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Revealed in upcoming episodes of this program are the contents of a recently unearthed

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repository classified by the secret government, the Phenomenon Archives.

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The identities of many cultures and nations grew out of the passions of radical religious

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leaders, names like Moses, Muhammad, and Jesus of Nazareth among them. Though the lives of

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these revered radicals often ended in personal martyrdom, in some cases the headcount far exceeded

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expectations. Back in their day, any one of us might have been among them.

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Described as everything from patriotic to eccentric and from visionary to insane, cult leaders have led

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00:02:14,960 --> 00:02:31,960

their flock down on a myriad of pathways with an occasionally tragic destination. Back to the time of the

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ancient, mass suicide has been misunderstood and what is misunderstood is so often deemed misguided,

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threatening, or evil by those in the mainstream.

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Martyrdom is not a wanted or desired choice among those who are martyred. That's the whole point.

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Curiously, chances are good that the religion practiced in your home or the one your friends

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observe or your neighbors create was at one time labeled heresy. Its followers vilify as zealots or madmen.

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Suicide is separating from the kingdom of God. When the kingdom of God has reached out and offered life to you,

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that is suicide. So to us it would be suicide to not leave.

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Those brave souls who stood for their beliefs early on, the great martyrs labeled fanatics without whom the great causes would never

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have been won. What were they fighting for? Looking, asking for, the desire for which drove them to such dramatic

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00:03:36,960 --> 00:03:38,960

and unbecoming ends.

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00:03:38,960 --> 00:03:49,960

I doubt that I would have ever followed a person like Jim Jones and I don't know whether I would follow a Moses if he came along today.

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00:03:49,960 --> 00:04:01,960

Jim at one time knew God and he chose to go his own way as opposed to God's way and this is where it brought him.

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00:04:01,960 --> 00:04:14,960

When the roll is called a gonder, when the roll is called a gonder I'll be there.

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00:04:15,960 --> 00:04:28,960

We are all survivors. We have lived through shock and pain, anguish and grief, anger and resentment, guilt and shame.

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00:04:28,960 --> 00:04:38,960

Tears still burn in our eyes as the water of the sea. The icons of Jonestown, the branched avidians and Heaven's gates.

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00:04:38,960 --> 00:04:50,960

Our bodies lying prone in a jungle clearing, the inferno of Laco, the eyes of Applewhite and the uniform bodies of his followers.

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The people called them weirdos, coops, crazies and zombies. We see faces. We know their mannerisms. They were not icons nor abstractions to us.

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Perhaps only those facing mass suicide can fully comprehend the power and emotion of such a decision.

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00:05:12,960 --> 00:05:19,960

Perhaps they alone are qualified to judge the worthiness of the cause for which they choose to die.

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In 73 A.D. one such group considers their options whereupon this community of Jewish zealots decides that they have only one way out.

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Masada was invaded by a foreign army and that foreign government was looking to take the people of that nation, prisoner and to torture them and to bring their will upon those people.

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The Romans had built a barricade and they were bringing it up next to the side of the mountain and they were going to invade Masada.

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They were finally going to penetrate this fortress.

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00:06:03,960 --> 00:06:16,960

These zealots, super-legious people who know full well that it is against the law to commit suicide, they were afraid that they were going to be taken captive and that they were going to be tortured

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00:06:16,960 --> 00:06:25,960

and that they were going to be paraded around in Rome in front of the people and that they were going to be forced to commit idolatry, idol worship.

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Nearly 1,000 die on that tragic day, carving out an historic moment of defiant heroism that has survived these 2,000 years.

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On November 17, 1978, in an obscure equatorial nation of South America, 900 members of the people's temple perish by their own hand.

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Many of us recall the sorrowful days which followed this tragedy, but most do not understand what could motivate this many independent souls to willingly seal their own fate by drinking a

cyanide-laced punch.

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America was in what I would call both an idealistic and a rebellious phase at the same time.

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The Vietnam War, racism, economic disparity was very much the focus of what the 60s were about.

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The people's temple, according to Jones' lexicon of ideas, fit into all of these images, especially of bringing together desperate and sometimes desperate elements of American society.

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Like America's first outpost of solitude, Jamestown, Jones' town was named for its revered leader, the Reverend Jim Jones.

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Ironically, the members of this congregation die alone on foreign soil, just as the pioneers of Jamestown did hundreds of years before them.

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Emanating from a hilltop outside San Diego, California, the stench of 39 corpses tells of another mass suicide, that of the infamous religious community, Heaven's Gate.

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Standing firmly behind the convictions of their cult leader, Doe, they believe that they will ascend to the next level of consciousness through a rendezvous with celestial travelers.

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The catalyst for this transition is swift and permanent.

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Fina Barbatole, mixed in applesauce or pudding, washed down with vodka.

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Despite the differing times and beliefs, each of these communities share something more than the commonality of suicide.

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Each group believes so deeply in their cause that they are willing to lay down their lives in its name.

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What drives them to these uncertain ends, or perhaps more importantly, who leads them?

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00:08:59,960 --> 00:09:08,960

People view me in a myriad of ways. Some people see me as the representative of the I am, as Jehovah Jara.

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00:09:08,960 --> 00:09:15,960

Some people see a great deal of God in my body. They see Christ in me, a hope of glory.

