

The background is a science laboratory. On the left, a man in a dark suit and white shirt is speaking. Behind him are various scientific displays: a poster titled 'TYPICAL CELLS', a poster titled 'The Life Cycle of a Plant', a poster titled 'BASIC ANATOMY - LEECHES', and a poster titled 'THE FORMATION OF ROCK STRATA'. There are also test tubes in a rack, a beaker with yellow liquid, and a desk lamp.

skeptiko.com

PARAPSYCHOLOGY & PSI “BACKWATER” OF SCIENCE

192. SAM HARRIS

1
00:00:14,550 --> 00:00:12,000
on this episode of skeptic Oh Alex

2
00:00:17,430 --> 00:00:14,560
discusses his email correspondence with

3
00:00:21,870 --> 00:00:17,440
dr. Sam Harris I mean here he is

4
00:00:24,120 --> 00:00:21,880
equating in de research to sy research

5
00:00:25,920 --> 00:00:24,130
now the only person that would do

6
00:00:29,490 --> 00:00:25,930
something like that is someone who knows

7
00:00:32,040 --> 00:00:29,500
very little about each I like when

8
00:00:34,380 --> 00:00:32,050
little nuggets of truth like this are

9
00:00:38,090 --> 00:00:34,390
revealed because if we just listen to

10
00:00:40,590 --> 00:00:38,100
Sam Harris's public stance on SCI on

11
00:00:42,740 --> 00:00:40,600
parapsychology on Rupert Sheldrake Dean

12
00:00:45,570 --> 00:00:42,750
Radin it's all very open very

13
00:00:48,090 --> 00:00:45,580

collaborative very go boys let's see

14

00:00:50,490 --> 00:00:48,100

what you got I'm not against it but when

15

00:00:52,860 --> 00:00:50,500

you read this you see what he really

16

00:00:55,350 --> 00:00:52,870

thinks about SCI research it's in the

17

00:00:58,230 --> 00:00:55,360

backwater of science that's where it

18

00:01:09,840 --> 00:00:58,240

really is force and stay with us for

19

00:01:13,719 --> 00:01:12,130

welcome to skeptic oh where we explore

20

00:01:16,420 --> 00:01:13,729

controversial science with leading

21

00:01:18,190 --> 00:01:16,430

researchers thinkers and their critics

22

00:01:20,890 --> 00:01:18,200

I'm your host Aleksic Harrison on this

23

00:01:23,680 --> 00:01:20,900

episode of skeptic oh I want to wrap up

24

00:01:26,650 --> 00:01:23,690

and add a couple of post grips to dr.

