:26,560

and they were they were so frazzled that

2413

01:31:30,709 --> 01:31:27,840

my driver's license

2414

01:31:32,629 --> 01:31:30,719

actually has me wearing a cap that

2415

01:31:35,430 --> 01:31:32,639

probably says marines across it

2416

01:31:36,629 --> 01:31:35,440

and cindy goes they don't do that and of

2417

01:31:39,910 --> 01:31:36,639

course

2418

01:31:40,550 --> 01:31:39,920

the next thing was to see a doctor and i

2419

01:31:43,189 --> 01:31:40,560

did

2420

01:31:45,510 --> 01:31:43,199

um i was afraid i was afraid of what he

2421

01:31:47,669 --> 01:31:45,520

was going to tell me

2422

01:31:49,030 --> 01:31:47,679

and so cindy and i we kind of agreed

2423

01:31:51,830 --> 01:31:49,040

listen we're going to go do this

2424

01:31:52,390 --> 01:31:51,840

because it needs to be done and i did

2425

01:31:53,990 --> 01:31:52,400

and

2426

01:31:56,550 --> 01:31:54,000

i didn't say anything to the doctor i

2427

01:31:58,070 --> 01:31:56,560

said i'm here for an examination

2428

01:32:00,470 --> 01:31:58,080

and he examined me and he said four

2429

01:32:03,590 --> 01:32:00,480

words he said no change

2430

01:32:04,709 --> 01:32:03,600

keep moving i mean no change in

2431

01:32:08,470 --> 01:32:04,719

condition

2432

01:32:10,629 --> 01:32:08,480

keep moving and uh i walked out

2433

01:32:13,830 --> 01:32:10,639

and i didn't know what to tell i thought

2434

01:32:15,590 --> 01:32:13,840

of dimitri

2435

01:32:17,270 --> 01:32:15,600

the damage to my optic nerves and the

2436

01:32:19,990 --> 01:32:17,280

disc the

2437

01:32:21,430 --> 01:32:20,000

probably caused by the assault on my

2438

01:32:24,830 --> 01:32:21,440

immune system

2439

01:32:26,310 --> 01:32:24,840

because i remember it progressed from

2440

01:32:30,149 --> 01:32:26,320

photosensitivity

2441

01:32:33,669 --> 01:32:30,159

to losing my night vision

2442

01:32:37,590 --> 01:32:33,679

uh my ability to distinguish between

2443

01:32:40,709 --> 01:32:37,600

colors that were closely shaded

2444

01:32:43,270 --> 01:32:40,719

to optic nerve sclerosis and then

2445

01:32:45,189 --> 01:32:43,280

from there to uh by nasal left

2446

01:32:48,870 --> 01:32:45,199

incongruous hemagnosis

2447

01:32:52,229 --> 01:32:48,880

which that's the thing there to optic

2448

01:32:55,830 --> 01:32:52,239

nerve neuritis to optic

2449

01:32:56,070 --> 01:32:55,840

nerve neuropathy and and in that process

2450

01:33:12,470 --> 01:32:56,080

i

2451
01:33:14,950 --> 01:33:12,480
mean

2452
01:33:16,709 --> 01:33:14,960
he knew about the exposures i had

2453
01:33:17,350 --> 01:33:16,719
multiple exposures but that was the big

2454
01:33:19,590 --> 01:33:17,360
one

2455
01:33:21,350 --> 01:33:19,600
that was definitively different than any

2456
01:33:22,950 --> 01:33:21,360
others that i had experienced

2457
01:33:25,030 --> 01:33:22,960
and he said i have good news and bad

2458
01:33:26,790 --> 01:33:25,040
news for you i said

2459
01:33:28,950 --> 01:33:26,800
what's the bad news and he said you

2460
01:33:31,510 --> 01:33:28,960
probably won't know who you are when you

2461
01:33:35,750 --> 01:33:33,830
what's the good news he said you

2462
01:33:35,990 --> 01:33:35,760
probably won't know who you are when you

2463
01:33:39,910 --> 01:33:36,000

get

2464

01:33:43,510 --> 01:33:39,920

there so so the mixed bag

2465

01:33:46,629 --> 01:33:43,520

and it

2466

01:33:47,750 --> 01:33:46,639

i i can't describe how humbled i had

2467

01:33:51,030 --> 01:33:47,760

been

2468

01:33:52,390 --> 01:33:51,040

and how ashamed and embarrassed i was

2469

01:33:53,350 --> 01:33:52,400

with some of the things i thought of

2470

01:33:57,750 --> 01:33:53,360

doing

2471

01:34:02,950 --> 01:34:00,070

i had i i couldn't foresee a future for

2472

01:34:03,350 --> 01:34:02,960

myself we were living in a 156 square

2473

01:34:06,390 --> 01:34:03,360

foot

2474

01:34:08,149 --> 01:34:06,400

rv and then we moved from that to take

2475

01:34:09,030 --> 01:34:08,159

care of cindy's mom into an upstairs

2476

01:34:10,629 --> 01:34:09,040

apartment and

2477

01:34:12,310 --> 01:34:10,639

my world just kept getting smaller and

2478

01:34:14,310 --> 01:34:12,320

smaller and we lost everything along the

2479

01:34:17,510 --> 01:34:14,320

way

2480

01:34:18,550 --> 01:34:17,520

and after cindy's mom died it was it was

2481

01:34:22,229 --> 01:34:18,560

a matter of

2482

01:34:24,229 --> 01:34:22,239

what do we do now so

2483

01:34:27,430 --> 01:34:24,239

i i picked a small hammer in the

2484

01:34:30,550 --> 01:34:29,669

where my grand two of my grandchildren

2485

01:34:32,629 --> 01:34:30,560

lived

2486

01:34:34,390 --> 01:34:32,639

and we moved here we bought a 140 year

2487

01:34:35,990 --> 01:34:34,400

old farmhouse that was basically ready

2488

01:34:37,350 --> 01:34:36,000

for a bulldozer

2489

01:34:39,750 --> 01:34:37,360

and we've been working on it for the

2490

01:34:42,390 --> 01:34:39,760

past seven years and turned it into a

2491

01:34:43,270 --> 01:34:42,400

beautiful home and we've we've had

2492

01:34:44,470 --> 01:34:43,280

animals uh

2493

01:34:45,669 --> 01:34:44,480

different animals we've carried

2494

01:34:47,590 --> 01:34:45,679

different animals on the property it

2495

01:34:50,310 --> 01:34:47,600

used to be a farm

2496

01:34:51,990 --> 01:34:50,320

now it has a beautiful garden in it and

2497

01:34:55,270 --> 01:34:52,000

it's home

2498

01:34:58,950 --> 01:34:55,280

and i will always always

2499

01:35:05,990 --> 01:35:02,149

make decisions and say my prayers

2500

01:35:16,390 --> 01:35:09,910

i don't know

2501
01:35:17,750 --> 01:35:16,400
that's yeah that's amazing thank you so

2502
01:35:21,030 --> 01:35:17,760
much to both of you

2503
01:35:24,390 --> 01:35:21,040
um we have questions

2504
01:35:26,470 --> 01:35:24,400
people in the chat room says they're all

2505
01:35:28,310 --> 01:35:26,480
they're all teary-eyed and but there are

2506
01:35:30,229 --> 01:35:28,320
some questions if you guys want to try

2507
01:35:31,189 --> 01:35:30,239
taking some some interesting questions i

2508
01:35:32,310 --> 01:35:31,199
haven't looked at all of them but we'll

2509
01:35:35,750 --> 01:35:32,320
start out

2510
01:35:38,470 --> 01:35:35,760
with timmy e if you could see that

2511
01:35:39,030 --> 01:35:38,480
father please ask father dmitry if he

2512
01:35:40,709 --> 01:35:39,040
had

2513
01:35:43,189 --> 01:35:40,719

thought on the meeting of his not

2514

01:35:45,590 --> 01:35:43,199

wearing his sacrament for confessions

2515

01:35:47,350 --> 01:35:45,600

while being a part of this miracle like

2516

01:35:50,790 --> 01:35:47,360

he's trying to say if that had anything

2517

01:35:52,790 --> 01:35:50,800

to do i think with the miracle happening

2518

01:35:55,189 --> 01:35:52,800

yeah maybe that we can look at it in the

2519

01:35:58,229 --> 01:35:55,199

way of saying that

2520

01:36:01,430 --> 01:35:58,239

grace and the holy spirit transcends

2521

01:36:03,270 --> 01:36:01,440

anything that we think limits it or is

2522

01:36:06,229 --> 01:36:03,280

the conduit to that

2523

01:36:06,790 --> 01:36:06,239

so in in the church uh we're required

2524

01:36:09,270 --> 01:36:06,800

when we're

2525

01:36:11,030 --> 01:36:09,280

celebrating services to where you know

2526

01:36:15,430 --> 01:36:11,040

our vestments and at least the

2527

01:36:18,229 --> 01:36:15,440

stole but there's no magic in the stove

2528

01:36:19,030 --> 01:36:18,239

it's just part of our liturgical where i

2529

01:36:22,149 --> 01:36:19,040

think

2530

01:36:25,830 --> 01:36:22,159

the message here is that um

2531

01:36:29,590 --> 01:36:25,840

that miracles are not limited to

2532

01:36:33,510 --> 01:36:29,600

uh any faith tradition or any specific

2533

01:36:35,270 --> 01:36:33,520

um order it it uh if if

2534

01:36:36,709 --> 01:36:35,280

god wants something to happen it'll

2535

01:36:39,990 --> 01:36:36,719

happen uh

2536

01:36:42,870 --> 01:36:40,000

in spite of you and i i used to say that

2537

01:36:44,550 --> 01:36:42,880

that it happened in spite of my

2538

01:36:47,030 --> 01:36:44,560

sinfulness but i thought

2539

01:36:48,390 --> 01:36:47,040

after thinking about a while i think

2540

01:36:51,750 --> 01:36:48,400

this miracle happened

2541

01:36:52,790 --> 01:36:51,760

because of my sinfulness and maybe as

2542

01:36:55,430 --> 01:36:52,800

michael shared

2543

01:36:55,990 --> 01:36:55,440

because of his sinfulness as well you

2544

01:36:58,870 --> 01:36:56,000

know

2545

01:36:59,990 --> 01:36:58,880

it it always seems in my life the the

2546

01:37:02,310 --> 01:37:00,000

greatest moments

2547

01:37:03,430 --> 01:37:02,320

always come only after some of the

2548

01:37:04,950 --> 01:37:03,440

darkest times

2549

01:37:07,350 --> 01:37:04,960

and i just have to weather the darkest

2550

01:37:09,750 --> 01:37:07,360

times michael did thank god

2551

01:37:10,790 --> 01:37:09,760

and and i did and we met each other at a

2552

01:37:13,510 --> 01:37:10,800

point where

2553

01:37:14,310 --> 01:37:13,520

we were just past all of that and and

2554

01:37:16,709 --> 01:37:14,320

this was the

2555

01:37:20,550 --> 01:37:16,719

validation that you know that we were

2556

01:37:24,149 --> 01:37:20,560

living a life in grace

2557

01:37:27,510 --> 01:37:24,159

he saint peresqv

2558

01:37:31,189 --> 01:37:27,520

gave me my life back and

2559

01:37:33,109 --> 01:37:31,199

worked god worked through this man here

2560

01:37:34,790 --> 01:37:33,119

if he had not reached over and taken my

2561

01:37:38,870 --> 01:37:34,800

hand at applebee's that day i would not

2562

01:37:43,030 --> 01:37:41,430

i mean there was a confluence of the

2563

01:37:46,790 --> 01:37:43,040

divine the mystical

2564

01:37:47,990 --> 01:37:46,800

the inexplicable but it was real and it

2565

01:37:51,030 --> 01:37:48,000

was immediate and it

2566

01:37:52,950 --> 01:37:51,040

changed all of our lives in incredibly

2567

01:37:56,709 --> 01:37:52,960

beautiful ways

2568

01:37:58,229 --> 01:37:56,719

and i was really good at pretending i

2569

01:37:58,790 --> 01:37:58,239

wasn't blind if that's what you're

2570

01:38:00,550 --> 01:37:58,800

wondering and

2571

01:38:02,229 --> 01:38:00,560

i nearly killed my wife and niece

2572

01:38:05,430 --> 01:38:02,239

because of that

2573

01:38:07,910 --> 01:38:05,440

and uh i there was a lot of

2574

01:38:09,669 --> 01:38:07,920

moments where and it was incremental it

2575

01:38:11,109 --> 01:38:09,679

was like okay you get to lose this today

2576

01:38:12,550 --> 01:38:11,119

you get to lose this today you get to

2577

01:38:13,270 --> 01:38:12,560

lose this today and i was growing more

2578

01:38:17,189 --> 01:38:13,280

angry

2579

01:38:20,310 --> 01:38:17,199

and more bitter by the hour by the day

2580

01:38:23,590 --> 01:38:20,320

and one

2581

01:38:25,430 --> 01:38:23,600

stranger's act of compassion

2582

01:38:29,030 --> 01:38:25,440

in reaching out to a blind guy sitting

2583

01:38:32,149 --> 01:38:29,040

in applebee's looking for a free lunch

2584

01:38:34,310 --> 01:38:32,159

changed not just my world changed the

2585

01:38:37,830 --> 01:38:34,320

lives of my children my grandchildren

2586

01:38:38,629 --> 01:38:37,840

my friends my family and i know some of

2587

01:38:41,910 --> 01:38:38,639

them are out there

2588

01:38:43,750 --> 01:38:41,920

you know i'll name a few names adrian

2589

01:38:45,830 --> 01:38:43,760

uh these are the shout outs i promise

2590

01:38:48,709 --> 01:38:45,840

adrian lisa linda

2591

01:38:50,550 --> 01:38:48,719

uh allison uh these are people that i've

2592

01:38:54,070 --> 01:38:50,560

shared my story with

2593

01:38:55,590 --> 01:38:54,080

strangers georgia

2594

01:38:58,790 --> 01:38:55,600

and her husband put us up that night

2595

01:39:02,310 --> 01:38:58,800

took us to the nutcracker in boston

2596

01:39:04,470 --> 01:39:02,320

took us to vespers and i i shared

2597

01:39:06,149 --> 01:39:04,480

our experience in a very private setting

2598

01:39:09,350 --> 01:39:06,159

that was warm and inviting

2599

01:39:13,910 --> 01:39:09,360

and welcoming and and trusting

2600

01:39:16,629 --> 01:39:13,920

and and feel any any uh

2601
01:39:17,830 --> 01:39:16,639
concern about being judged or trolled or

2602
01:39:20,470 --> 01:39:17,840
anything like that

2603
01:39:21,270 --> 01:39:20,480
then trust me i i've experienced all of

2604