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And Doe, some called my partnership T and Doe. That's not my name, but that's how I'm referred to on planet Earth.

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Even more puzzling is the story of Heaven's Gate, where Marshall Appelmaier or Doe spoke of ascending to the next level of spiritual awareness.

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Now listen to this. Doe claimed that an alien ship traveling in the tail of a passing comet would help the membership reach this common goal.

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One catch line. To get to the next level, they would have to leave their vehicles behind. We're talking about their bodies.

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Doe began his career as a well-liked music professor at the University of Alabama.

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Struggling with his sexual identity, he ends his marriage and leaves his two children.

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Later, while looking for a partner in his spiritual journey, he meets Bonnie Nettles.

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Although Bonnie is a spiritualist, and Doe a seminary trained Christian, the platonic pairing is exactly what the confirmed celibate Doe is looking for.

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Claiming to have the mind of Jesus, Doe spends over a decade of his life posing as a savior for those who have lost their way.

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He and his partner Bonnie, known in the community as T, enroll hundreds of men and women over the years.

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I've been talking to my students that are sitting in front of me about talking to you.

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00:10:55,960 --> 00:11:02,960

And let me say that our mission here at this time is about to come to a close.

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00:11:02,960 --> 00:11:06,960

I think they took a very literal approach to reading the Bible.

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00:11:06,960 --> 00:11:11,960

And especially when they read the Gospels and the parables of Jesus,

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Nettles and Applewhite identify themselves as the two witnesses mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

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We know from the recorded account of Masada that the Jewish leader Eliezer Ben-Yair was both

committed and persuasive.

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On the eve of the final Roman onslaught with capture of certainty, Eliezer made the following appeal.

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Quote, we can still choose to die as free men, together with our loved ones.

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00:11:41,960 --> 00:11:48,960

This is one thing our enemies cannot prevent, no matter how much they desire to capture us alive.

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00:11:48,960 --> 00:11:54,960

Let us show them that we would rather die in freedom than live in slavery.

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Unquote.

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00:11:56,960 --> 00:11:59,960

Powerful leaders often inspire new hope.

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By erasing any links with the past, Reverend Jones was successful in minimizing dissent amongst his followers.

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00:12:06,960 --> 00:12:12,960

Their disappointment and life waning in the light of their leader's vision for a bright new tomorrow.

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00:12:12,960 --> 00:12:17,960

No pastor ever asked me to come to the temple for a while, I was in the church, so I went back.

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00:12:17,960 --> 00:12:21,960

And he even offered me to sit down in the seat where he was sitting at the table to eat.

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00:12:21,960 --> 00:12:23,960

He said, you can have my seat.

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00:12:23,960 --> 00:12:29,960

We have not every level of society, all sorts of economic income straightened,

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00:12:29,960 --> 00:12:33,960

professionally down to the ordinary field worker, field labor.

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00:12:33,960 --> 00:12:37,960

Really, it's beautiful to see that all these divisions have been broken down.

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00:12:37,960 --> 00:12:40,960

We don't recognize these kind of leaders in our group.

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00:12:40,960 --> 00:12:44,960

Just a warm fellowship and acceptance of all people.

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00:12:44,960 --> 00:12:50,960

I wondered, what's bringing these people together? What do they have in common?

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00:12:50,960 --> 00:12:57,960

And then Jim Jones came out and I soon had my answer, because I saw someone who manifested the greatest love I had ever seen.

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00:12:58,960 --> 00:13:02,960

Jones Charisma was a parent at a young age.

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00:13:02,960 --> 00:13:07,960

He played church with his childhood friends, offering sermons over dead animals.

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00:13:07,960 --> 00:13:13,960

He frightened them with visions of sinners burning in hell and even beat them with a stick as punishment.

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00:13:13,960 --> 00:13:16,960

Strangely, they always returned.

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During the early years, Jim Jones laid the foundation for the support he would require later.

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The young preacher's efforts to promote interracial harmony earned him the directorship of the Indianapolis Human Rights Commission in 1961.

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There, his church set up soup kitchens and distributed free groceries and clothing throughout the early 1960s.

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Once in California, Jones taught sixth grade.

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00:13:41,960 --> 00:13:45,960

He was appointed foreman of the Mendocino Grand Jury.

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00:13:45,960 --> 00:13:52,960

Later, he became chairman of the San Francisco Housing Authority, where he managed a community outreach program.

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00:13:52,960 --> 00:13:54,960

Later.

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00:13:54,960 --> 00:13:56,960

Good job.

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00:13:58,960 --> 00:14:03,960

Hello, I'm Reverend Jim Jones of People's Temple Christian Church.

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00:14:03,960 --> 00:14:11,960

San Francisco and with me are the district attorney, Joseph Freitas, Sheriff Hungy Stowe, and State Assemblyman Willie Brown.

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00:14:11,960 --> 00:14:21,960

His efforts drew the support of political figures, from First Lady Rosalind Carter to State Assemblyman Willie Brown, who would later become San Francisco's mayor.

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You have managed to make the many persons associated with People's Temple part of a family.

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00:14:27,960 --> 00:14:29,960

If you're in need of health care, you get health care.