01:39:24,310 --> 01:39:21,280
that

2605
01:39:27,350 --> 01:39:24,320
but you know what

2606
01:39:31,030 --> 01:39:27,360
i'm the lucky one so

2607
01:39:32,709 --> 01:39:31,040
um i'm the luckiest guy i know alive

2608
01:39:34,950 --> 01:39:32,719
i really am i really i feel that way i

2609
01:39:36,310 --> 01:39:34,960
feel like i am i am the luckiest man on

2610
01:39:39,430 --> 01:39:36,320
the planet

2611
01:39:41,350 --> 01:39:39,440
and and i've explained this to

2612
01:39:42,629 --> 01:39:41,360
father d and i've explained this to you

2613
01:39:46,070 --> 01:39:42,639

joe i have no

2614

01:39:47,910 --> 01:39:46,080

zero interest in selling it i'm i'm okay

2615

01:39:49,350 --> 01:39:47,920

i'm up to my neck and uncompensated

2616

01:39:50,629 --> 01:39:49,360

medical bills that i'll probably never

2617

01:39:52,709 --> 01:39:50,639

be able to pay off the rest of my life

2618

01:39:54,709 --> 01:39:52,719

that's okay

2619

01:39:56,229 --> 01:39:54,719

but i'm not selling a story i don't want

2620

01:39:58,229 --> 01:39:56,239

anybody and i have

2621

01:40:00,149 --> 01:39:58,239

exchange gifts with other people on uh

2622

01:40:01,830 --> 01:40:00,159

who i've had people travel three almost

2623

01:40:03,270 --> 01:40:01,840

three thousand miles to come sit by our

2624

01:40:05,590 --> 01:40:03,280

fire

2625

01:40:06,310 --> 01:40:05,600

but they wanted to hear the story for

2626

01:40:07,830 --> 01:40:06,320

themselves

2627

01:40:10,550 --> 01:40:07,840

and some of them have sought out the

2628

01:40:13,109 --> 01:40:10,560

priest father d

2629

01:40:15,109 --> 01:40:13,119

because they there was a measure of

2630

01:40:17,590 --> 01:40:15,119

doubt in their minds

2631

01:40:19,750 --> 01:40:17,600

but there's no doubt in mine and i don't

2632

01:40:21,189 --> 01:40:19,760

think there's any in father d's either

2633

01:40:22,870 --> 01:40:21,199

and people are welcome to believe what

2634

01:40:25,189 --> 01:40:22,880

they choose

2635

01:40:27,189 --> 01:40:25,199

and think what they want and take from

2636

01:40:29,350 --> 01:40:27,199

this what they will

2637

01:40:31,270 --> 01:40:29,360

and in a world growing darker by the day

2638

01:40:35,669 --> 01:40:31,280

a little bit a bright spot with

2639

01:40:38,790 --> 01:40:35,679

a story of hope and blessing

2640

01:40:40,709 --> 01:40:38,800

i think is it's it's only a good thing

2641

01:40:42,790 --> 01:40:40,719

i'm not looking for celebrity you know

2642

01:40:44,470 --> 01:40:42,800

how long you and i have been talking joe

2643

01:40:49,109 --> 01:40:44,480

and father d what i mean when is the

2644

01:40:52,950 --> 01:40:52,310

a year ago something like that two years

2645

01:40:56,310 --> 01:40:52,960

ago not

2646

01:40:59,189 --> 01:40:56,320

not long ago no in fact new york newsday

2647

01:40:59,510 --> 01:40:59,199

reached out to me and asked me if they

2648

01:41:01,590 --> 01:40:59,520

could

2649

01:41:03,590 --> 01:41:01,600

write an article about it and i talked

2650

01:41:05,030 --> 01:41:03,600

to michael and i i didn't think it was a

2651

01:41:07,270 --> 01:41:05,040

good idea

2652

01:41:08,870 --> 01:41:07,280

it wasn't that's not the purpose of this

2653

01:41:10,310 --> 01:41:08,880

i think i think this is

2654

01:41:12,390 --> 01:41:10,320

something that people have to seek out

2655

01:41:14,390 --> 01:41:12,400

just like in the way that uh

2656

01:41:15,510 --> 01:41:14,400

jesus spoke in parables and you had to

2657

01:41:17,510 --> 01:41:15,520

really be

2658

01:41:19,830 --> 01:41:17,520

attentive to to be able to get the

2659

01:41:21,510 --> 01:41:19,840

message i think that

2660

01:41:23,430 --> 01:41:21,520

i we don't want to draw attention to

2661

01:41:25,669 --> 01:41:23,440

ourselves it happened and for those who

2662

01:41:27,910 --> 01:41:25,679

really want to know more about it

2663

01:41:29,350 --> 01:41:27,920

you know let them seek it out but we

2664

01:41:32,310 --> 01:41:29,360

don't want to

2665

01:41:34,790 --> 01:41:32,320

now we we've actually i've compiled a

2666

01:41:35,430 --> 01:41:34,800

300 page book of our emails to each

2667

01:41:38,550 --> 01:41:35,440

other

2668

01:41:40,550 --> 01:41:38,560

and some sort of uh narrative and and

2669

01:41:42,870 --> 01:41:40,560

we just we're holding on to it because

2670

01:41:44,470 --> 01:41:42,880

we don't know what to do with it

2671

01:41:46,709 --> 01:41:44,480

you should publish it i'm telling you

2672

01:41:47,590 --> 01:41:46,719

published publish the book i would love

2673

01:41:50,629 --> 01:41:47,600

to read that

2674

01:41:52,629 --> 01:41:50,639

and you know it took me my goal i mean

2675

01:41:54,229 --> 01:41:52,639

michael and i had planned to do this as

2676

01:41:55,590 --> 01:41:54,239

just as a

2677

01:41:57,030 --> 01:41:55,600

i would come in i would do separate

2678

01:41:59,350 --> 01:41:57,040

interviews with everybody involved and

2679

01:42:01,750 --> 01:41:59,360

put together a package and then

2680

01:42:02,790 --> 01:42:01,760

covet happened and then he changed his

2681

01:42:04,390 --> 01:42:02,800

mind and then i

2682

01:42:05,669 --> 01:42:04,400

i had given up on my because i know he's

2683

01:42:06,629 --> 01:42:05,679

like i don't really want to give up that

2684

01:42:08,470 --> 01:42:06,639

privacy

2685

01:42:10,790 --> 01:42:08,480

and then recently he said let's do it so

2686

01:42:11,990 --> 01:42:10,800

it's like i i get a lot of flack from

2687

01:42:14,310 --> 01:42:12,000

people

2688

01:42:16,070 --> 01:42:14,320

they're really angry that i'm not

2689

01:42:17,669 --> 01:42:16,080

providing medical evidence and i've seen

2690

01:42:17,990 --> 01:42:17,679

some of the medical documents and it's

2691

01:42:20,950 --> 01:42:18,000

like

2692

01:42:22,470 --> 01:42:20,960

i'm not a doctor and i if you can listen

2693

01:42:23,350 --> 01:42:22,480

to this story and the details that

2694

01:42:24,790 --> 01:42:23,360

michael has and

2695

01:42:26,229 --> 01:42:24,800

and i've spoken with cindy too if you

2696

01:42:26,870 --> 01:42:26,239

can believe this and think he's doing

2697

01:42:29,109 --> 01:42:26,880

this

2698

01:42:30,310 --> 01:42:29,119

for i don't know what reason he's not

2699

01:42:31,910 --> 01:42:30,320

looking for money

2700

01:42:33,430 --> 01:42:31,920

he's not mentally unstable he's not

2701

01:42:34,629 --> 01:42:33,440

coming up with stories we have you i

2702

01:42:35,590 --> 01:42:34,639

mean you were there there are other

2703

01:42:37,430 --> 01:42:35,600

people so

2704

01:42:38,870 --> 01:42:37,440

i i thank both of you so much for

2705

01:42:40,629 --> 01:42:38,880

sharing this but

2706

01:42:42,149 --> 01:42:40,639

it's an amazing story and i hope more

2707

01:42:44,950 --> 01:42:42,159

people later on will get to hear this on

2708

01:42:46,390 --> 01:42:44,960

youtube and other places because it's

2709

01:42:47,990 --> 01:42:46,400

it obviously had an effect on me the

2710

01:42:49,270 --> 01:42:48,000

fact that i wanted to do this when we

2711

01:42:51,590 --> 01:42:49,280

first talked so

2712

01:42:53,750 --> 01:42:51,600

thank you both of you for sharing this i

2713

01:42:55,910 --> 01:42:53,760

don't i don't have a lot of ego left

2714

01:42:57,910 --> 01:42:55,920

that kind of went with my vision that

2715

01:42:59,590 --> 01:42:57,920

left with my vision

2716

01:43:01,910 --> 01:42:59,600

when you have somebody help you to the

2717

01:43:02,550 --> 01:43:01,920

restroom i mean a lot of the things that

2718

01:43:06,709 --> 01:43:02,560

i

2719

01:43:08,070 --> 01:43:06,719

adapted learned

2720

01:43:09,990 --> 01:43:08,080

they were going to teach me more in new

2721

01:43:11,430 --> 01:43:10,000

haven connecticut and i was terrified of

2722

01:43:12,870 --> 01:43:11,440

going along because i couldn't bring

2723

01:43:15,910 --> 01:43:12,880

cindy with me

2724

01:43:18,950 --> 01:43:15,920

and like i said i was learning braille

2725

01:43:21,430 --> 01:43:18,960

and i was despondent

2726

01:43:22,709 --> 01:43:21,440

my doctor said it's situational mike

2727

01:43:23,990 --> 01:43:22,719

it's understandable that you're

2728

01:43:26,550 --> 01:43:24,000

moderately depressed and

2729

01:43:28,310 --> 01:43:26,560

anxious about your life let's forget

2730

01:43:31,830 --> 01:43:28,320

about the fact that you lost your home

2731

01:43:37,350 --> 01:43:35,350

you know lost everything everything that

2732

01:43:41,750 --> 01:43:37,360

didn't matter

2733

01:43:43,189 --> 01:43:41,760

and when when cindy and i we had to make

2734

01:43:44,149 --> 01:43:43,199

a decision about we could have stayed in

2735

01:43:47,910 --> 01:43:44,159

long island

2736

01:43:51,030 --> 01:43:47,920

we could still be there but

2737

01:43:52,310 --> 01:43:51,040

i had lost so much of my life i wanted

2738

01:43:55,350 --> 01:43:52,320

to go back and

2739

01:43:59,350 --> 01:43:55,360

grow some beans and some tomatoes

2740

01:44:02,629 --> 01:43:59,360

and you know drink a beer on the porch

2741

01:44:07,430 --> 01:44:05,430

i mean my life is simple today but it's

2742

01:44:09,270 --> 01:44:07,440

beautiful

2743

01:44:12,229 --> 01:44:09,280

and uh and i have friends that are

2744

01:44:14,709 --> 01:44:12,239

people of faith and

2745

01:44:16,390 --> 01:44:14,719

we transition between here the english

2746

01:44:18,470 --> 01:44:16,400

world and the amish community here

2747

01:44:20,229 --> 01:44:18,480

because i grew up with them they helped

2748

01:44:22,390 --> 01:44:20,239

me they made sure i didn't go hungry

2749

01:44:24,149 --> 01:44:22,400

when i was in foster care

2750

01:44:25,510 --> 01:44:24,159

and i speak a little bit of their

2751

01:44:27,430 --> 01:44:25,520

pennsylvania deutsche

2752

01:44:29,750 --> 01:44:27,440

and they've made garments for cindy and

2753

01:44:32,470 --> 01:44:29,760

i to attend worship with them

2754

01:44:34,229 --> 01:44:32,480

and you don't know how many animals are

2755

01:44:35,830 --> 01:44:34,239

named after cindy she has a degree in

2756

01:44:37,590 --> 01:44:35,840

animal science from farmingdale she

2757

01:44:40,709 --> 01:44:37,600

worked quarantined for the pets

2758

01:44:43,750 --> 01:44:40,719

and there are dogs named cindy

2759

01:44:46,950 --> 01:44:43,760

they're ponies names they need

2760

01:44:48,709 --> 01:44:46,960

i mean it's just it's a beaut and they

2761

01:44:50,149 --> 01:44:48,719

know my story

2762

01:44:51,669 --> 01:44:50,159

they they know what happened to me and

2763

01:44:54,550 --> 01:44:51,679

and they don't go i don't believe you

2764

01:45:00,830 --> 01:44:57,830

glory be all glory to god

2765

01:45:03,510 --> 01:45:00,840

and that's the spiritual aspect of my

2766

01:45:03,830 --> 01:45:03,520

life and i don't have a problem walking

2767

01:45:07,030 --> 01:45:03,840

in

2768

01:45:08,950 --> 01:45:07,040

any church anywhere

2769

01:45:10,950 --> 01:45:08,960

and sitting down and saying a prayer to

2770

01:45:13,030 --> 01:45:10,960

the power of my the higher power

2771

01:45:14,390 --> 01:45:13,040

god of my understanding and this this

2772

01:45:20,709 --> 01:45:14,400

isn't about

2773

01:45:23,910 --> 01:45:23,350

an event that was so spiritual in nature

2774

01:45:27,030 --> 01:45:23,920

that it

2775

01:45:30,629 --> 01:45:27,040

wiped any shred of doubt

2776

01:45:32,229 --> 01:45:30,639

from my heart and

2777

01:45:36,070 --> 01:45:32,239

i'll tell you what i couldn't have been

2778

01:45:39,510 --> 01:45:38,870

literally i was sitting on the park at

2779

01:45:44,149 --> 01:45:39,520

the

2780

01:45:48,390 --> 01:45:44,159

bus to go by

2781

01:45:49,830 --> 01:45:48,400

oh that's where i'm at

2782

01:45:51,109 --> 01:45:49,840

i want you guys i do want to go through

2783

01:45:52,070 --> 01:45:51,119

some questions and father just tell me

2784

01:45:53,590 --> 01:45:52,080

where you need to go

2785

01:45:55,189 --> 01:45:53,600

because michael and i will keep going

2786

01:45:57,270 --> 01:45:55,199

for a little bit longer um

2787

01:45:58,709 --> 01:45:57,280

tell me about the name that popped into

2788

01:46:02,470 --> 01:45:58,719

your head

2789

01:46:06,709 --> 01:46:02,480

related to the woman are you asking me

2790

01:46:08,629 --> 01:46:06,719

yeah and then father actually uh

2791

01:46:10,629 --> 01:46:08,639

father dimitri i think was mistaken on

2792

01:46:13,750 --> 01:46:10,639

this we were coming back from calverton

2793

01:46:15,430 --> 01:46:13,760

and and i was just i was i didn't have a

2794

01:46:16,390 --> 01:46:15,440

driver i'm looking out the window going

2795

01:46:18,310 --> 01:46:16,400

like oh my god

2796

01:46:19,430 --> 01:46:18,320

look at all this stuff right same thing

2797

01:46:20,790 --> 01:46:19,440

happened going to

2798

01:46:23,030 --> 01:46:20,800

the midnight run in new york city i was

2799

01:46:26,550 --> 01:46:23,040

just mesmerized

2800

01:46:30,070 --> 01:46:26,560

and it just came out slipped out i said

2801
01:46:31,750 --> 01:46:30,080
does it does greek orthodoxy have like

2802
01:46:33,590 --> 01:46:31,760
indian saints something something to

2803
01:46:34,390 --> 01:46:33,600
that effect because the name i kept

2804
01:46:37,669 --> 01:46:34,400
hearing was

2805
01:46:41,030 --> 01:46:37,679
we have saint cattery up here in aqua

2806
01:46:41,510 --> 01:46:41,040
and her mohawk name is teito and i said

2807
01:46:43,270 --> 01:46:41,520
because it

2808
01:46:45,030 --> 01:46:43,280
that's that's the melody that i'm

2809
01:46:46,790 --> 01:46:45,040
hearing in my ear you know that's the

2810
01:46:48,149 --> 01:46:46,800
word that that

2811
01:46:49,510 --> 01:46:48,159
you know like i said i have a problem

2812
01:46:51,030 --> 01:46:49,520
with blurred and he just kind of you

2813
01:46:52,310 --> 01:46:51,040

know i thought he was gonna run off the

2814

01:46:53,510 --> 01:46:52,320

side of the road because he's going like

2815

01:46:55,030 --> 01:46:53,520

what

2816

01:46:56,790 --> 01:46:55,040

i'm pretty sure that's where that

2817

01:46:57,669 --> 01:46:56,800

discussion occurred was on a trip back

2818

01:47:00,470 --> 01:46:57,679

from calvert

2819

01:47:00,870 --> 01:47:00,480

cemetery and that's what you had said

2820

01:47:05,910 --> 01:47:00,880

you

2821

01:47:07,750 --> 01:47:05,920

said

2822

01:47:09,830 --> 01:47:07,760

the woman in the shrine i mean that was

2823

01:47:11,990 --> 01:47:09,840

the one comment that you made

2824

01:47:13,350 --> 01:47:12,000

and i said what do you mean he said i

2825

01:47:15,189 --> 01:47:13,360

don't know i was thinking about that

2826

01:47:18,310 --> 01:47:15,199

woman and this name

2827

01:47:19,910 --> 01:47:18,320

is ringing into my ear and you asked

2828

01:47:21,350 --> 01:47:19,920

about that saying and i said

2829

01:47:23,189 --> 01:47:21,360

i don't know if we have american indians

2830

01:47:24,870 --> 01:47:23,199

saying i know we had the aleutian you

2831

01:47:26,229 --> 01:47:24,880

know alaskan saints and

2832

01:47:29,109 --> 01:47:26,239

and and then when that's when you said

2833

01:47:32,709 --> 01:47:29,119

the word tetsuwaka and i said

2834

01:47:33,510 --> 01:47:32,719

uh you said uh or something like that

2835

01:47:35,750 --> 01:47:33,520

and i said

2836

01:47:36,629 --> 01:47:35,760

sayo tacos i said that's yeah i don't

2837

01:47:38,790 --> 01:47:36,639

think

2838

01:47:40,310 --> 01:47:38,800

yeah i said that's one of the ways we

2839

01:47:43,350 --> 01:47:40,320

refer to the virgin mary

2840

01:47:44,950 --> 01:47:43,360

that she's the god-bearer fail talk us

2841

01:47:48,229 --> 01:47:44,960

the god-bearer

2842

01:47:49,830 --> 01:47:48,239

and so that's when really we i

2843

01:47:51,430 --> 01:47:49,840

i understood that because initially i

2844

01:47:53,350 --> 01:47:51,440

thought she was pointing to

2845

01:47:54,790 --> 01:47:53,360

this large icon of saint patrick when he

2846

01:47:56,310 --> 01:47:54,800

said there's a woman in here i thought

2847

01:47:58,629 --> 01:47:56,320

that's what he first saw

2848

01:47:59,910 --> 01:47:58,639

and and then that's when we kind of put

2849

01:48:03,350 --> 01:47:59,920

two and two together

2850

01:48:07,189 --> 01:48:05,430

this was always an unfolding story we

2851

01:48:09,590 --> 01:48:07,199

were just living in grace

2852

01:48:10,870 --> 01:48:09,600

so we weren't looking to see what

2853

01:48:12,790 --> 01:48:10,880

happened how did it happen

2854

01:48:14,950 --> 01:48:12,800

let's explain everything it was more

2855

01:48:17,030 --> 01:48:14,960

like hey

2856

01:48:18,070 --> 01:48:17,040

and hey and all of a sudden like these

2857

01:48:21,109 --> 01:48:18,080

pieces were just

2858

01:48:22,070 --> 01:48:21,119

coming together and it um and that's

2859

01:48:24,310 --> 01:48:22,080

when i said

2860

01:48:25,669 --> 01:48:24,320

michael that that title is given to the

2861

01:48:27,750 --> 01:48:25,679

virgin mary and it

2862

01:48:30,229 --> 01:48:27,760

if you're referring to the woman that

2863

01:48:32,310 --> 01:48:30,239

you saw in the shrine

2864

01:48:35,669 --> 01:48:32,320

and i thought it was saint patrick it

2865

01:48:38,470 --> 01:48:35,679

wasn't it was probably the virgin mary

2866

01:48:39,430 --> 01:48:38,480

and i didn't see her i didn't see what

2867

01:48:43,030 --> 01:48:39,440

michael saw

2868

01:48:45,750 --> 01:48:43,040

when he first got his vision back but

2869

01:48:47,350 --> 01:48:45,760

you know so that's how we kind of came

2870

01:48:49,590 --> 01:48:47,360

to that conclusion that it was probably

2871

01:48:53,350 --> 01:48:49,600

the virgin mary that he saw

2872

01:48:54,470 --> 01:48:53,360

i uh i didn't know anything about marian

2873

01:48:56,950 --> 01:48:54,480

visions until

2874

01:48:58,470 --> 01:48:56,960

my experience and then i trust me i

2875

01:49:00,229 --> 01:48:58,480

spent a lot of time trying to figure out

2876

01:49:02,550 --> 01:49:00,239

what happened to me

2877

01:49:05,109 --> 01:49:02,560

and i've learned a great deal so i have

2878

01:49:08,229 --> 01:49:05,119

a lot more to learn

2879

01:49:10,310 --> 01:49:08,239

and i remember

2880

01:49:11,430 --> 01:49:10,320

asking father demetri not to bring that

2881

01:49:14,470 --> 01:49:11,440

up again because

2882

01:49:16,149 --> 01:49:14,480

there's a natural association with

2883

01:49:18,470 --> 01:49:16,159

people who

2884

01:49:20,390 --> 01:49:18,480

see something that others can't see and

2885

01:49:22,470 --> 01:49:20,400

then the fact that i could see it all

2886

01:49:24,149 --> 01:49:22,480

was a surprise to me

2887

01:49:26,149 --> 01:49:24,159

uh the fact that i still have my vision

2888

01:49:29,830 --> 01:49:26,159

today because every day is a

2889

01:49:38,070 --> 01:49:29,840

redemption from that darkness and

2890

01:49:38,080 --> 01:49:41,350

any more questions no

2891

01:49:41,360 --> 01:49:47,750

not every

2892

01:49:51,750 --> 01:49:50,229

yeah so i guess anthony's asking michael

2893

01:49:53,910 --> 01:49:51,760

have you seen

2894

01:49:55,910 --> 01:49:53,920

that saint that person that you saw that

2895

01:49:57,030 --> 01:49:55,920

day or maybe some other saints since

2896

01:49:59,589 --> 01:49:57,040

then

2897

01:50:00,310 --> 01:49:59,599

i believe that i've seen what i saw in

2898

01:50:02,709 --> 01:50:00,320

the grotto

2899

01:50:03,350 --> 01:50:02,719

two more times once in my garden and

2900

01:50:05,910 --> 01:50:03,360

once

2901
01:50:07,109 --> 01:50:05,920
at adirondack medical center in saranac

2902
01:50:10,310 --> 01:50:07,119
lake

2903
01:50:10,950 --> 01:50:10,320
cindy was with me the second time i was

2904
01:50:14,950 --> 01:50:10,960
alone

2905
01:50:17,350 --> 01:50:14,960
it was um early in the morning

2906
01:50:19,109 --> 01:50:17,360
it was before sunrise i'm an early riser

2907
01:50:22,550 --> 01:50:19,119
on some days

2908
01:50:24,790 --> 01:50:22,560
and those are personal experiences that

2909
01:50:26,550 --> 01:50:24,800
i really don't want to expound on but

2910
01:50:28,149 --> 01:50:26,560
the woman at adirondack medical center

2911
01:50:29,109 --> 01:50:28,159
was much older than the one i saw in the

2912
01:50:30,870 --> 01:50:29,119
grotto

2913
01:50:32,790 --> 01:50:30,880

but she looked at me with the same

2914

01:50:36,629 --> 01:50:32,800

glimmer in her eye

2915

01:50:40,390 --> 01:50:38,790

she was older she needed help down the

2916

01:50:43,270 --> 01:50:40,400

walkway

2917

01:50:44,870 --> 01:50:43,280

and i took her hand and walked her down

2918

01:50:46,470 --> 01:50:44,880

and

2919

01:50:48,470 --> 01:50:46,480

when she got into her car she looked at

2920

01:50:50,709 --> 01:50:48,480

me and she gave me kind of one of those

2921

01:50:52,550 --> 01:50:50,719

curious it wasn't there was nothing

2922

01:50:56,390 --> 01:50:52,560

sinister about it there was something

2923

01:50:59,589 --> 01:50:56,400

comforting and warm and uh

2924

01:51:02,390 --> 01:50:59,599

like you're you're you're good

2925

01:51:03,750 --> 01:51:02,400

so i don't know i i talked that out it

2926

01:51:06,470 --> 01:51:03,760

might be my own

2927

01:51:08,629 --> 01:51:06,480

personal desire but seeing a couple

2928

01:51:11,030 --> 01:51:08,639

other things too that defy explanation

2929

01:51:14,629 --> 01:51:11,040

cindy's seen a couple of them with me

2930

01:51:17,189 --> 01:51:14,639

and i attribute that to

2931

01:51:19,350 --> 01:51:17,199

my regained vision i see a lot more

2932

01:51:19,990 --> 01:51:19,360

today than i think i saw before i lost

2933

01:51:21,910 --> 01:51:20,000

it

2934

01:51:23,830 --> 01:51:21,920

i'm more attentive to details of other

2935

01:51:25,030 --> 01:51:23,840

people that completely escape other

2936

01:51:27,669 --> 01:51:25,040

people

2937

01:51:30,709 --> 01:51:27,679

and it's that's neither a gift nor a

2938

01:51:34,550 --> 01:51:30,719

curse it's just the way it is for me

2939

01:51:35,510 --> 01:51:34,560

and um you know i i finally managed to

2940

01:51:38,470 --> 01:51:35,520

break the habit

2941

01:51:40,149 --> 01:51:38,480

okay i live 124 steps away from a

2942

01:51:44,070 --> 01:51:40,159

particular building here

2943

01:51:48,470 --> 01:51:44,080

and i count them just out because i care

2944

01:51:51,750 --> 01:51:48,480

all right but um i mean i

2945

01:51:55,189 --> 01:51:51,760

a lot has changed in my world and

2946

01:51:56,629 --> 01:51:55,199

i i see i see god in nature

2947

01:51:59,030 --> 01:51:56,639

i mean nature is my church we have this

2948

01:52:00,870 --> 01:51:59,040

beautiful trail it took us a year to cut

2949

01:52:02,229 --> 01:52:00,880

uh the whole walk is about two miles

2950

01:52:04,470 --> 01:52:02,239

long and

2951
01:52:05,910 --> 01:52:04,480
we see something every time we walk it's

2952
01:52:09,430 --> 01:52:05,920
something beautiful something

2953
01:52:12,709 --> 01:52:09,440
breathtaking and it's always a

2954
01:52:16,870 --> 01:52:12,719
experience of deep felt gratitude

2955
01:52:20,629 --> 01:52:16,880
and just amazement

2956
01:52:22,070 --> 01:52:20,639
so like i said i i don't go running

2957
01:52:24,070 --> 01:52:22,080
around

2958
01:52:25,830 --> 01:52:24,080
pulling people's shoulders and hey guess

2959
01:52:26,950 --> 01:52:25,840
what i was i was blind for over seven

2960
01:52:29,669 --> 01:52:26,960
years

2961
01:52:30,149 --> 01:52:29,679
um and now i can see uh that you know

2962
01:52:32,390 --> 01:52:30,159
what

2963
01:52:34,070 --> 01:52:32,400

uh you need to you need to pull your

2964

01:52:35,830 --> 01:52:34,080

dress out of your pantyhose because no

2965

01:52:37,510 --> 01:52:35,840

one else is going to say anything to

2966

01:52:38,950 --> 01:52:37,520

to you because they like the view all

2967

01:52:41,109 --> 01:52:38,960

right but i'm going to say something to

2968

01:52:44,550 --> 01:52:41,119

you obvious stuff like that

2969

01:52:45,910 --> 01:52:44,560

and cindy and i um we have a policy

2970

01:52:47,910 --> 01:52:45,920

between us that

2971

01:52:50,070 --> 01:52:47,920

whenever the moment unfolds where we see

2972

01:52:54,070 --> 01:52:50,080

someone that needs help

2973

01:52:55,350 --> 01:52:54,080

we stop and we help and we go on about

2974

01:52:56,629 --> 01:52:55,360

our way

2975

01:52:57,990 --> 01:52:56,639

i mean i got to the point where the

2976

01:52:59,589 --> 01:52:58,000

state police are giving me road flares

2977

01:53:01,990 --> 01:52:59,599

because we end up at more accidents than

2978

01:53:03,910 --> 01:53:02,000

they we were the first ones

2979

01:53:05,990 --> 01:53:03,920

dangerous roads up here between the deer

2980

01:53:07,270 --> 01:53:06,000

and the snow and the ice and the black

2981

01:53:10,149 --> 01:53:07,280

ice

2982