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00:14:29,960 --> 00:14:32,960

If you're in need of legal assistance of some sort, you get that.

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00:14:32,960 --> 00:14:34,960

If you're in need of transportation, you get that.

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00:14:34,960 --> 00:14:46,960

And People's Temple somehow has bridged the gap between the expectations of human beings and the ability of those human beings to achieve and enjoy those expectations.

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00:14:46,960 --> 00:14:48,960

Wonderful.

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00:14:48,960 --> 00:14:53,960

Never shall forget what he's done for me.

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00:14:53,960 --> 00:14:56,960

There was the very rich and the very poor.

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00:14:56,960 --> 00:15:00,960

People who couldn't read or write to those who had doctorate degrees from college.

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00:15:00,960 --> 00:15:08,960

I was a news bureau chief and correspondent for the CBS television affiliate in Sacramento when I first visited People's Temple.

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00:15:08,960 --> 00:15:18,960

I came to do a news feature on Jim Jones and ended up quitting my job and joining him, even though I was highly paid and had the freedom to choose my own stories.

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00:15:18,960 --> 00:15:28,960

I'm really grateful because without this church, without our pastor Jim Jones that teach me the right way, I would not be in college right now.

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00:15:28,960 --> 00:15:35,960

I wouldn't be having a wonderful, leading a life like I am because of Pastor Jim Jones.

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00:15:35,960 --> 00:15:39,960

And how many of you in here have been healed of arthritis, cancer?

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00:15:39,960 --> 00:15:41,960

How many of you in here?

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00:15:41,960 --> 00:15:44,960

That's right. So many of you. We all, I'm grateful.

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00:15:44,960 --> 00:15:46,960

I know everyone else is here.

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00:15:46,960 --> 00:15:49,960

Thank you very much. Thank you.

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00:15:49,960 --> 00:15:59,960

The word cult is in this century used to describe crackpots and phonetics.

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00:15:59,960 --> 00:16:06,960

So negative is the association with this word that it's mentioned evokes feelings of fear and moral depravity.

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

How do we separate cults from legitimate religious groups and still take into account that the cult of today may be the pop religion of tomorrow?

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00:16:14,960 --> 00:16:22,960

I mean Madonna is studying Kabbalah and Tom Cruise like Scientology. Go figure.

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00:16:22,960 --> 00:16:29,960

While mainstream society considers the beliefs of these groups at best eccentric and at worst

contemptible,

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nearly every major religion wore the trappings of cultism prior to becoming entrenched as a legitimate denomination.

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The United States was settled by dissenters fleeing the religious establishment of European culture.

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00:16:42,960 --> 00:16:47,960

William Penn, who had been threatened with the death penalty for spreading his Quaker teachings in England,

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00:16:47,960 --> 00:16:56,960

was cast out by the powers that be in New England, finally establishing a refuge for his followers in Pennsylvania.

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In the next century, Mormon prophet Joseph Smith and his polygamous followers were persecuted and finally forced out of New York.

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Though their founder was martyred en route, the members of the Church of Latter-day Saints traveled thousands of miles on foot

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00:17:11,960 --> 00:17:14,960

before settling in their long sought after home of Utah.

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00:17:14,960 --> 00:17:22,960

There they became so firmly entrenched that members of what was once considered a cult are now routinely elected to Congress.

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From the beginning, Jim Jones demands from his flock a type of loyalty that far exceeds even the most extreme of religious disciplines.

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Our daughter was beaten 75 times with a board and it was very difficult to justify that because every person was saying what a beautiful thing it was.

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00:17:47,960 --> 00:17:57,960

And even Linda, who had been beaten, was saying, now I really feel like I understand the rules of the Church and Jim Jones helped me a lot.

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00:17:57,960 --> 00:18:06,960

Say a mother has her child on her lap, a counselor will come over there and give her the works, make her child go to someone to a total stranger.

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00:18:06,960 --> 00:18:17,960

And they said that it was making them independent and he didn't want family ties, he didn't want anybody to be anybody else's father except for him.

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00:18:17,960 --> 00:18:28,960

He tried to have husbands and wives confront one another or in other words say something against the partner publicly so that the partner would have to defend their actions.

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00:18:28,960 --> 00:18:34,960

Each member is expected to report in writing every moral or disciplinary transgression.

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00:18:34,960 --> 00:18:38,960

Offenders are ridiculed publicly, sometimes stripped naked.

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00:18:38,960 --> 00:18:49,960

Jones randomly dissolves marriages and appoints new partners, keeping the membership off balance as each competes for the approval of the man they call dad.

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00:18:49,960 --> 00:18:56,960

Emphasis on organization and discipline is nowhere more apparent than in the routines of the zealot Jews of Masada.

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Both the surviving text and the archaeology point to intelligent, strategic tasks leading up to the mass death.

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According to the writings of Josephus, a Jewish historian and war commander who defected to the Romans, in 73 AD while fending off a seven month siege from 15,000 soldiers of the Roman army, the faithful of Masada built a ritualistic bathing pool,

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00:19:21,960 --> 00:19:26,960

kept up their study of holy scripture and even constructed a temple.

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00:19:26,960 --> 00:19:33,960

Give up everything that you have of this world, get rid of it, give it to the poor, come and follow me.