01:53:12,629 --> 01:53:10,159

so we see opportunities where there's a

2983

01:53:14,470 --> 01:53:12,639

choice to be made a decision to be made

2984

01:53:16,390 --> 01:53:14,480

you know one of the questions that i saw

2985

01:53:19,270 --> 01:53:16,400

earlier on

2986

01:53:20,070 --> 01:53:19,280

this was was does something like what

2987

01:53:24,390 --> 01:53:20,080

happened to me

2988

01:53:27,510 --> 01:53:24,400

and father dimitri lend itself towards

2989

01:53:29,830 --> 01:53:27,520

some sort of a community where where

2990

01:53:31,030 --> 01:53:29,840

where people make conscious choices

2991

01:53:34,550 --> 01:53:31,040

about

2992

01:53:36,390 --> 01:53:34,560

things they're going to do and things

2993

01:53:37,910 --> 01:53:36,400

it's it's a it's an involved

2994

01:53:40,390 --> 01:53:37,920

conversation

2995

01:53:41,750 --> 01:53:40,400

i can honestly say that that my life

2996

01:53:43,350 --> 01:53:41,760

took 180

2997

01:53:46,629 --> 01:53:43,360

degree turn when i walked out of saint

2998

01:53:49,109 --> 01:53:46,639

perescovi on november 18th

2999

01:53:51,109 --> 01:53:49,119

you know that's and all the coincidences

3000

01:53:52,070 --> 01:53:51,119

cindy we make notes about them and we

3001
01:53:56,149 --> 01:53:52,080
forget them

3002
01:53:59,189 --> 01:53:56,159
but there are more than i can count

3003
01:54:00,870 --> 01:53:59,199
and that that just tells me that there's

3004
01:54:02,149 --> 01:54:00,880
a divine hand in my life just like

3005
01:54:04,870 --> 01:54:02,159
there's a divine hand in

3006
01:54:05,430 --> 01:54:04,880
all of our lives some people are blind

3007
01:54:07,109 --> 01:54:05,440
to them

3008
01:54:08,790 --> 01:54:07,119
and when i say some people are blind to

3009
01:54:11,189 --> 01:54:08,800
them i see miracles

3010
01:54:13,589 --> 01:54:11,199
everywhere i look you know we have

3011
01:54:15,990 --> 01:54:13,599
robins nesting on our porch we have

3012
01:54:17,910 --> 01:54:16,000
uh four bird feeders up and we have

3013
01:54:19,270 --> 01:54:17,920

literally hundreds of birds a day that

3014

01:54:21,510 --> 01:54:19,280

when they're having their babies they

3015

01:54:24,550 --> 01:54:21,520

come and they take food and cindy's like

3016

01:54:26,149 --> 01:54:24,560

filling it up every day and watching

3017

01:54:28,229 --> 01:54:26,159

those birds come back every year that's

3018

01:54:29,669 --> 01:54:28,239

a miracle to me

3019

01:54:31,589 --> 01:54:29,679

it's a simple stuff that we've just

3020

01:54:33,430 --> 01:54:31,599

become so numb to

3021

01:54:35,990 --> 01:54:33,440

we don't we don't appreciate that you

3022

01:54:38,870 --> 01:54:36,000

know i held my sixth grandchild in

3023

01:54:41,189 --> 01:54:38,880

my arms two days ago she was born on the

3024

01:54:43,350 --> 01:54:41,199

fourth of july

3025

01:54:45,109 --> 01:54:43,360

that was a miracle that was that i could

3026

01:54:46,229 --> 01:54:45,119

hold her and i could see her and i could

3027

01:54:48,629 --> 01:54:46,239

see her smile

3028

01:54:50,629 --> 01:54:48,639

i wept when i held my granddaughter for

3029

01:54:53,510 --> 01:54:50,639

the first time

3030

01:54:54,070 --> 01:54:53,520

because i never in my wildest dreams

3031

01:54:55,430 --> 01:54:54,080

ever

3032

01:54:57,189 --> 01:54:55,440

i mean there was one point where i'm

3033

01:54:59,669 --> 01:54:57,199

going like i i just can't

3034

01:55:01,910 --> 01:54:59,679

i can't do this anymore i just can't do

3035

01:55:04,149 --> 01:55:01,920

it i i don't want to do it

3036

01:55:05,750 --> 01:55:04,159

so literally that experience saved my

3037

01:55:09,430 --> 01:55:05,760

life

3038

01:55:11,109 --> 01:55:09,440

and i'm a marine and i tell you what i

3039

01:55:13,510 --> 01:55:11,119

you know what you can make a decision

3040

01:55:16,070 --> 01:55:13,520

but get better follow through

3041

01:55:16,870 --> 01:55:16,080

and that it changed my world i came to

3042

01:55:21,270 --> 01:55:16,880

cindy's world

3043

01:55:26,550 --> 01:55:24,070

any other questions find one for father

3044

01:55:26,560 --> 01:55:29,830

you're you're muted

3045

01:55:33,030 --> 01:55:32,709

what's that joe's muted thank you uh you

3046

01:55:35,589 --> 01:55:33,040

can

3047

01:55:37,990 --> 01:55:35,599

this is my nephew here's the question

3048

01:55:39,910 --> 01:55:38,000

you can both answer this does he think

3049

01:55:41,109 --> 01:55:39,920

god god took his sight because he

3050

01:55:43,350 --> 01:55:41,119

couldn't see what actually

3051

01:55:45,510 --> 01:55:43,360

mattered at the time when he lost it is

3052

01:55:48,550 --> 01:55:45,520

that what he was saying a little earlier

3053

01:55:50,149 --> 01:55:48,560

because he missed he missed some of that

3054

01:55:51,830 --> 01:55:50,159

either one of you can answer that one

3055

01:55:54,870 --> 01:55:51,840

that's that's got to be michael he could

3056

01:55:58,149 --> 01:55:57,270

you want me to answer it it's a question

3057

01:56:03,350 --> 01:55:58,159

about

3058

01:56:08,229 --> 01:56:05,990

i'm not perfect i wasn't before i lost

3059

01:56:09,830 --> 01:56:08,239

my vision i wasn't i've done some things

3060

01:56:11,510 --> 01:56:09,840

in my life the priest knows those things

3061

01:56:15,910 --> 01:56:11,520

because i shared them in my confession i

3062

01:56:19,189 --> 01:56:17,510

i've made a lot of poor decisions in my

3063

01:56:19,669 --> 01:56:19,199

life you want to talk about sins i look

3064

01:56:22,950 --> 01:56:19,679

them as

3065

01:56:25,750 --> 01:56:22,960

as intentional errors that's where you

3066

01:56:27,109 --> 01:56:25,760

you go now this isn't exactly right you

3067

01:56:28,709 --> 01:56:27,119

should be doing this

3068

01:56:30,870 --> 01:56:28,719

but you make a decision your ego talks

3069

01:56:32,149 --> 01:56:30,880

you into it you you stop listening to

3070

01:56:33,510 --> 01:56:32,159

that other guy on your shoulder the

3071

01:56:37,109 --> 01:56:33,520

other shoulder is going

3072

01:56:37,750 --> 01:56:37,119

don't do this so for me there was a

3073

01:56:39,510 --> 01:56:37,760

reckoning

3074

01:56:42,070 --> 01:56:39,520

for some of those decisions i don't

3075

01:56:45,189 --> 01:56:42,080

personally believe that that

3076

01:56:48,550 --> 01:56:45,199

the injury that i suffered in the burn i

3077

01:56:48,560 --> 01:56:54,830

that was a occupational hazard

3078

01:56:59,270 --> 01:56:57,189

i i'm like i said i

3079

01:57:00,870 --> 01:56:59,280

i i'm not a particularly religious

3080

01:57:02,149 --> 01:57:00,880

person i know i think i know my

3081

01:57:03,830 --> 01:57:02,159

scripture is pretty good

3082

01:57:05,189 --> 01:57:03,840

at least as much as the average person

3083

01:57:07,910 --> 01:57:05,199

does

3084

01:57:10,070 --> 01:57:07,920

um in fact i learned to speak spanish

3085

01:57:13,830 --> 01:57:10,080

with a spanish bible is my my

3086

01:57:15,910 --> 01:57:13,840

textbook but i think i had gotten to a

3087

01:57:19,990 --> 01:57:15,920

point of pride in my life where

3088

01:57:23,030 --> 01:57:20,000

i thought i was invulnerable

3089

01:57:24,629 --> 01:57:23,040

and i thought i had made a lot of good

3090

01:57:26,070 --> 01:57:24,639

choices but i know in my heart that i'd

3091

01:57:27,350 --> 01:57:26,080

make some poor ones and i

3092

01:57:28,629 --> 01:57:27,360

that's one of the reasons why i felt

3093

01:57:30,229 --> 01:57:28,639

like i was being punished but i don't

3094

01:57:32,310 --> 01:57:30,239

think god does that i think we do that

3095

01:57:36,070 --> 01:57:32,320

to ourselves

3096

01:57:39,669 --> 01:57:36,080

and um so no

3097

01:57:41,669 --> 01:57:39,679

i i don't think god teaches us by

3098

01:57:42,550 --> 01:57:41,679

punishing us i think he teaches us by

3099

01:57:46,310 --> 01:57:42,560

pointing

3100

01:57:47,430 --> 01:57:46,320

our perception in a direction that we

3101
01:57:50,229 --> 01:57:47,440
need to go

3102
01:57:50,470 --> 01:57:50,239
and it took me a long time to get there

3103
01:57:53,669 --> 01:57:50,480
i

3104
01:57:57,910 --> 01:57:53,679
grew up next door

3105
01:57:59,990 --> 01:57:57,920
to that church what are the odds of that

3106
01:58:01,669 --> 01:58:00,000
what are the odds of that who i got

3107
01:58:02,310 --> 01:58:01,679
burned on a feast day of saint paul

3108
01:58:06,149 --> 01:58:02,320
escobe

3109
01:58:07,990 --> 01:58:06,159
july 26th what are the odds of that

3110
01:58:09,589 --> 01:58:08,000
you know i i mean there's too many

3111
01:58:11,109 --> 01:58:09,599
coincidences those those right there are

3112
01:58:13,030 --> 01:58:11,119
the easiest ones i can point to but

3113
01:58:17,430 --> 01:58:13,040

there are a lot more

3114

01:58:19,189 --> 01:58:17,440

some people would look at that and go oh

3115

01:58:20,950 --> 01:58:19,199

that's just coincidence i look at that

3116

01:58:23,750 --> 01:58:20,960

and i go that's the universe

3117

01:58:26,870 --> 01:58:23,760

speaking very loudly to you michael you

3118

01:58:30,629 --> 01:58:26,880

might do well to pay attention

3119

01:58:32,149 --> 01:58:30,639

okay and for i was literally at the end

3120

01:58:33,350 --> 01:58:32,159

of my road

3121

01:58:35,350 --> 01:58:33,360

i mean when i got kicked off the

3122

01:58:36,790 --> 01:58:35,360

football field i was like

3123

01:58:38,709 --> 01:58:36,800

i don't even want to do this anymore i

3124

01:58:40,790 --> 01:58:38,719

don't want to do this anymore

3125

01:58:42,709 --> 01:58:40,800

and you know when i got up here the

3126

01:58:43,030 --> 01:58:42,719

first year i did i trained pima and

3127

01:58:45,109 --> 01:58:43,040

she's

3128

01:58:46,470 --> 01:58:45,119

i don't know where is she but anyway i

3129

01:58:49,350 --> 01:58:46,480

trained her yeah people people want to

3130

01:58:51,350 --> 01:58:49,360

see pima so if she if she ever comes in

3131

01:58:53,589 --> 01:58:51,360

again uh she's around your side don't

3132

01:58:55,669 --> 01:58:53,599

worry about it but i trained her

3133

01:58:57,189 --> 01:58:55,679

and i tr after i buried maya in my

3134

01:58:59,430 --> 01:58:57,199

backyard i

3135

01:59:01,109 --> 01:58:59,440

i was still training pima i shared a

3136

01:59:03,589 --> 01:59:01,119

couple pictures of her

3137

01:59:04,709 --> 01:59:03,599

and you know i'm a little embarrassed

3138

01:59:07,910 --> 01:59:04,719

about that too

3139

01:59:10,229 --> 01:59:07,920

cindy's fetching pima right now because

3140

01:59:11,669 --> 01:59:10,239

that was in my heart that was doubt

3141

01:59:14,229 --> 01:59:11,679

because like i said

3142

01:59:15,510 --> 01:59:14,239

you know i was afraid to go to sleep for

3143

01:59:17,910 --> 01:59:15,520

the longest time because i didn't know

3144

01:59:21,430 --> 01:59:17,920

what i was facing when i woke up

3145

01:59:24,229 --> 01:59:21,440

and i put

3146

01:59:25,270 --> 01:59:24,239

pima in maya's harness and i trained her

3147

01:59:28,470 --> 01:59:25,280

because i'm thinking

3148

01:59:30,470 --> 01:59:28,480

i may need her tomorrow and then i don't

3149

01:59:33,109 --> 01:59:30,480

know when it was maybe a year after that

3150

01:59:33,589 --> 01:59:33,119

i i said no you're going to be my best

3151

01:59:38,629 --> 01:59:33,599

friend

3152

01:59:41,030 --> 01:59:38,639

really cindy's dog now but

3153

01:59:42,709 --> 01:59:41,040

but letting go of that fear was a big

3154

01:59:46,149 --> 01:59:42,719

thing for me

3155

01:59:46,950 --> 01:59:46,159

and it was the fear of losing the light

3156

01:59:48,950 --> 01:59:46,960

in my world

3157

01:59:51,750 --> 01:59:48,960

come on come here puppy come here come

3158

01:59:53,669 --> 01:59:51,760

here pima has been requested

3159

01:59:55,030 --> 01:59:53,679

yeah there she is right there she's

3160

01:59:58,070 --> 01:59:55,040

afraid of the thunder

3161

01:59:59,350 --> 01:59:58,080

yeah it's thundering here joe

3162

02:00:01,510 --> 01:59:59,360

we're getting thunder but i'm going to

3163

02:00:04,790 --> 02:00:01,520

ask a question my dog is scared

3164

02:00:06,870 --> 02:00:04,800

this one is for father d do any of the

3165

02:00:09,109 --> 02:00:06,880

churches recognize this as a miracle

3166

02:00:12,470 --> 02:00:09,119

what happened

3167

02:00:15,669 --> 02:00:12,480

um we i didn't

3168

02:00:19,189 --> 02:00:15,679

present it to i shared with

3169