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00:19:33,960 --> 00:19:42,960

The Heavens Gate members practiced celibacy. Some went so far as to be castrated, anything to avoid distracting them from reaching salvation.

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00:19:42,960 --> 00:19:49,960

The dead ranged in age from 26 to 72 and this was not a community of the simple minded.

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00:19:49,960 --> 00:19:54,960

Doe had a penchant for bright young people with a knack for web design.

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00:19:54,960 --> 00:20:00,960

They may have looked odd with their matching outfits and buzz cuts, but the work they produced received rave reviews.

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

Their internet business, Hire Source, earned them enough to afford a mansion with a computer for every need.

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00:20:07,960 --> 00:20:16,960

Now some people would join, they just wanted to get off this planet and there were some really funny stories about people who were laying out in the desert in a place like this one night saying,

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00:20:16,960 --> 00:20:23,960

please pick me up in the next day one of our group would come by in a truck and say, here's what we're all about and they go, this is it.

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00:20:23,960 --> 00:20:34,960

But the people who were just simply escapists didn't last very long because the pressures and the discipline was too much, don't you think?

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00:20:34,960 --> 00:20:42,960

Yeah, at first there was the expectation of, we'll be out of here in a few months. That was their only goal, that was their only desire.

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00:20:42,960 --> 00:20:49,960

After a few months came and went and it turned into a year or more and they still weren't seeing themselves leaving.

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There was a lot of discipline, they realized, well this is too difficult, I just basically wanted to take it out of here, but it was not a simple thing.

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00:20:57,960 --> 00:21:02,960

I was so fascinated by this whole thing that I thought, I'm going to infiltrate this group.

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00:21:02,960 --> 00:21:06,960

But I didn't really do it with the idea of a full blown research project.

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00:21:06,960 --> 00:21:12,960

It was like, I want to get over to Oakland and I want to see what's going to happen because I don't think these people are going to be picked up by UFOs,

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00:21:12,960 --> 00:21:16,960

but I want to be there and kind of get a sense of what's going on behind the headlines.

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00:21:16,960 --> 00:21:22,960

But when I got to Oakland, I was so fascinated that I decided to keep on with it.

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00:21:22,960 --> 00:21:36,960

I think the people that joined had a lot in common, for the most part spiritual seekers, young, unattached, no strong commitments to anything.

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00:21:36,960 --> 00:21:38,960

They were like available for membership.

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00:21:39,960 --> 00:21:44,960

Remember Rio said, you got to be sure you want to do this because this takes everything of you.

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00:21:44,960 --> 00:21:49,960

We're not going to lie to you and say that, oh just come on, it's going to be easy.

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00:21:49,960 --> 00:21:54,960

And they said, you don't need to bring any money, we can provide for you.

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00:21:54,960 --> 00:21:56,960

There was never any coercion at all.

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00:21:56,960 --> 00:22:01,960

It was prove it to them as opposed to them trying to prove it to us in a sense.

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00:22:01,960 --> 00:22:06,960

We as human beings are looking for something in our own lives, something meaningful.

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00:22:06,960 --> 00:22:09,960

And a lot of us get attached to cults.

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00:22:36,960 --> 00:22:45,960

And that's an important point to me because people don't always join these things just because there's something empty or something dissatisfying or something missing.

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00:22:45,960 --> 00:22:53,960

It may be because they just are looking for something more and they have a sense that there's more out there and they have the courage to go exploring for it.

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00:22:53,960 --> 00:22:57,960

A person needs to find a balance in his life or in her life.

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00:22:57,960 --> 00:23:03,960

That doesn't take them too far to the right or too far to the left.

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00:23:03,960 --> 00:23:07,960

And that means trying not to be a zealot.

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00:23:07,960 --> 00:23:15,960

I mean, did Columbus go explore for the new world because he was missing something in Spain or maybe he had a sense of a whole world that he had not yet seen.

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00:23:15,960 --> 00:23:25,960

Today, unfortunately, we either believe in nothing or we believe so strongly that we've gone totally off the deep end.

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00:23:26,960 --> 00:23:32,960

He told me things that no human being in an ordinary state of consciousness could possibly know.

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00:23:32,960 --> 00:23:39,960

And even though I was a lawyer and even though I was skeptical, I had to be convinced because what's real is real that I could see, I could see.

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00:23:39,960 --> 00:23:42,960

And then he told me about my back.

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00:23:42,960 --> 00:23:45,960

And he told me about all the treatments I had and how they hadn't worked.

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00:23:45,960 --> 00:23:50,960

And then he reached out his hand and he said, he said, he said,

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00:23:50,960 --> 00:23:53,960

He said, in the name of Christ, you're healed. My pain was gone.

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00:23:53,960 --> 00:23:56,960

And now a year and a half later, it's still gone.

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00:23:56,960 --> 00:23:59,960

I praise God for that.

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00:23:59,960 --> 00:24:02,960

How did he accomplish these miracle healings?

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00:24:02,960 --> 00:24:10,960

Was this man, who some considered larger than life, who escorted and forced so many to their death, was he also capable of performing miracles?

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00:24:10,960 --> 00:24:14,960

Like any commanding leader, Jim Jones had his revelatory moments.