02:00:21,430 --> 02:00:19,199

my local bishop what happened um

3170

02:00:22,950 --> 02:00:21,440

and we don't like jump onto things and

3171

02:00:25,750 --> 02:00:22,960

say oh that's a miracle

3172

02:00:27,109 --> 02:00:25,760

you know those things are vetted over

3173

02:00:30,070 --> 02:00:27,119

time

3174

02:00:32,709 --> 02:00:30,080

and uh and it's it's it's self-serving

3175

02:00:34,870 --> 02:00:32,719

to say anything like that so

3176

02:00:36,310 --> 02:00:34,880

like i said the best way to say describe

3177

02:00:39,750 --> 02:00:36,320

it is that we were just

3178

02:00:41,990 --> 02:00:39,760

in a place um and and yeah

3179

02:00:43,589 --> 02:00:42,000

there was there was some doubt i

3180

02:00:45,350 --> 02:00:43,599

remember after it happened i went

3181

02:00:48,229 --> 02:00:45,360

and asked some of the people in the in

3182

02:00:50,149 --> 02:00:48,239

the american legion in the post

3183

02:00:52,229 --> 02:00:50,159

about michael who is he where'd he come

3184

02:00:54,390 --> 02:00:52,239

from you know i i

3185

02:00:56,229 --> 02:00:54,400

even though in my heart of hearts i knew

3186

02:00:57,109 --> 02:00:56,239

i kind of you know when i shared that i

3187

02:00:59,750 --> 02:00:57,119

said to michael

3188

02:01:01,270 --> 02:00:59,760

in a moment of doubt i said i i i i

3189

02:01:03,589 --> 02:01:01,280

asked about you i i

3190

02:01:04,550 --> 02:01:03,599

you know because people were asking me

3191

02:01:06,950 --> 02:01:04,560

are you sure

3192

02:01:08,070 --> 02:01:06,960

you sure he was blind you sure did and

3193

02:01:11,030 --> 02:01:08,080

all of that stuff so

3194

02:01:13,030 --> 02:01:11,040

um but i i'll tell you that no the

3195

02:01:14,550 --> 02:01:13,040

church doesn't work that way and

3196

02:01:16,310 --> 02:01:14,560

and and certainly won't work that way

3197

02:01:17,350 --> 02:01:16,320

with me because i'm the last person the

3198

02:01:19,669 --> 02:01:17,360

last priest

3199

02:01:21,589 --> 02:01:19,679

that most people would think would be uh

3200

02:01:23,589 --> 02:01:21,599

involved in any miracles so

3201
02:01:25,750 --> 02:01:23,599
it you know the community knows what

3202
02:01:28,709 --> 02:01:25,760
happened and we'll just leave it at that

3203
02:01:29,270 --> 02:01:28,719
it was just a moment in time where um

3204
02:01:30,629 --> 02:01:29,280
something

3205
02:01:33,270 --> 02:01:30,639
out of the ordinary happened and we

3206
02:01:35,990 --> 02:01:33,280
can't explain it but it was beautiful

3207
02:01:38,709 --> 02:01:36,000
and it was filled with grace

3208
02:01:40,629 --> 02:01:38,719
and even to this day it still is there

3209
02:01:43,189 --> 02:01:40,639
are people out there who question it

3210
02:01:44,229 --> 02:01:43,199
who doubt it and i don't pay a lot of

3211
02:01:46,550 --> 02:01:44,239
attention to those

3212
02:01:47,910 --> 02:01:46,560
people because number one cindy and i my

3213
02:01:51,669 --> 02:01:47,920

whole fam everybody knows

3214

02:01:53,990 --> 02:01:51,679

who i am and where i came from and

3215

02:01:55,669 --> 02:01:54,000

there is an embarrassment of

3216

02:01:57,589 --> 02:01:55,679

documentation i just

3217

02:01:59,189 --> 02:01:57,599

honestly i wouldn't know where to begin

3218

02:02:00,950 --> 02:01:59,199

to look seen

3219

02:02:03,030 --> 02:02:00,960

seven optimal i was going through

3220

02:02:06,149 --> 02:02:03,040

medical records here we have addresses

3221

02:02:07,990 --> 02:02:06,159

and time frames but number one there's a

3222

02:02:08,709 --> 02:02:08,000

lot of other medical associated with

3223

02:02:10,790 --> 02:02:08,719

that so

3224

02:02:12,149 --> 02:02:10,800

in the thousands of pages of record i

3225

02:02:13,990 --> 02:02:12,159

sent you a few joe

3226

02:02:15,589 --> 02:02:14,000

where it specifically mentions optic

3227

02:02:17,750 --> 02:02:15,599

nerve sclerosis

3228

02:02:19,830 --> 02:02:17,760

i mean you've seen more medical than

3229

02:02:21,589 --> 02:02:19,840

anybody else is going to see

3230

02:02:23,350 --> 02:02:21,599

my medical information is personal and

3231

02:02:24,229 --> 02:02:23,360

private to me but i trust you cindy

3232

02:02:26,629 --> 02:02:24,239

trusts you

3233

02:02:27,990 --> 02:02:26,639

i trust the priest all right but i don't

3234

02:02:30,390 --> 02:02:28,000

trust the trolls out there that's

3235

02:02:31,669 --> 02:02:30,400

what you're gonna put you're gonna look

3236

02:02:33,990 --> 02:02:31,679

me up

3237

02:02:34,709 --> 02:02:34,000

come on up if you're invited if you

3238

02:02:37,750 --> 02:02:34,719

treat us

3239

02:02:38,550 --> 02:02:37,760

kindly you'll be welcome here but if all

3240

02:02:40,629 --> 02:02:38,560

you're gonna do i

3241

02:02:41,990 --> 02:02:40,639

i you know what self-care for me part of

3242

02:02:45,189 --> 02:02:42,000

my self-care is not

3243

02:02:47,750 --> 02:02:45,199

arguing with people who already have a

3244

02:02:49,270 --> 02:02:47,760

preset idea about the way the argument

3245

02:02:51,589 --> 02:02:49,280

is going to go

3246

02:02:53,830 --> 02:02:51,599

so to them it's kind of like riding a

3247

02:02:56,950 --> 02:02:53,840

motorcycle you know for the ones who do

3248

02:02:58,470 --> 02:02:56,960

no explanation is possible and so

3249

02:03:01,350 --> 02:02:58,480

no excuse me for the ones who ride a

3250

02:03:03,589 --> 02:03:01,360

motorcycle no explanation is necessary

3251

02:03:06,229 --> 02:03:03,599

for the ones who don't ride no

3252

02:03:08,149 --> 02:03:06,239

explanation is possible

3253

02:03:09,750 --> 02:03:08,159

and i equate that with with what

3254

02:03:11,830 --> 02:03:09,760

happened to me

3255

02:03:14,390 --> 02:03:11,840

i don't go around telling people that

3256

02:03:16,709 --> 02:03:14,400

you know what a little over seven years

3257

02:03:18,390 --> 02:03:16,719

ago i was in a hurt locker

3258

02:03:20,790 --> 02:03:18,400

because number one their eyes some of

3259

02:03:22,310 --> 02:03:20,800

them their eyes glaze over and they go

3260

02:03:23,910 --> 02:03:22,320

what are you even talking about but

3261

02:03:25,589 --> 02:03:23,920

other people

3262

02:03:28,310 --> 02:03:25,599

if they have an open mind and an open

3263

02:03:29,990 --> 02:03:28,320

heart i'll tell anybody i'll share with

3264

02:03:33,030 --> 02:03:30,000

anybody because

3265

02:03:36,149 --> 02:03:33,040

for me my i'm beyond faith now i

3266

02:03:38,070 --> 02:03:36,159

i know and i don't know everything

3267

02:03:39,510 --> 02:03:38,080

i mean i know what happened to me cindy

3268

02:03:40,390 --> 02:03:39,520

knows what happened to me she watched me

3269

02:03:43,830 --> 02:03:40,400

go blind

3270

02:03:46,390 --> 02:03:43,840

my doctors watched me go by my children

3271

02:03:47,990 --> 02:03:46,400

watched me go by

3272

02:03:50,390 --> 02:03:48,000

and you know what i'm like i said i'm

3273

02:03:52,550 --> 02:03:50,400

the luckiest guy on the planet

3274

02:03:54,069 --> 02:03:52,560

you know and yeah there's records out

3275

02:03:55,589 --> 02:03:54,079

there but you're gonna have to spend

3276

02:03:56,790 --> 02:03:55,599

effort and maybe money to find them and

3277

02:03:57,589 --> 02:03:56,800

and what are you going to do with them

3278

02:03:59,430 --> 02:03:57,599

when you do

3279

02:04:01,189 --> 02:03:59,440

well you're going to find the truth go

3280

02:04:02,550 --> 02:04:01,199

ahead good luck to you

3281

02:04:04,950 --> 02:04:02,560

because that's all you're going to find

3282

02:04:05,430 --> 02:04:04,960

the truth that's it there's a there's a

3283

02:04:07,030 --> 02:04:05,440

question

3284

02:04:08,870 --> 02:04:07,040

from julie you kind of answered that

3285

02:04:10,310 --> 02:04:08,880

early but the doctors

3286

02:04:11,990 --> 02:04:10,320

have you i mean what are the doctors

3287

02:04:13,430 --> 02:04:12,000

have you even bothered to even go back

3288

02:04:15,830 --> 02:04:13,440

to the doctors to ask them about your

3289

02:04:17,109 --> 02:04:15,840

optic nerve at this point

3290

02:04:19,030 --> 02:04:17,119

for me i wouldn't i wouldn't see the

3291

02:04:20,870 --> 02:04:19,040

purpose if it was me

3292

02:04:23,350 --> 02:04:20,880

two things okay when the pandemic

3293

02:04:24,229 --> 02:04:23,360

started i don't carry a phone number one

3294

02:04:27,189 --> 02:04:24,239

i don't own one

3295

02:04:28,390 --> 02:04:27,199

all right cindy gets a call it's from

3296

02:04:31,589 --> 02:04:28,400

the northport va

3297

02:04:34,310 --> 02:04:31,599

office of the blind all right my last

3298

02:04:36,790 --> 02:04:34,320

examination was in january of

3299

02:04:38,229 --> 02:04:36,800

2014 my eye exam my last day and then

3300

02:04:40,069 --> 02:04:38,239

i've just recently i

3301

02:04:43,030 --> 02:04:40,079

think it was uh what did i renew my

3302

02:04:47,589 --> 02:04:46,069

yeah when did i renew it it was just it

3303

02:04:48,950 --> 02:04:47,599

was december

3304

02:04:52,069 --> 02:04:48,960

i got my driver's license back in

3305

02:04:56,550 --> 02:04:52,079

december of 2013. so in december of

3306

02:04:59,350 --> 02:04:56,560

this year this last year i had i had to

3307

02:05:02,629 --> 02:04:59,360

go get my eyes examined and i have the

3308

02:05:05,910 --> 02:05:02,639

vision of a 61 year old man

3309

02:05:07,589 --> 02:05:05,920

and okay but the office of the blind

3310

02:05:10,310 --> 02:05:07,599

calls me from the va because they had

3311

02:05:12,870 --> 02:05:10,320

the last report

3312

02:05:13,589 --> 02:05:12,880

from my examination after saint peresq

3313

02:05:16,390 --> 02:05:13,599

and the doctor

3314

02:05:17,669 --> 02:05:16,400

like i said he had two two comments uh

3315

02:05:21,750 --> 02:05:17,679

no change

3316

02:05:23,910 --> 02:05:21,760

keep moving and um

3317

02:05:25,990 --> 02:05:23,920

i went i walked away because some of

3318

02:05:27,350 --> 02:05:26,000

them i mean

3319

02:05:29,350 --> 02:05:27,360

you know some people i don't care if

3320

02:05:30,069 --> 02:05:29,360

they believe me or not i know what i

3321

02:05:32,629 --> 02:05:30,079

have

3322

02:05:34,149 --> 02:05:32,639

i know what happened to me and i know

3323

02:05:38,069 --> 02:05:34,159

what happened to father demetri

3324

02:05:41,589 --> 02:05:38,079

in in when i knelt and he prayed over me

3325

02:05:42,390 --> 02:05:41,599

that was something i have never

3326

02:05:45,750 --> 02:05:42,400

experienced

3327

02:05:48,629 --> 02:05:45,760

myself and i was empty

3328

02:05:50,950 --> 02:05:48,639

i was i felt like i had been completely

3329

02:05:54,629 --> 02:05:50,960

drained

3330

02:05:58,069 --> 02:05:54,639

and i literally i had no

3331

02:06:01,189 --> 02:05:58,079

hope i was hopeless i had i had given up

3332

02:06:02,629 --> 02:06:01,199

all hope and

3333

02:06:05,350 --> 02:06:02,639

i was just going through the motions

3334

02:06:07,669 --> 02:06:05,360

when i went down into the grotto

3335

02:06:09,830 --> 02:06:07,679

coincidences be damned i was just going

3336

02:06:11,750 --> 02:06:09,840

to i had no expectation of anything i

3337

02:06:13,669 --> 02:06:11,760

expected to go home

3338

02:06:14,870 --> 02:06:13,679

help cindy take care of her mom as it

3339

02:06:17,510 --> 02:06:14,880

was i

3340

02:06:20,069 --> 02:06:17,520

carried her mom into the hospital she

3341

02:06:22,950 --> 02:06:20,079

was admitted that day

3342

02:06:23,270 --> 02:06:22,960

um her sister and the rest of her family

3343

02:06:26,470 --> 02:06:23,280

went

3344

02:06:28,310 --> 02:06:26,480

home taking prepare uh her bedroom for

3345

02:06:28,950 --> 02:06:28,320

hospice the next morning but she died

3346

02:06:30,870 --> 02:06:28,960

that night

3347

02:06:32,629 --> 02:06:30,880

holding my hand i volunteered to stay

3348

02:06:34,069 --> 02:06:32,639

behind

3349

02:06:36,709 --> 02:06:34,079

and it was one of the most beautiful

3350

02:06:39,990 --> 02:06:36,719

nights of my life i mean watching

3351
02:06:41,350 --> 02:06:40,000
my mother-in-law die was one of the most

3352
02:06:43,910 --> 02:06:41,360
beautifully poignant

3353
02:06:45,830 --> 02:06:43,920
moments i mean it was a gentle death as

3354
02:06:48,870 --> 02:06:45,840
peaceful as anything i've ever seen and

3355
02:06:50,069 --> 02:06:48,880
i've seen a lot of it okay i was on duty

3356
02:06:53,109 --> 02:06:50,079
on 9 11.