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00:24:14,960 --> 00:24:21,960

But to find out whether these were inspired by some power larger than himself, you'll have to stay tuned.

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00:24:25,960 --> 00:24:28,960

I really believe there were some miracles.

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00:24:28,960 --> 00:24:34,960

I think people could be in a psychological state and this can cripple them.

191

00:24:34,960 --> 00:24:38,960

But I don't think he had any power to heal.

192

00:24:38,960 --> 00:24:47,960

It was only the person themselves healed themselves through their faith in Jim Jones.

193

00:24:47,960 --> 00:24:51,960

Who will make Conley?

194

00:24:51,960 --> 00:24:53,960

I have a sensation about him.

195

00:24:53,960 --> 00:25:04,960

Jones had a whole cadre of leaders who worked under him and were constantly gathering all kinds of private and intimate data on their lives.

196

00:25:04,960 --> 00:25:10,960

And then they would put all of that material in files and all of those files were available to Jones.

197

00:25:10,960 --> 00:25:16,960

Did you once lose a loved one? I think the name of James.

198

00:25:16,960 --> 00:25:17,960

Yes, that's my brother.

199

00:25:17,960 --> 00:25:19,960

He was 14 years of age.

200

00:25:19,960 --> 00:25:30,960

In this, we really need to understand that when people are in great emotional and spiritual need, they can also be very vulnerable to manipulation.

201

00:25:30,960 --> 00:25:36,960

And someone asked him for what he had and he didn't want to give it.

202

00:25:36,960 --> 00:25:37,960

Yes, he did.

203

00:25:37,960 --> 00:25:40,960

And that person shot him today.

204

00:25:40,960 --> 00:25:41,960

Yes, he did.

205

00:25:41,960 --> 00:25:42,960

Yes, he did.

206

00:25:42,960 --> 00:25:45,960

I'm saying this to give you faith.

207

00:25:45,960 --> 00:25:50,960

Instead of saying to Jones when he revealed some secret saying, why are you spying on me? How do you know that?

208

00:25:50,960 --> 00:25:52,960

You have no right to say that in public.

209

00:25:52,960 --> 00:25:59,960

They were awestruck that he knew it because they saw it as a proof of his being able to see into their soul.

210

00:25:59,960 --> 00:26:02,960

Now, where's your painting?

211

00:26:02,960 --> 00:26:08,960

South Phoenix, he is the Lord!

212

00:26:08,960 --> 00:26:17,960

Those who have the knowledge of the inner workings of people's temple, such as the staged faith healings, have to seal their loyalty with false confessions of criminal acts.

213

00:26:17,960 --> 00:26:22,960

Their admissions range from conspiracy to child molestation.

214

00:26:22,960 --> 00:26:26,960

Jim Jones was not Hitler, but he was a leader.

215

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

Look at my face.

216

00:26:27,960 --> 00:26:31,960

Who was interested in accomplishing something for his own ego.

217

00:26:31,960 --> 00:26:36,960

More than he was interested in the people who were following him, and that's true for many leaders of this world.

218

00:26:36,960 --> 00:26:37,960

Move forward.

219

00:26:37,960 --> 00:26:39,960

Move forward.

220

00:26:39,960 --> 00:26:40,960

Move forward.

221

00:26:40,960 --> 00:26:42,960

Move forward.

222

00:26:42,960 --> 00:26:48,960

Many in the congregation knew about and participated in Jones' staged miracles.

223

00:26:48,960 --> 00:26:54,960

Walk, walk, walk, risk it. Walk, walk, risk it. Walk, walk, risk it.

224

00:26:55,960 --> 00:27:00,960

Over time, these questionable practices make the community a subject of controversy.

225

00:27:00,960 --> 00:27:10,960

Jones, believing himself to be an undeserving target of oppression, claims that his family and congregation are being terrorized by an oppressive government.

226

00:27:10,960 --> 00:27:15,960

He searches for a place where his dream of a socialist utopia may blossom.

227

00:27:15,960 --> 00:27:22,960

At last, the people's temple is given some property in the small coastal country of Guiana, South America.

228

00:27:24,960 --> 00:27:31,960

Like the martyrs of Masada, Jones and his congregation seek refuge from the forces they believe are bent on their destruction.

229

00:27:31,960 --> 00:27:42,960

After severing all societal ties, they set to the work of establishing a model society, conceived in liberty and dedicated to social justice and equality.

230

00:27:42,960 --> 00:27:52,960

In order to create a farming community in which everybody would be free and treated equally, was part of their dream.

231

00:27:52,960 --> 00:28:01,960

And so they had found in the leadership of Jim Jones a way towards some kind of emotional and spiritual salvation.

232

00:28:01,960 --> 00:28:08,960

Bower, rice, black-eyed peas, more peas.

233

00:28:08,960 --> 00:28:14,960

They have different containers around the place. Couldn't go through all the tremendous inventory. They built up Kool-Aid.

234

00:28:15,960 --> 00:28:19,960

Once in Guiana, Jones' ability to govern quickly degenerates.

235

00:28:19,960 --> 00:28:25,960

He grows addicted to barbiturates, which helped dull his sufferings from syphilis and diabetes.

236

00:28:25,960 --> 00:28:29,960

The drugs feed his growing paranoid delusions.

237

00:28:44,960 --> 00:28:54,960

I got a hell of a weapons to fight. I got my claws. I got purposes. I got guns. I got dynamite. I got hell off the fight. I'll fight. I'll fight.

238

00:28:54,960 --> 00:29:03,960

Hell off there. Hell off there. There is he. Let the night roll with him. We'll kill him if they come. We'll kill him if they come.

239

00:29:03,960 --> 00:29:17,960

The suicide drills were a regular routine for the inhabitants of Jonestown, a show of allegiance to the community against the evil overseer, the U.S. government.

240

00:29:17,960 --> 00:29:27,960

These fears, no matter how misguided, may have been as real to the inhabitants of Jonestown as the 15,000 Romans were to the people of Massada.

241

00:29:27,960 --> 00:29:38,960

Who was at war with Jim Jones and Jonestown? What helicopters were bombing them? What army was at their doorstep invading them? Where was the threat?

242

00:29:40,960 --> 00:29:49,960

Change must come through the barrel of a gun, said Mao Zedong. This place would be a paradise tomorrow if every department had a supervisor with a submachine gun.

243

00:29:49,960 --> 00:30:04,960

In Jonestown, the People's Temple had moved to Guyana in order to establish an Eden, which for them had to be found outside the United States in a place where they could quote, begin again.

244

00:30:04,960 --> 00:30:15,960

Many of them were people whose lives had not been fulfilling in America and had not been fulfilling in the normal structure of American society.

245

00:30:16,960 --> 00:30:31,960

People's Temple was a Christian congregation, a sanctioned member of a mainstream Christian organization. The congregation of Jim Jones came to be known as a cult only after the death knell in Jonestown echoed around the world.

246

00:30:31,960 --> 00:30:42,960

In Roman times, when the Empire sought to maintain social stability by suppressing organized resistance, the Massada Jews who stood in defiance were considered seditious and anti-government.

247

00:30:43,960 --> 00:30:52,960

In the 70s, those in power considered People's Temple a collection of anti-establishment revolutionaries, a danger to both society and themselves.

248

00:30:53,960 --> 00:31:03,960

Rather than coexist with these attitudes, Jones and his community choose to face the oppression of unsurpassed equatorial heat in the jungle-intumed country of Guyana.

249

00:31:03,960 --> 00:31:13,960

I wish I can be glad for you guys, everybody over there, they come here in the promised land, I really do like it. It's fun over here, it's really good.

250

00:31:14,960 --> 00:31:23,960

And as you can see, we got a lot of houses built over here and we're really working hard.

251

00:31:24,960 --> 00:31:33,960

In the aftermath, the people who die in Guyana are painted as victims of a drug-crazed paranoid control freak.

252

00:31:34,960 --> 00:31:41,960

While the allegations against Jim Jones are factual, the disturbing truth remains that many of the inhabitants went to their deaths willingly.

253

00:31:42,960 --> 00:31:45,960

Some as a statement against the establishment that hounded them.

254

00:31:46,960 --> 00:31:56,960

And though nearly two millennia divide the occurrence at Massada from the mass-suicided Jonestown, the motivation for each seems remarkably similar.

255

00:31:57,960 --> 00:32:02,960

We must not dehumanize them, we must not trivialize them, we must not see them simply as victims.

256

00:32:03,960 --> 00:32:15,960

Otherwise their deaths in fact do become meaningless, they become irrelevant subtexts to some social aberration that produces these kinds of groups.

257

00:32:16,960 --> 00:32:30,960

That's not true. Jonestown, Heaven's Gate and other such phenomena in modern society tell us about modern society, tell us about who we are and how we are living.

258

00:32:31,960 --> 00:32:36,960

So we need to remember those who died because they've left us a lesson.

259

00:32:37,960 --> 00:32:42,960

History provides us with its own romantic conclusions around the martyrdom at Massada.

260

00:32:43,960 --> 00:32:46,960

The site has been assigned enormous historic and religious significance.

261

00:32:47,960 --> 00:32:50,960

It is today one of the most frequently visited sites in the Holy Land.

262

00:32:51,960 --> 00:33:06,960

By contrast, Jonestown has been reclaimed by the jungle and little more than a plaque in a lonely Oakland cemetery stands to commemorate the many Americans who died tragically, horribly, in this lonely outpost of solitude they tried to make their home.

263

00:33:07,960 --> 00:33:21,960

Unforgiven by an embarrassed nation these many years but remembered by their families as crusaders who dared try to create a better world, the ironic legacy of the residents of Jonestown rests in their pioneering ideals.

264

00:33:22,960 --> 00:33:29,960

The people who came to settle the American continent did come generally as a result of religious persecution.

265

00:33:29,960 --> 00:33:39,960

They had great hopes in opening the wilderness that they would give birth to a settlement in which true individual and personal freedom would reign.

266

00:33:40,960 --> 00:33:54,960

There is no doubt that for the people who went to Jonestown it took great courage, it took great fortitude, it took great sacrifice, it took a great desire to craft a new life and a new community in a wilderness.

267

00:33:54,960 --> 00:33:58,960

I think for that the people who did that need to be respected and honored.

268

00:33:58,960 --> 00:34:03,960

I want, was love.