3357
02:06:55,669 --> 02:06:53,119
that's the day i asked cindy to marry me

3358
02:06:58,629 --> 02:06:55,679
and i spent the next six months burying

3359
02:07:00,229 --> 02:06:58,639
firemen i buried over 200 guys

3360
02:07:01,430 --> 02:07:00,239
all right and like what do you what do

3361
02:07:03,109 --> 02:07:01,440
you mean because i i never what does

3362
02:07:04,149 --> 02:07:03,119
that mean you buried over 200 guys what

3363
02:07:06,069 --> 02:07:04,159

did that consist of

3364

02:07:07,430 --> 02:07:06,079

i'm just curious it consisted of me

3365

02:07:09,589 --> 02:07:07,440

driving to new york

3366

02:07:11,750 --> 02:07:09,599

sleeping at a firehouse you know like

3367

02:07:14,310 --> 02:07:11,760

great neck or little neck or

3368

02:07:15,030 --> 02:07:14,320

wherever and getting up in the morning

3369

02:07:18,310 --> 02:07:15,040

and doing two

3370

02:07:19,109 --> 02:07:18,320

three funerals a day on my days off and

3371

02:07:21,189 --> 02:07:19,119

then

3372

02:07:22,149 --> 02:07:21,199

the next day doing two three funerals a

3373

02:07:28,069 --> 02:07:22,159

day

3374

02:07:30,629 --> 02:07:28,079

cindy endorsed it 100 percent i stayed

3375

02:07:32,870 --> 02:07:30,639

at her sister's house a lot

3376

02:07:33,990 --> 02:07:32,880

and i'd i'd see i'd be at a funeral in

3377

02:07:36,390 --> 02:07:34,000

staten island one

3378

02:07:39,430 --> 02:07:36,400

uh in the morning i'd be at another one

3379

02:07:41,270 --> 02:07:39,440

in in smithtown that afternoon

3380

02:07:43,350 --> 02:07:41,280

because we called the iaff we called the

3381

02:07:45,030 --> 02:07:43,360

international after 9 11 and after the

3382

02:07:46,550 --> 02:07:45,040

first week it was recovering it went

3383

02:07:49,189 --> 02:07:46,560

from rescue to recovery

3384

02:07:51,189 --> 02:07:49,199

and all they needed were cranes and guys

3385

02:07:52,709 --> 02:07:51,199

who worked iron could cut iron

3386

02:07:54,709 --> 02:07:52,719

everything i mean i've been in ground

3387

02:07:56,390 --> 02:07:54,719

zero about 40 times and everything was

3388

02:07:56,709 --> 02:07:56,400

pulverized there wasn't anything bigger

3389

02:07:59,270 --> 02:07:56,719

than

3390

02:08:01,030 --> 02:07:59,280

this i mean it was it was incredible and

3391

02:08:03,430 --> 02:08:01,040

the stench of

3392

02:08:05,510 --> 02:08:03,440

decomposing bodies was also incredible

3393

02:08:07,109 --> 02:08:05,520

and when and they would find

3394

02:08:09,109 --> 02:08:07,119

a firefighter because of the turnout

3395

02:08:11,990 --> 02:08:09,119

here we lost 343 guys

3396

02:08:12,310 --> 02:08:12,000

oh one chaplain and two emts and a bunch

3397

02:08:17,910 --> 02:08:12,320

of

3398

02:08:18,950 --> 02:08:17,920

and we asked the international what can

3399

02:08:20,790 --> 02:08:18,960

we do to help

3400

02:08:21,990 --> 02:08:20,800

because everybody volunteered every

3401
02:08:24,390 --> 02:08:22,000
firefighter in america

3402
02:08:26,069 --> 02:08:24,400
volunteered to go and work that pile and

3403
02:08:28,390 --> 02:08:26,079
they said we need guys to fill in the

3404
02:08:31,589 --> 02:08:28,400
holes at the funerals

3405
02:08:34,229 --> 02:08:31,599
and that's what i did and i

3406
02:08:35,030 --> 02:08:34,239
bring my dog back to my sister-in-law's

3407
02:08:37,350 --> 02:08:35,040
house the

3408
02:08:39,750 --> 02:08:37,360
firehouse mascot with her pelt was

3409
02:08:42,790 --> 02:08:39,760
soaked in tears

3410
02:08:44,870 --> 02:08:42,800
and then finally i i i burned out i did

3411
02:08:45,910 --> 02:08:44,880
it for almost six months i have a trunk

3412
02:08:47,910 --> 02:08:45,920
full of

3413
02:08:50,229 --> 02:08:47,920

911 paraphernalia i've been to ground

3414

02:08:54,229 --> 02:08:50,239

zero like say 40 times

3415

02:08:55,270 --> 02:08:54,239

and um and and and i knew i was sick i

3416

02:08:58,950 --> 02:08:55,280

mean

3417

02:08:59,189 --> 02:08:58,960

in december i had those tumors removed

3418

02:09:03,270 --> 02:08:59,199

and

3419

02:09:05,830 --> 02:09:03,280

doctor i almost lost cindy the

3420

02:09:08,229 --> 02:09:05,840

gallbladder that went bad

3421

02:09:10,149 --> 02:09:08,239

and my life was real i didn't know it at

3422

02:09:12,149 --> 02:09:10,159

the time but it was contorting in ways i

3423

02:09:15,350 --> 02:09:12,159

couldn't even imagine

3424

02:09:16,830 --> 02:09:15,360

and um i i

3425

02:09:19,189 --> 02:09:16,840

always walked away with a sense of

3426

02:09:20,870 --> 02:09:19,199

gratitude because i know what those men

3427

02:09:23,830 --> 02:09:20,880

did i know what they sacrificed and

3428

02:09:27,830 --> 02:09:23,840

their bravery humbles me to this day

3429

02:09:29,589 --> 02:09:27,840

and they saved a lot of life and

3430

02:09:31,430 --> 02:09:29,599

and i'm proud of that i'm proud of that

3431

02:09:33,910 --> 02:09:31,440

experience and i'm proud that

3432

02:09:35,589 --> 02:09:33,920

my new bride gave me permission to do it

3433

02:09:37,030 --> 02:09:35,599

because she took the burden of my life

3434

02:09:40,069 --> 02:09:37,040

when i left

3435

02:09:41,990 --> 02:09:40,079

taking care of my kids her kids

3436

02:09:43,669 --> 02:09:42,000

i mean i got pulled over a couple times

3437

02:09:46,149 --> 02:09:43,679

troopers go where you going

3438

02:09:47,830 --> 02:09:46,159

oh you're a fireman headed unless i'm

3439

02:09:50,310 --> 02:09:47,840

going to a funeral

3440

02:09:52,790 --> 02:09:50,320

and sometimes they'd find me sleeping on

3441

02:09:54,629 --> 02:09:52,800

a pull off

3442

02:09:56,470 --> 02:09:54,639

and you know tap tap tap what are you

3443

02:10:00,870 --> 02:09:56,480

doing sleeping you drunk no

3444

02:10:02,310 --> 02:10:00,880

coming from a funeral so

3445

02:10:04,229 --> 02:10:02,320

i mean that's that's the brotherhood

3446

02:10:05,910 --> 02:10:04,239

there i

3447

02:10:08,390 --> 02:10:05,920

i belong to a brotherhood in the marines

3448

02:10:10,229 --> 02:10:08,400

i belong to a brotherhood of firemen

3449

02:10:12,149 --> 02:10:10,239

and i'm proud of my service to my

3450

02:10:13,830 --> 02:10:12,159

community both from the diving

3451

02:10:15,109 --> 02:10:13,840

perspective and and the firefighting

3452

02:10:16,950 --> 02:10:15,119

perspective

3453

02:10:19,189 --> 02:10:16,960

i have health issues residual health

3454

02:10:21,510 --> 02:10:19,199

issues from those days

3455

02:10:23,669 --> 02:10:21,520

that i'm dealing with now and they're

3456

02:10:25,030 --> 02:10:23,679

consequential to my employment

3457

02:10:27,510 --> 02:10:25,040

i mean nothing in my life is going to

3458

02:10:29,270 --> 02:10:27,520

change except i wake up in the morning

3459

02:10:31,830 --> 02:10:29,280

and i i

3460

02:10:33,990 --> 02:10:31,840

i pray for the courage to make the right

3461

02:10:37,189 --> 02:10:34,000

decisions

3462

02:10:40,790 --> 02:10:39,430

i'm gonna i'm gonna um sorry to cut you

3463

02:10:43,109 --> 02:10:40,800

off i'm gonna

3464

02:10:45,510 --> 02:10:43,119

i'm gonna end this with one final

3465

02:10:48,470 --> 02:10:45,520

question for both of you

3466

02:10:50,229 --> 02:10:48,480

which is what is your message for both

3467

02:10:52,870 --> 02:10:50,239

of you what is your message of hope to

3468

02:10:56,390 --> 02:10:52,880

us here listening now

3469

02:10:58,790 --> 02:10:56,400

michael first

3470

02:11:00,709 --> 02:10:58,800

you know um who's the guy that did the

3471

02:11:04,629 --> 02:11:00,719

neighborhood thing what was his name

3472

02:11:05,430 --> 02:11:04,639

years ago mr rogers mr rogers yeah you

3473

02:11:08,709 --> 02:11:05,440

know what he had

3474

02:11:12,390 --> 02:11:08,719

three rules the first one rule was

3475

02:11:16,470 --> 02:11:12,400

be kind his second rule was

3476

02:11:19,589 --> 02:11:16,480

be kind third rule was

3477

02:11:21,830 --> 02:11:19,599

be kind and

3478

02:11:23,750 --> 02:11:21,840

you know what we're given opportunities

3479

02:11:26,069 --> 02:11:23,760

every day to be kind and i'm here

3480

02:11:27,109 --> 02:11:26,079

because of a stranger's kindness to a

3481

02:11:29,510 --> 02:11:27,119

blind man

3482

02:11:31,189 --> 02:11:29,520

sitting at applebee's for a free lunch

3483

02:11:32,310 --> 02:11:31,199

that's the only reason why i'm talking

3484

02:11:35,270 --> 02:11:32,320

to you tonight

3485

02:11:35,830 --> 02:11:35,280

i would i would be dead had it not been

3486

02:11:37,589 --> 02:11:35,840

for the

3487

02:11:39,270 --> 02:11:37,599

that stranger reaching out to help

3488

02:11:41,430 --> 02:11:39,280

another stranger to

3489

02:11:43,430 --> 02:11:41,440

touch another person's life so that

3490

02:11:45,189 --> 02:11:43,440

would i i would say when you're given a

3491

02:11:47,270 --> 02:11:45,199

choice

3492

02:11:49,430 --> 02:11:47,280

a decision you have to make a decision

3493

02:11:52,310 --> 02:11:49,440

about being unkind or kind

3494

02:11:53,589 --> 02:11:52,320

choose kindness it will you will meet

3495

02:11:55,750 --> 02:11:53,599

with success

3496

02:11:56,870 --> 02:11:55,760

at every turn that's not to say there

3497

02:11:58,950 --> 02:11:56,880

are people out there who

3498

02:12:01,189 --> 02:11:58,960

mistake your kindness for weakness

3499

02:12:04,830 --> 02:12:01,199

that's only to say that

3500

02:12:06,069 --> 02:12:04,840

you have it you harvest the reward of

3501

02:12:11,430 --> 02:12:06,079

that

3502

02:12:14,950 --> 02:12:11,440

i i am wealthier

3503

02:12:17,270 --> 02:12:14,960

spiritually than the than the priest who

3504

02:12:19,750 --> 02:12:17,280

touched my hand that day

3505

02:12:20,470 --> 02:12:19,760

i i hope i hope i'm mistaken because i

3506

02:12:22,629 --> 02:12:20,480

love the guy

3507

02:12:25,430 --> 02:12:22,639

cindy loves him he's a beloved friend

3508

02:12:26,950 --> 02:12:25,440

and that will never change

3509

02:12:28,550 --> 02:12:26,960

but he taught me something that day that

3510

02:12:34,629 --> 02:12:28,560

that

3511

02:12:36,310 --> 02:12:34,639

well i'll let me just quickly say

3512

02:12:38,390 --> 02:12:36,320

there's a lot of darkness in the world

3513

02:12:40,229 --> 02:12:38,400

and we can be discouraged

3514

02:12:42,310 --> 02:12:40,239

and say that you know how what kind of

3515

02:12:44,629 --> 02:12:42,320

difference can i make and i i brought

3516

02:12:46,390 --> 02:12:44,639

back to that story of the young boy

3517

02:12:47,270 --> 02:12:46,400

who's walking on the seashore and he

3518

02:12:49,830 --> 02:12:47,280

sees

3519

02:12:51,109 --> 02:12:49,840

you know a number of uh starfish on this

3520

02:12:54,390 --> 02:12:51,119

on the shore and

3521

02:12:55,830 --> 02:12:54,400

an old man is uh looking at him and

3522

02:12:57,589 --> 02:12:55,840

shaking his head and saying what is this

3523

02:12:57,990 --> 02:12:57,599

kid doing and as he gets close to the

3524

02:12:59,030 --> 02:12:58,000

old mess

3525

02:13:01,510 --> 02:12:59,040

what are you doing he goes i'm putting

3526

02:13:02,229 --> 02:13:01,520

the starfish back into the ocean he goes

3527

02:13:03,910 --> 02:13:02,239

look at it there's

3528

02:13:05,510 --> 02:13:03,920

thousands of starfish what difference

3529

02:13:06,790 --> 02:13:05,520

can you make and the young boy takes one

3530

02:13:08,790 --> 02:13:06,800

more starfish and he

3531

02:13:10,310 --> 02:13:08,800

throws it in the ocean he said i made

3532

02:13:11,109 --> 02:13:10,320

all the difference in the world for that

3533

02:13:14,390 --> 02:13:11,119

one

3534

02:13:16,390 --> 02:13:14,400

and i think that we have to know that

3535

02:13:18,550 --> 02:13:16,400

everything in our lives are not

3536

02:13:20,069 --> 02:13:18,560

inconveniences but opportunities to be

3537

02:13:20,870 --> 02:13:20,079

of love and service to another human

3538

02:13:23,990 --> 02:13:20,880

being

3539

02:13:25,589 --> 02:13:24,000

and i've never regretted taking chances

3540

02:13:26,229 --> 02:13:25,599

and making sacrifices for another human

3541

02:13:28,870 --> 02:13:26,239

being

3542

02:13:29,990 --> 02:13:28,880

i've always regretted acting selfish and

3543

02:13:33,669 --> 02:13:30,000

saying i don't have the time

3544

02:13:35,830 --> 02:13:33,679

or i can't do that or so i i just err on

3545

02:13:37,990 --> 02:13:35,840

the side of love and kindness and

3546

02:13:39,350 --> 02:13:38,000

and it can reduce so much beautiful

3547

02:13:41,350 --> 02:13:39,360

fruit that it hasn't

3548

02:13:43,189 --> 02:13:41,360

and michael's wrong michael might have

3549

02:13:46,470 --> 02:13:43,199

gotten his eyesight back

3550

02:13:47,270 --> 02:13:46,480

his physical eyesight back but i i was

3551

02:13:49,589 --> 02:13:47,280

given a

3552

02:13:51,669 --> 02:13:49,599

the blessing of having a spiritual

3553

02:13:54,629 --> 02:13:51,679

eyesight i've never had before

3554

02:13:55,669 --> 02:13:54,639

and i'm grateful to that and i gained a

3555

02:13:57,430 --> 02:13:55,679

friend

3556

02:14:02,069 --> 02:13:57,440

and a soul mate in him through this

3557

02:14:07,270 --> 02:14:05,530

i i in this case i am happy to be wrong

3558

02:14:10,470 --> 02:14:07,280

[Laughter]

3559

02:14:12,709 --> 02:14:10,480

well both of you thank you so much

3560

02:14:14,390 --> 02:14:12,719

it's a great message i appreciate you

3561

02:14:15,189 --> 02:14:14,400

guys taking the time we finally got to

3562

02:14:19,030 --> 02:14:15,199

do this and

3563

02:14:20,390 --> 02:14:19,040

um maybe some well maybe sometime we'll

3564

02:14:21,589 --> 02:14:20,400

do it again i'm michael i know we'll do

3565

02:14:23,430 --> 02:14:21,599

more in the future we'll stay in touch

3566

02:14:25,189 --> 02:14:23,440

and father's thank you so much

3567

02:14:26,390 --> 02:14:25,199

i know you're a busy man so yeah i

3568

02:14:27,990 --> 02:14:26,400

appreciate you taking the time to do

3569

02:14:29,589 --> 02:14:28,000

this oh glory be to god it's the least i

3570

02:14:30,470 --> 02:14:29,599

could do and hopefully it'll touch more

3571

02:14:32,229 --> 02:14:30,480

people and

3572

02:14:34,550 --> 02:14:32,239

and it'll be like a ripple and that's

3573

02:14:36,470 --> 02:14:34,560

what we wanted thank you padre

3574

02:14:47,750 --> 02:14:36,480

thank you michael i love you you'll be

3575

02:14:51,430 --> 02:14:50,310

michael and cindy we finally got to do

3576

02:14:53,830 --> 02:14:51,440

it michael and

3577

02:14:55,510 --> 02:14:53,840

for folks still listening i know we

3578

02:14:56,390 --> 02:14:55,520

didn't get to every question we got to a

3579

02:14:59,589 --> 02:14:56,400

lot of questions

3580

02:15:01,270 --> 02:14:59,599

um but we could do this again where all

3581

02:15:01,750 --> 02:15:01,280

we do is take questions and if people

3582

02:15:03,510 --> 02:15:01,760

have more

3583

02:15:05,669 --> 02:15:03,520

specific questions we you know i

3584

02:15:06,550 --> 02:15:05,679

interrupted and tried to move you along

3585

02:15:08,870 --> 02:15:06,560

so we left out

3586

02:15:10,069 --> 02:15:08,880

some details i think we got most of them

3587

02:15:11,510 --> 02:15:10,079

one thing i want to do

3588

02:15:13,990 --> 02:15:11,520

is just go just go through some of the

3589

02:15:15,030 --> 02:15:14,000

pictures of your normal life that i did

3590

02:15:16,870 --> 02:15:15,040

not get to do

3591

02:15:18,950 --> 02:15:16,880

yeah i'll tell you what they are as you

3592

02:15:22,470 --> 02:15:18,960

do yeah just real quick before we go

3593

02:15:24,229 --> 02:15:22,480

um so yeah go ahead um

3594

02:15:25,669 --> 02:15:24,239

i went from being never being in a greek

3595

02:15:27,589 --> 02:15:25,679

church in my life to

3596

02:15:28,709 --> 02:15:27,599

i've gotten a tour of a number of them

3597

02:15:32,470 --> 02:15:28,719

this was

3598

02:15:34,870 --> 02:15:32,480

in boston and uh cindy and i had

3599

02:15:36,229 --> 02:15:34,880

an opportunity to attend vespers at the

3600

02:15:38,069 --> 02:15:36,239

seminary

3601
02:15:40,470 --> 02:15:38,079
and light candles we did the same thing

3602
02:15:41,270 --> 02:15:40,480
at notre dame cathedral in france we we

3603
02:15:44,629 --> 02:15:41,280
went in there and

3604
02:15:47,270 --> 02:15:44,639
said prayers lit candles and other this

3605
02:15:48,629 --> 02:15:47,280
we didn't take this photograph of

3606
02:15:52,790 --> 02:15:48,639
georgia did

3607
02:15:55,030 --> 02:15:52,800
so this is boston and

3608
02:15:56,629 --> 02:15:55,040
what is that that's that's daniel hall

3609
02:15:57,430 --> 02:15:56,639
right there i mean if you look behind me

3610
02:15:59,189 --> 02:15:57,440
you'll see the

3611
02:16:01,109 --> 02:15:59,199
piece of art that bob kennedy lives in

3612
02:16:03,189 --> 02:16:01,119
hyannis uh did

3613
02:16:04,390 --> 02:16:03,199

that's faneuil hall in boston that the

3614

02:16:07,510 --> 02:16:04,400

priest uh

3615

02:16:10,629 --> 02:16:07,520

dropped us off there and uh

3616

02:16:12,310 --> 02:16:10,639

we caught the bus we we loved riding by

3617

02:16:14,069 --> 02:16:12,320

train and by bus so we took

3618

02:16:15,669 --> 02:16:14,079

took the bus to boston and took the bus

3619

02:16:20,069 --> 02:16:15,679

home and

3620

02:16:22,470 --> 02:16:20,079

it was a wonderful journey this

3621

02:16:23,109 --> 02:16:22,480

um that looks like an american legion

3622

02:16:26,149 --> 02:16:23,119

member

3623

02:16:27,990 --> 02:16:26,159

with father d that they it could be i

3624

02:16:31,589 --> 02:16:28,000

didn't provide that photograph to you or

3625

02:16:34,629 --> 02:16:31,599

did i no he sent that to me today

3626

02:16:35,589 --> 02:16:34,639

late yeah that's uh that's me and the

3627

02:16:38,309 --> 02:16:35,599

priest

3628

02:16:39,589 --> 02:16:38,319

i don't know what day that is though hey

3629

02:16:42,469 --> 02:16:39,599

there's a lot of pictures of me out

3630

02:16:45,270 --> 02:16:42,479

there that i don't know about

3631

02:16:46,790 --> 02:16:45,280

and that one that's cindy choking me

3632

02:16:51,910 --> 02:16:46,800

because i'm being stupid

3633

02:16:55,270 --> 02:16:53,349

yeah so people want to hear about other

3634

02:16:56,150 --> 02:16:55,280

topics but that will be on a separate

3635

02:16:57,669 --> 02:16:56,160

show

3636

02:16:59,589 --> 02:16:57,679

we'll do we'll schedule something in the

3637

02:17:00,790 --> 02:16:59,599

near future for other topics and then

3638

02:17:01,910 --> 02:17:00,800

yeah

3639

02:17:03,750 --> 02:17:01,920

i mean there were some questions there

3640

02:17:04,950 --> 02:17:03,760

that yeah i would normally ask but not

3641

02:17:07,589 --> 02:17:04,960

not tonight

3642

02:17:08,709 --> 02:17:07,599

um let's see what else we have picture

3643

02:17:12,150 --> 02:17:08,719

wise

3644

02:17:14,070 --> 02:17:12,160

pima right that's pima cindy and i we

3645

02:17:18,549 --> 02:17:14,080

snowshoe in the winter time for exercise

3646

02:17:23,030 --> 02:17:21,110

it's something we love to do we have to

3647

02:17:24,709 --> 02:17:23,040

snowshoe a trail for the dog first

3648

02:17:27,429 --> 02:17:24,719

otherwise she's up to her snout

3649

02:17:28,150 --> 02:17:27,439

muzzle and snow gets pretty deep up here

3650

02:17:29,669 --> 02:17:28,160

that's just

3651
02:17:32,150 --> 02:17:29,679
again that's a picture someone else took

3652
02:17:35,349 --> 02:17:32,160
of us when is that when was that taken

3653
02:17:38,469 --> 02:17:35,359
that was taking this litter and somebody

3654
02:17:41,270 --> 02:17:38,479
there's a message on the screen for you

3655
02:17:43,589 --> 02:17:41,280
tell him to come up to the marine corps

3656
02:17:47,190 --> 02:17:43,599
league in watertown

3657
02:17:51,030 --> 02:17:47,200
washington watertown mass

3658
02:17:52,469 --> 02:17:51,040
mass massachusetts i'm a lifeline i'm a

3659
02:17:53,910 --> 02:17:52,479
life member of the marine corps league

3660
02:17:54,790 --> 02:17:53,920
and the first marine division

3661
02:18:00,389 --> 02:17:54,800
association

3662
02:18:07,669 --> 02:18:03,669
this is marissa and michael

3663
02:18:09,429 --> 02:18:07,679

and me on a walk that we did and

3664

02:18:11,349 --> 02:18:09,439

we carried a little bit of alcohol with

3665

02:18:13,830 --> 02:18:11,359

us when for when we got down to

3666

02:18:15,030 --> 02:18:13,840

uh our halfway mark and marissa's

3667

02:18:17,509 --> 02:18:15,040

drinking a beer with me

3668

02:18:18,309 --> 02:18:17,519

she's also the one that you saw in the

3669

02:18:21,349 --> 02:18:18,319

graduation

3670

02:18:22,150 --> 02:18:21,359

photograph from cortland 2012 which i

3671

02:18:25,509 --> 02:18:22,160

have

3672

02:18:27,509 --> 02:18:25,519

there yep that one there uh that's maya

3673

02:18:30,790 --> 02:18:27,519

my first guide dog

3674

02:18:33,190 --> 02:18:30,800

and i was so proud of that girl

3675

02:18:35,110 --> 02:18:33,200

um i got to do the father-daughter dance

3676

02:18:37,110 --> 02:18:35,120

with her sister

3677

02:18:38,389 --> 02:18:37,120

to pay honor to her father he's a good

3678

02:18:41,349 --> 02:18:38,399

man

3679

02:18:43,190 --> 02:18:41,359

and of course that's cindy the mom and

3680

02:18:45,669 --> 02:18:43,200

we gave all our kids

3681

02:18:46,049 --> 02:18:45,679

as much education as they could stomach

3682

02:18:47,190 --> 02:18:46,059

and

3683

02:18:49,190 --> 02:18:47,200

[Music]