269

00:34:03,960 --> 00:34:05,960

Take my life from us.

270

00:34:05,960 --> 00:34:07,960

We lay it down, we got tired.

271

00:34:07,960 --> 00:34:15,960

We're in the West Coast Eye, we can interact with revolutionary suicide protesting the conditions of an inhumane world.

272

00:34:15,960 --> 00:34:20,960

I see.

273

00:34:21,960 --> 00:34:28,960

To this day, enduring family members and Jonestown survivors alike have few negative things to say about Jim Jones.

274

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

Those people were looking for a better life. They were looking for the rainbow.

275

00:34:32,960 --> 00:34:44,960

They were looking for people living together in Jim Jones. Put that out there and show that people will go because people are looking for that peace, that transquille there within oneself.

276

00:34:44,960 --> 00:34:51,960

Somebody offered somebody some hope. A person came along and offered people without hope hope.

277

00:34:57,960 --> 00:35:13,960

One of the most interesting phenomena of the modern cult deaths, group deaths at Jonestown, at Heaven's Gate and at others, is that either those who were survivors tend not to in public have anything negative.

278

00:35:13,960 --> 00:35:16,960

To say about the experience itself.

279

00:35:21,960 --> 00:35:39,960

Many people still need to justify why they were there. They have to live with the enormous emotional impact of the deaths and the willingness of their friends or family members to take their

lives or to take the lives of others.

280

00:35:39,960 --> 00:35:45,960

Likewise, Heaven's Gate members continue to extol the virtues of their leader, Do.

281

00:35:45,960 --> 00:35:52,960

I know who Do is. I can't deny it. I feel like I can't deny it even if I wanted to.

282

00:35:52,960 --> 00:35:58,960

You know, I was only in the class three months and it's been three years since I've been out now.

283

00:35:58,960 --> 00:36:03,960

You'd think that'd be plenty of time for me to be reprogrammed or deprogrammed or whatever it is they call it.

284

00:36:03,960 --> 00:36:10,960

But the whole time I was out, I never found anything that made sense the way that did. It's the truth for me.

285

00:36:10,960 --> 00:36:19,960

They died in shifts, leaving behind a videotape they'd made to express their excitement over

leaving for a sojourn with advanced aliens.

286

00:36:20,960 --> 00:36:32,960

I get this Federal Express package and it's addressed to me with the return address to me, from me.

287

00:36:32,960 --> 00:36:40,960

It was like I mailed it to myself, which I knew I didn't and I knew that the only people that would do that would be the class.

288

00:36:40,960 --> 00:36:48,960

And be that as it may, there would be nothing for them to send me unless it was to put it on the internet.

289

00:36:48,960 --> 00:36:52,960

And that told me right there that this was it. It was time to go.

290

00:37:03,960 --> 00:37:13,960

And they had their guide with them. They had no fear. We had no fear. What would we fear? What's to be afraid of? There's nothing to be afraid of.

291

00:37:13,960 --> 00:37:22,960

The issue is you're going to hear about our exit in the news about these individuals who committed suicide.

292

00:37:22,960 --> 00:37:32,960

We're going to tell you that those who write that kind of information are ignorant of the evolutionary level above humans.

293

00:37:32,960 --> 00:37:39,960

We're going on to something greater and better and that we hope that someday you will understand this and you might join us.

294

00:37:44,960 --> 00:37:50,960

Jonestown was obviously an experiment that went terribly wrong.

295

00:37:50,960 --> 00:37:57,960

But from outside the walls of Heaven's Gate, things look pretty bleak as well.

296

00:37:57,960 --> 00:38:06,960

Should we try to prevent incidents like these? And if we do, how will it affect our other personal freedoms?

297

00:38:07,960 --> 00:38:19,960

In our uniqueness, there is always a choice to condemn others for the road they choose to travel or to learn about the motives and intentions of those for whom we have no basis in understanding.

298

00:38:19,960 --> 00:38:29,960

I don't believe in suicide in any way, shape or form. Maybe if I had been at Masada, I would have done the same thing as they did. I don't know. How could anyone know it wasn't there?

299

00:38:29,960 --> 00:38:36,960

The answers to Jonestown, Masada and Heaven's Gate may never be fully understood.

300

00:38:36,960 --> 00:38:43,960

But when we look carefully, we discover that there is more to these stories than we may have first considered.

301

00:38:43,960 --> 00:38:50,960

Perhaps the current conflict faced by the Ua Indian tribe of Northern Columbia will help us further resolve our understanding.

302

00:38:50,960 --> 00:38:57,960

The Ua religion makes each tribal member personally responsible for the perpetual well-being of the planet.

303

00:38:59,960 --> 00:39:11,960

To us, the Earth is like our mother. We are the bodyguards of the sea and the Earth and the Sun and the Moon, because without the light, we're dead.

304

00:39:11,960 --> 00:39:17,960

Burrito Kuar is the son of a Huarhaya, an honored wise man of this centuries-old tribe.

305

00:39:17,960 --> 00:39:24,960

These wise men of the tribe were considered no more than Satan-worshipping witch doctors by visiting missionaries.

306

00:39:25,960 --> 00:39:32,960

From the beginning, missionaries believed that the indigenous ceremonies were evil.