3684

02:18:50,709 --> 02:18:49,200

we've got some rocket scientists and

3685

02:18:53,750 --> 02:18:50,719

some brain surgeons in our

3686

02:18:55,030 --> 02:18:53,760

group so and that dog there was yeah

3687

02:18:57,830 --> 02:18:55,040

that's

3688

02:18:59,669 --> 02:18:57,840

what about the dog the most loyal

3689

02:19:01,830 --> 02:18:59,679

creature i have ever known

3690

02:19:03,509 --> 02:19:01,840

most loyal animal i've ever loved yeah

3691

02:19:05,190 --> 02:19:03,519

you and i have similar feelings when it

3692

02:19:08,309 --> 02:19:05,200

comes to animals and dogs

3693

02:19:10,389 --> 02:19:08,319

yeah oh yeah there you go that's being a

3694

02:19:12,150 --> 02:19:10,399

stupid moment i don't know

3695

02:19:13,669 --> 02:19:12,160

we were getting ready for beanstalk

3696

02:19:14,549 --> 02:19:13,679

which is kind of like a woodstock

3697

02:19:18,389 --> 02:19:14,559

without all the

3698

02:19:21,270 --> 02:19:18,399

the crazy stuff and um

3699

02:19:22,549 --> 02:19:21,280

i i when they when robin took this

3700

02:19:23,429 --> 02:19:22,559

photograph because she's the one who

3701

02:19:25,030 --> 02:19:23,439

took it

3702

02:19:27,190 --> 02:19:25,040

cindy didn't know that i had the rabbit

3703

02:19:29,589 --> 02:19:27,200

ears up behind her head and

3704

02:19:31,030 --> 02:19:29,599

she because i'm i stand uh 14 inches

3705

02:19:32,870 --> 02:19:31,040

taller than she does

3706

02:19:35,669 --> 02:19:32,880

and probably go 100 pounds more than she

3707

02:19:38,309 --> 02:19:35,679

does but it was a joyful moment

3708

02:19:39,190 --> 02:19:38,319

he was having a good time i think is one

3709

02:19:41,669 --> 02:19:39,200

more i think that

3710

02:19:43,750 --> 02:19:41,679

i think it's the last one that is my

3711

02:19:46,070 --> 02:19:43,760

newest granddaughter number six

3712

02:19:47,270 --> 02:19:46,080

uh this is just two days ago her name is

3713

02:19:49,990 --> 02:19:47,280

michaela

3714

02:19:51,510 --> 02:19:50,000

she was born on the 4th of july just as

3715

02:19:53,510 --> 02:19:51,520

the finale

3716

02:19:54,550 --> 02:19:53,520

of the fireworks started it was a

3717

02:19:58,950 --> 02:19:54,560

wonderful moment

3718

02:20:01,190 --> 02:19:58,960

of my oldest daughter's second child

3719

02:20:03,110 --> 02:20:01,200

and this is part of the grace that i've

3720

02:20:05,510 --> 02:20:03,120

been given

3721

02:20:07,429 --> 02:20:05,520

to live and to see and to love and to

3722

02:20:12,070 --> 02:20:07,439

teach

3723

02:20:16,550 --> 02:20:15,590

and i i think that's it let me get out

3724

02:20:18,710 --> 02:20:16,560

of that for a second

3725

02:20:20,389 --> 02:20:18,720

we're real people joe that's why i

3726

02:20:22,710 --> 02:20:20,399

wanted to show those pictures

3727

02:20:24,230 --> 02:20:22,720

you know we we we had listen my water

3728

02:20:25,590 --> 02:20:24,240

heater blew up last night in the middle

3729

02:20:27,190 --> 02:20:25,600

of the night you know sydney and i took

3730

02:20:30,150 --> 02:20:27,200

cold showers today

3731

02:20:30,710 --> 02:20:30,160

um my lawn mower is in the shop my i'm

3732

02:20:34,309 --> 02:20:30,720

ready to

3733

02:20:36,710 --> 02:20:34,319

mow hay my yard instead of mow it

3734

02:20:37,990 --> 02:20:36,720

um so we have all the challenges that

3735

02:20:41,910 --> 02:20:38,000

everybody else has

3736

02:20:42,870 --> 02:20:41,920

you know we have a house to take care of

3737

02:20:45,750 --> 02:20:42,880

a yard to keep

3738

02:20:47,750 --> 02:20:45,760

keep up we have a garden that we have to

3739

02:20:49,349 --> 02:20:47,760

harvest

3740

02:20:51,910 --> 02:20:49,359

last year we gave three tons of food

3741

02:20:53,510 --> 02:20:51,920

away we grow it to give it away because

3742

02:20:56,389 --> 02:20:53,520

we can't eat it all

3743

02:20:58,550 --> 02:20:56,399

what do you do on wednesday mornings we

3744

02:20:59,030 --> 02:20:58,560

deliver meals on wheels to uh shut-ins

3745

02:21:01,270 --> 02:20:59,040

up here

3746

02:21:02,389 --> 02:21:01,280

it's an important part of our weekly

3747

02:21:04,309 --> 02:21:02,399

routine it's

3748

02:21:05,429 --> 02:21:04,319

part our small way of giving back to our

3749

02:21:07,750 --> 02:21:05,439

community

3750

02:21:09,030 --> 02:21:07,760

and i i do the honor detail for the

3751

02:21:11,990 --> 02:21:09,040

american legion

3752

02:21:14,710 --> 02:21:12,000

putting guys in the ground giving them

3753

02:21:18,389 --> 02:21:14,720

the last measure of respect they deserve

3754

02:21:22,309 --> 02:21:18,399

and i'm i'm humbled by that privilege

3755

02:21:24,790 --> 02:21:22,319

and um i i used to rake the beach

3756

02:21:27,190 --> 02:21:24,800

but they put new sand down and i don't

3757

02:21:30,230 --> 02:21:27,200

need to do that anymore

3758

02:21:32,630 --> 02:21:30,240

and um last two pictures that's

3759

02:21:34,150 --> 02:21:32,640

uh my one of my grandsons right there

3760

02:21:36,070 --> 02:21:34,160

we're heading out it's about

3761

02:21:37,590 --> 02:21:36,080

it's about a two mile walk and we got

3762

02:21:39,270 --> 02:21:37,600

about

3763

02:21:40,790 --> 02:21:39,280

i want to say 18 inches of snow that

3764

02:21:44,150 --> 02:21:40,800

night

3765

02:21:45,270 --> 02:21:44,160

oh yeah last one there he is without the

3766

02:21:47,910 --> 02:21:45,280

beer

3767

02:21:49,190 --> 02:21:47,920

you could see the real man yeah that is

3768

02:21:52,830 --> 02:21:49,200

uh

3769

02:21:54,389 --> 02:21:52,840

that's scarlett she's my was my youngest

3770

02:21:58,230 --> 02:21:54,399

granddaughter

3771

02:22:00,309 --> 02:21:58,240

um and that's me without the beard

3772

02:22:02,950 --> 02:22:00,319

i had a doctor's appointment where he

3773

02:22:04,950 --> 02:22:02,960

asked me to shave it off so he could

3774

02:22:07,349 --> 02:22:04,960

check out my scars and see if there were

3775

02:22:10,469 --> 02:22:07,359

any anything else growing on my face

3776

02:22:13,750 --> 02:22:10,479

i've had a lot of surgery on my face

3777

02:22:16,309 --> 02:22:13,760

you look good thank you um

3778

02:22:17,910 --> 02:22:16,319

i just had a couple more questions have

3779

02:22:21,990 --> 02:22:17,920

you have you found purpose

3780

02:22:25,030 --> 02:22:22,000

or are you still searching

3781

02:22:26,309 --> 02:22:25,040

that's a good question um i i you know

3782

02:22:28,870 --> 02:22:26,319

what i've always said there's five

3783

02:22:32,630 --> 02:22:28,880

things a person needs to be happy

3784

02:22:34,550 --> 02:22:32,640

uh i've i've had something to eat today

3785

02:22:36,389 --> 02:22:34,560

i've got somewhere warm and dry to sleep

3786

02:22:39,190 --> 02:22:36,399

tonight i've got someone to love

3787

02:22:41,190 --> 02:22:39,200

and someone who loved me back and if all

3788

02:22:43,190 --> 02:22:41,200

if the only purpose i have in my life

3789

02:22:45,830 --> 02:22:43,200

now is to teach my grandchildren how to

3790

02:22:48,950 --> 02:22:45,840

play guitar or

3791

02:22:51,510 --> 02:22:48,960

do the meals on wheels thing or be a

3792

02:22:52,950 --> 02:22:51,520

you know honest dependable member of my

3793

02:22:55,590 --> 02:22:52,960

community then

3794

02:22:57,429 --> 02:22:55,600

that's my purpose i've raised my family

3795

02:22:59,429 --> 02:22:57,439

i had a career

3796

02:23:01,590 --> 02:22:59,439

uh i've i've done a lot of things in my

3797

02:23:03,270 --> 02:23:01,600

life that i'm i'm actually proud of

3798

02:23:05,030 --> 02:23:03,280

i've done a few sketchy things that i'm

3799

02:23:05,990 --> 02:23:05,040

not going to brag about or talk about

3800

02:23:09,910 --> 02:23:06,000

but

3801
02:23:11,270 --> 02:23:09,920
member to society is an important thing

3802
02:23:16,389 --> 02:23:11,280
to do

3803
02:23:19,670 --> 02:23:18,469
yeah i think i have purpose and meaning

3804
02:23:21,349 --> 02:23:19,680
if nothing else to

3805
02:23:23,110 --> 02:23:21,359
share my faith with my grandchildren

3806
02:23:23,990 --> 02:23:23,120
like my grandfather shared his faith

3807
02:23:26,150 --> 02:23:24,000
with me

3808
02:23:27,110 --> 02:23:26,160
gave me something to believe in a

3809
02:23:29,349 --> 02:23:27,120
direction

3810
02:23:33,190 --> 02:23:29,359
from my road and you know where i came

3811
02:23:36,630 --> 02:23:34,870
yeah one day if you ever want to talk

3812
02:23:38,790 --> 02:23:36,640
about that we can um

3813
02:23:40,230 --> 02:23:38,800

we can here's uh something somebody had

3814

02:23:42,230 --> 02:23:40,240

asked earlier

3815

02:23:44,230 --> 02:23:42,240

what's the placard with asian characters

3816

02:23:47,830 --> 02:23:44,240

behind michael any significance as far

3817

02:23:49,349 --> 02:23:47,840

as it relates to his spirituality

3818

02:23:52,150 --> 02:23:49,359

that is a gift from a woman named

3819

02:23:54,309 --> 02:23:52,160

gretchen who sent it from

3820

02:23:56,150 --> 02:23:54,319

actually california on her way to china

3821

02:23:58,630 --> 02:23:56,160

to become an english teacher

3822

02:24:01,590 --> 02:23:58,640

she was my brother my younger brother's

3823

02:24:04,230 --> 02:24:01,600

great love in life and

3824

02:24:05,590 --> 02:24:04,240

he died while she was enroute to

3825

02:24:07,349 --> 02:24:05,600

california

3826

02:24:09,750 --> 02:24:07,359

so she sent that to me there's a

3827

02:24:14,870 --> 02:24:09,760

blessing on the back in english

3828

02:24:19,429 --> 02:24:17,750

sorry i put up a question by accident um

3829

02:24:21,830 --> 02:24:19,439

somebody had a marine

3830

02:24:23,110 --> 02:24:21,840

comment but i can't find it it was just

3831

02:25:07,429 --> 02:24:23,120

a

3832

02:25:09,110 --> 02:25:07,439

i would sit in

3833

02:25:10,630 --> 02:25:09,120

a lot of times i'd take refuge from the

3834

02:25:13,830 --> 02:25:10,640

weather

3835

02:25:16,230 --> 02:25:13,840

and i have a very wide range

3836

02:25:17,349 --> 02:25:16,240

of i've read a lot of things that's

3837

02:25:18,469 --> 02:25:17,359

you're talking to a guy who has an

3838

02:25:21,030 --> 02:25:18,479

eighth grade education

3839

02:25:22,950 --> 02:25:21,040

scored the second highest on the asvab

3840

02:25:25,429 --> 02:25:22,960

in fort hamilton new york

3841

02:25:27,190 --> 02:25:25,439

out of almost 200 guys who are taking it

3842

02:25:29,750 --> 02:25:27,200

i'm not saying i'm smart i'm just saying

3843

02:25:37,110 --> 02:25:33,990

my education isn't isn't uh conventional

3844

02:25:39,670 --> 02:25:37,120

so in a lot of my

3845

02:25:40,710 --> 02:25:39,680

um reading had to do with search for

3846

02:25:42,870 --> 02:25:40,720

answers to

3847

02:25:45,110 --> 02:25:42,880

why all the crappy crap happened to me

3848

02:25:46,870 --> 02:25:45,120

in my life you know i was looking

3849

02:25:49,270 --> 02:25:46,880

like every other human being you search

3850

02:25:52,070 --> 02:25:49,280

for identity

3851
02:25:53,110 --> 02:25:52,080
and and reason to the the misery that

3852
02:25:56,389 --> 02:25:53,120
inflicted on you

3853
02:25:58,070 --> 02:25:56,399
or you stumble upon that

3854
02:26:00,550 --> 02:25:58,080
and i've always been a surgery in that

3855
02:26:01,830 --> 02:26:00,560
respect and i will continue to search

3856
02:26:04,230 --> 02:26:01,840
probably as long as i don't think the

3857
02:26:07,190 --> 02:26:04,240
search ever stops

3858
02:26:07,510 --> 02:26:07,200
and i think an open mind is important i

3859
02:26:11,349 --> 02:26:07,520
think

3860
02:26:13,270 --> 02:26:11,359
patience and and charity is important

3861
02:26:14,309 --> 02:26:13,280
and the charity if you you know because

3862
02:26:15,270 --> 02:26:14,319
i know there's going to be people out

3863
02:26:16,070 --> 02:26:15,280

there uh you know he's going to

3864

02:26:18,830 --> 02:26:16,080

attribute this

3865

02:26:20,309 --> 02:26:18,840

i showed you some of the troll material

3866

02:26:21,910 --> 02:26:20,319

already and

3867

02:26:23,349 --> 02:26:21,920

i just don't have the energy or the time

3868

02:26:25,349 --> 02:26:23,359

to argue with people like that they can

3869

02:26:26,309 --> 02:26:25,359

either accept my experience as having

3870

02:26:30,389 --> 02:26:26,319

happen

3871

02:26:32,469 --> 02:26:30,399

or they can whatever

3872

02:26:34,230 --> 02:26:32,479

i don't have time or energy to argue

3873

02:26:34,950 --> 02:26:34,240

with those people i'd rather talk to

3874

02:26:38,150 --> 02:26:34,960

someone

3875

02:26:40,070 --> 02:26:38,160

who was interested in digging just a

3876

02:26:43,270 --> 02:26:40,080

little bit deeper into it

3877

02:26:50,150 --> 02:26:43,280

because what happened to me was real and

3878

02:26:50,160 --> 02:26:53,990

how many languages do you speak

3879

02:26:59,349 --> 02:26:57,990

um let me put it this way languages are

3880

02:27:00,950 --> 02:26:59,359

a perishable skill

3881

02:27:03,190 --> 02:27:00,960

the only one that i'm really good at

3882

02:27:04,950 --> 02:27:03,200

right now is sarcasm

3883

02:27:06,230 --> 02:27:04,960

i speak the language of sarcasm let me

3884

02:27:09,270 --> 02:27:06,240

say this

3885

02:27:09,590 --> 02:27:09,280

uh we have h2a workers up here okay

3886

02:27:11,510 --> 02:27:09,600

they're

3887

02:27:13,190 --> 02:27:11,520

typically mexican or guatemala and i

3888

02:27:14,710 --> 02:27:13,200

speaking fluent spanish

3889

02:27:15,830 --> 02:27:14,720

it's one of the few languages that i

3890

02:27:17,590 --> 02:27:15,840

actually it's one of the romance

3891

02:27:19,510 --> 02:27:17,600

languages

3892

02:27:22,309 --> 02:27:19,520

i can get to the bathroom and a bunch of

3893

02:27:24,150 --> 02:27:22,319

others am i fluent in them

3894

02:27:29,190 --> 02:27:24,160

to the point where i can express myself

3895

02:27:33,270 --> 02:27:31,910

but english is the the one that i'm best

3896

02:27:36,230 --> 02:27:33,280

in

3897

02:27:37,349 --> 02:27:36,240

you know française my french is very

3898

02:27:40,070 --> 02:27:37,359

cool

3899

02:27:42,309 --> 02:27:40,080

and i and on a dark on a clear night i

3900

02:27:43,990 --> 02:27:42,319

could see the lights of montreal from

3901

02:27:45,590 --> 02:27:44,000

the end of our driveway oh yeah i did

3902

02:27:47,110 --> 02:27:45,600

not know that it was my first road trip

3903

02:27:50,230 --> 02:27:47,120

ever was in montreal yeah

3904

02:27:52,790 --> 02:27:50,240

yeah yeah so i i pull it out i

3905

02:27:54,230 --> 02:27:52,800

i spoke uh more spanish in ireland i

3906

02:27:56,950 --> 02:27:54,240

spoke portuguese and

3907

02:27:57,510 --> 02:27:56,960

france where it was portuguese and

3908

02:28:01,990 --> 02:27:57,520

france

3909

02:28:03,590 --> 02:28:02,000

and a couple others in england i mean

3910

02:28:07,190 --> 02:28:03,600

english though is the language of this

3911

02:28:08,389 --> 02:28:07,200

world i mean you talk to a captain on a

3912

02:28:09,270 --> 02:28:08,399

ship he's probably going to be able to

3913

02:28:10,870 --> 02:28:09,280

speaking a little bit

3914

02:28:12,790 --> 02:28:10,880

of english he might be chinese but he's

3915

02:28:15,910 --> 02:28:12,800

going to be able to speak english to the

3916

02:28:17,510 --> 02:28:15,920

you know port control air

3917

02:28:19,510 --> 02:28:17,520

air controllers english is the language

3918

02:28:20,710 --> 02:28:19,520

of this world the predominant language

3919

02:28:24,469 --> 02:28:20,720

of this world

3920

02:28:28,150 --> 02:28:26,309

yeah it does and i am going to let you

3921

02:28:29,590 --> 02:28:28,160

guys go i'm going to go eat dinner i'm

3922

02:28:31,590 --> 02:28:29,600

going to thank you again

3923

02:28:32,710 --> 02:28:31,600

and we'll stay in touch yeah it was

3924

02:28:36,230 --> 02:28:32,720

great um

3925

02:28:37,590 --> 02:28:36,240

exceeding my it exceeded my expectations

3926

02:28:39,190 --> 02:28:37,600

and it was great seeing you guys

3927

02:28:39,990 --> 02:28:39,200

together interacting together and

3928

02:28:43,270 --> 02:28:40,000

sharing that story

3929

02:28:44,870 --> 02:28:43,280

amazing story and uh yeah it was really

3930

02:28:47,830 --> 02:28:44,880

good to see the priest

3931

02:28:49,030 --> 02:28:47,840

cindy and i missed them by a day in long

3932

02:28:51,590 --> 02:28:49,040

island when we were down there

3933

02:28:53,349 --> 02:28:51,600

and i we both all of us had misgivings

3934

02:28:55,510 --> 02:28:53,359

about doing this

3935

02:28:56,389 --> 02:28:55,520

partly because i'm not into spectacle

3936

02:28:57,670 --> 02:28:56,399

and

3937

02:28:59,510 --> 02:28:57,680

i'm not looking for anything i just

3938

02:29:01,590 --> 02:28:59,520

wanted to share our story

3939

02:29:02,710 --> 02:29:01,600

because it is one of there's a there's a

3940

02:29:04,550 --> 02:29:02,720

beautiful

3941

02:29:07,030 --> 02:29:04,560

undertone to it and it's one of hope

3942

02:29:08,790 --> 02:29:07,040

don't ever give up don't give up hope

3943

02:29:11,110 --> 02:29:08,800

it's like the movie cast away with tom

3944

02:29:13,910 --> 02:29:11,120

hanks one day a part of a porta potty

3945

02:29:16,710 --> 02:29:13,920

blew in and that was his escape from his

3946

02:29:17,349 --> 02:29:16,720

his prison you don't know what the tide

3947

02:29:21,190 --> 02:29:17,359

will bring

3948

02:29:21,990 --> 02:29:21,200

so don't give up thanks again joe and

3949

02:29:24,389 --> 02:29:22,000

this is

3950

02:29:25,110 --> 02:29:24,399

i had butterflies when we started but me

3951
02:29:26,870 --> 02:29:25,120
too

3952
02:29:29,429 --> 02:29:26,880
i'm really good thanks this is a

3953
02:29:32,550 --> 02:29:29,439
wonderful evening and i hope everybody

3954
02:29:34,070 --> 02:29:32,560
um took something from it

3955
02:29:35,910 --> 02:29:34,080
yeah i thank you everybody in the chat

3956
02:29:36,630 --> 02:29:35,920
room um i know i missed a couple of

3957
02:29:40,070 --> 02:29:36,640
questions

3958
02:29:42,630 --> 02:29:40,080
but you guys i appreciate it all and

3959
02:29:44,070 --> 02:29:42,640
michael we'll talk soon cindy where is

3960
02:29:46,790 --> 02:29:44,080
she hi cindy

3961
02:29:47,910 --> 02:29:46,800
good night cindy thanks for watching

3962
02:29:49,750 --> 02:29:47,920
talk to you soon

3963
02:29:51,270 --> 02:29:49,760

all right joe we will later all right

3964

02:29:53,030 --> 02:29:51,280

have a good night

3965

02:29:54,469 --> 02:29:53,040

all right guys thanks again and uh we'll

3966

02:29:56,070 --> 02:29:54,479

do it again

3967

02:29:59,110 --> 02:29:56,080

we'll do more interviews in the near

3968

02:30:01,429 --> 02:29:59,120

future this one was uh

3969

02:30:02,870 --> 02:30:01,439

not the normal subject i cover but it's

3970

02:30:04,309 --> 02:30:02,880

uh

3971

02:30:07,030 --> 02:30:04,319

something i would do again this story

3972

02:30:08,950 --> 02:30:07,040

was uh too important too amazing to me

3973

02:30:10,790 --> 02:30:08,960

to just leave it alone i had to i had to

3974

02:30:12,870 --> 02:30:10,800

do this so

3975

02:30:13,830 --> 02:30:12,880

we will talk again soon and uh everybody