307

00:39:32,960 --> 00:39:37,960

Their reaction was hostile.

308

00:39:37,960 --> 00:39:48,960

For example, Ua elders recount the spoken stories of how the missionaries used to kidnap the tribe's children.

309

00:39:48,960 --> 00:39:53,960

In 1963, eight-year-old Burrito was himself kidnapped.

310

00:39:53,960 --> 00:40:04,960

In an effort to indoctrinate him to the ways of modern Columbia, priests gave him the Spanish name Roberto Cobarria and forced him to read and write Spanish.

311

00:40:04,960 --> 00:40:12,960

The name Roberto Afanor Cobarria was given to me by the white man. That's not my name.

312

00:40:12,960 --> 00:40:20,960

This terrifying childhood experience helped shape Cuar's attitudes towards the Riola, his people's name for invaders.

313

00:40:20,960 --> 00:40:24,960

Cuar became an active defender of his people's rights and territory.

314

00:40:24,960 --> 00:40:34,960

When Occidental Petroleum decided to drill for oil on Ua land in 1996, Burrito Cuar was ready to battle the North American poachers.

315

00:40:35,960 --> 00:40:44,960

My brother is the president of Occidental Petroleum. Why don't you let us take the oil you have in the United States and haul it to Columbia?

316

00:40:44,960 --> 00:40:47,960

Is that alright with you? I don't think so.

317

00:40:47,960 --> 00:40:59,960

Cuar came to Los Angeles to meet with Oxy executives. His presentation must have seemed unusual to the oilmen, but to him it was perfectly natural. He sang.

318

00:41:04,960 --> 00:41:09,960

Before there was the sun and the moon, there was God's law, and we will stay with Allah.

319

00:41:09,960 --> 00:41:19,960

The Ua, as a native people, live in a relationship to a land. From their perspective, they are born from the earth.

320

00:41:19,960 --> 00:41:31,960

And that if the earth is raped and it dies, they will die. And all of their descendants will die. And all of the earth will die.

321

00:41:31,960 --> 00:41:57,960

And so, being powerless as native peoples are, with nothing of value except their lives, the only way they can demonstrate their value for the earth is to be willing to give up the thing they value the most and that the world will value the most, which is their lives.

322

00:41:58,960 --> 00:42:18,960

We will not die at the hands of other people. It will contaminate our spirit. Our father will not receive us the way we should be received. So it is better if we make a suicide pact and kill ourselves.

323

00:42:19,960 --> 00:42:30,960

If the Northern invaders, Occidental Petroleum, go ahead with their plans to drill, 5,000 Ua will do as their ancestors did to keep the Spanish conquistadors from taking them as slaves.

324

00:42:30,960 --> 00:42:42,960

What the people of Masada did to keep from being taken by the Romans. And what the poor people of Jonestown did to escape their perceived persecutor, the U.S. government. They will commit mass suicide.

325

00:42:43,960 --> 00:43:10,960

I think there is a similarity in this. And that is their absolute commitment to their purpose. For the Ua, it's saving the land. For the people of People's Temple, it was the building of a new community and serving the leadership of Jim Jones. In that sense, they are true believers.

326

00:43:11,960 --> 00:43:29,960

None of us will be better off for this loss. But learning of the Ua conflict brings us closer to a kind of moral commitment we can embrace. Though history tends to uniformly romanticize or demonize tragedies like Masada and Jonestown, compassion can tip the scales to balance.

327

00:43:30,960 --> 00:43:47,960

We certainly have to have compassion and understanding for the people who died at Jonestown. What brought them to that state both was a spiritual quest and an emotional disaster.

328

00:43:48,960 --> 00:44:07,960

What may bring the Ua to that is profound mourning and a sense of the loss of all that's valuable in the world. In that all people who die in the face of hopelessness, that binds them in common, regardless of the cause.

329

00:44:07,960 --> 00:44:25,960

Recounting the lessons of history from the long neglected stories of tragedy and intrigue, these are the phenomenon archives, what you've never seen and what you're not supposed to know. I'm Dean Stockwell. Thanks for tuning in.

330

00:44:37,960 --> 00:44:39,960

Let's get down, let's get down.

331

00:45:07,960 --> 00:45:15,960

The Ua conflict is a series of events that are not only about the Ua conflict, but also about the Ua conflict.

332

00:45:15,960 --> 00:45:23,960

The Ua conflict is a series of events that are not only about the Ua conflict, but also about the Ua conflict.

333

00:45:23,960 --> 00:45:33,960

The Ua conflict is a series of events that are not only about the Ua conflict, but also about the Ua conflict.

334

00:45:33,960 --> 00:45:43,960

The Ua conflict is a series of events that are not only about the Ua conflict, but also about the Ua conflict.

335

00:45:43,960 --> 00:45:53,960

The Ua conflict is a series of events that are not only about the Ua conflict, but also about the Ua conflict.

336

00:45:53,960 --> 00:46:03,960

The Ua conflict is a series of events that are not only about the Ua conflict, but also about the Ua conflict.

337

00:46:03,960 --> 00:46:13,960

Ua conflict is a series of events that are not only about the Ua conflict, but also about the Ua conflict.

338

00:46:33,960 --> 00:46:35,960

Thank you.