25

00:01:29,249 --> 00:01:26,660

Evan Alexander's new book proof of

26

00:01:32,080 --> 00:01:29,259

heaven which chronicles his near-death

27

00:01:33,969 --> 00:01:32,090

experience now I know we've spent quite

28

00:01:35,710 --> 00:01:33,979

a bit of time on this actually the last

29

00:01:38,290 --> 00:01:35,720

three episodes have talked about

30

00:01:40,570 --> 00:01:38,300

near-death experience science in the way

31

00:01:42,760 --> 00:01:40,580

that a theists and skeptics approach

32

00:01:45,700 --> 00:01:42,770

that science so please if you haven't

33

00:01:47,290 --> 00:01:45,710

heard those it might add some context

34

00:01:50,740 --> 00:01:47,300

for you to go back and listen to those

35

00:01:53,469 --> 00:01:50,750

before you listen to this but I did want

36

00:01:56,440 --> 00:01:53,479

to share with you a couple of email

37

00:01:57,790 --> 00:01:56,450

exchanges that I've had since those

38

00:02:00,040 --> 00:01:57,800

shows because I think you'll find them

39

00:02:02,260 --> 00:02:00,050

very interesting and because as I've

40

00:02:05,320 --> 00:02:02,270

often said on this show I think it takes

41

00:02:08,680 --> 00:02:05,330

two or three rounds a lot of times to

42

00:02:11,590 --> 00:02:08,690

get to the real heart of some of these

43

00:02:14,740 --> 00:02:11,600

issues so I want to start with Sam

44

00:02:18,850 --> 00:02:14,750

Harris whose blog posts we featured in

45

00:02:21,039 --> 00:02:18,860

episode 189 now just as a recap many of

46

00:02:23,830 --> 00:02:21,049

you I'm sure know Sam Harris is the

47

00:02:26,380 --> 00:02:23,840

author of a book that really started

48

00:02:27,729 --> 00:02:26,390

this whole or new atheist and we're

49

00:02:30,220 --> 00:02:27,739

smarter than everybody else

50

00:02:31,990 --> 00:02:30,230

thing and since then Sam Harris has

51
00:02:33,479 --> 00:02:32,000
really been able to maintain this kind

52
00:02:36,580 --> 00:02:33,489
of intellectual and scientific

53
00:02:40,750 --> 00:02:36,590
respectability that's somehow been above

54
00:02:42,789 --> 00:02:40,760
the fray of the Richard Dawkins atheist

55
00:02:45,370 --> 00:02:42,799
kind of in the street thing at least

56
00:02:48,069 --> 00:02:45,380
that's my take on where he fits so I

57
00:02:50,560 --> 00:02:48,079
think a lot of people were surprised at

58
00:02:53,110 --> 00:02:50,570
dr. Sam Harris's rather unprofessional

59
00:02:55,509 --> 00:02:53,120
attack on dr. Evan Alexander which we

60
00:02:57,130 --> 00:02:55,519
chronicled in episode 189 and I think

61
00:02:59,979 --> 00:02:57,140
what was most telling for people was

62
00:03:03,130 --> 00:02:59,989
just as I laid it out that if you're

63
00:03:05,560 --> 00:03:03,140

gonna slam this guy debate him if you

64

00:03:07,690 --> 00:03:05,570

got the goods like you say you do then

65

00:03:10,290 --> 00:03:07,700

go out in the court of public opinion

66

00:03:12,630 --> 00:03:10,300

and deliver what you have but

67

00:03:14,550 --> 00:03:12,640

do these little drive-bys and claim that

68

00:03:16,500 --> 00:03:14,560

you know everything but I'm really

69

00:03:19,500 --> 00:03:16,510

getting ahead of myself because as

70

00:03:22,290 --> 00:03:19,510

you'll hear in this email exchange that

71

00:03:24,990 --> 00:03:22,300

I had with dr. Harris he's a lot more

72

00:03:27,720 --> 00:03:25,000

like those fundamentalist atheists than

73

00:03:29,790 --> 00:03:27,730

he likes to let on so here then is what

74

00:03:32,940 --> 00:03:29,800

happened I published as I just said

75

00:03:35,430 --> 00:03:32,950

episode 189 titled Sam Harris won't

76

00:03:37,980 --> 00:03:35,440

debate dr. Evan Alexander on near-death

77

00:03:40,320 --> 00:03:37,990

experience science so the first thing I

78

00:03:43,200 --> 00:03:40,330

have to tell you is before I even had a

79

00:03:45,120 --> 00:03:43,210

chance to send dr. Harris a link to the

80

00:03:47,730 --> 00:03:45,130

podcast it must have been less than an

81

00:03:50,520 --> 00:03:47,740

hour after I published I got an email

82

00:03:53,790 --> 00:03:50,530

from him and he responded to me with

83

00:03:56,010 --> 00:03:53,800

this email Alex please publish this in

84

00:03:58,350 --> 00:03:56,020

full which I'm gonna do so I'm the

85

00:04:00,930 --> 00:03:58,360

website I'm gonna publish the full email

86

00:04:04,320 --> 00:04:00,940

exchange but I want to hit on some of

87

00:04:06,480 --> 00:04:04,330

the highlights here in this podcast so

88

00:04:08,850 --> 00:04:06,490

continuing after publish this in full

89

00:04:11,220 --> 00:04:08,860

he points out a few things quote-unquote

90

00:04:13,140 --> 00:04:11,230

I should realize one the distinction

91

00:04:15,720 --> 00:04:13,150

between neuroscientists and neurosurgeon

92

00:04:17,370 --> 00:04:15,730

is real and important okay so this is a

93

00:04:18,870 --> 00:04:17,380

topic that came up in our prior email

94

00:04:20,699 --> 00:04:18,880

exchange and now he's trying to support

95

00:04:22,320 --> 00:04:20,709

this argument some neurosurgeons are

96

00:04:24,120 --> 00:04:22,330

neuroscientist but that doesn't appear

97

00:04:26,450 --> 00:04:24,130

to be the case with Alexander more

98

00:04:29,610 --> 00:04:26,460

importantly he's not thinking like a

99

00:04:32,580 --> 00:04:29,620

neuroscientist at all he says

100

00:04:34,860 --> 00:04:32,590

parenthetically he continues the result

101
00:04:37,440 --> 00:04:34,870
is about as bad as if I were handed a

102
00:04:40,470 --> 00:04:37,450
drill and scalpel and told to operate on

103
00:04:42,990 --> 00:04:40,480
a living person's brain okay let me stop

104
00:04:46,560 --> 00:04:43,000
right there now come on is this kind of

105
00:04:49,110 --> 00:04:46,570
over-the-top arrogance really convincing

106
00:04:51,540 --> 00:04:49,120
are you buying any of this do you really

107
00:04:53,850 --> 00:04:51,550
think sam harris has some secret special

108
00:04:56,300 --> 00:04:53,860
knowledge that he's learned as an

109
00:04:58,770 --> 00:04:56,310
unpublished non practicing

110
00:05:01,890 --> 00:04:58,780
neuroscientist I mean isn't that kind of

111
00:05:03,750 --> 00:05:01,900
silly just go read the guy's book again

112
00:05:05,760 --> 00:05:03,760
something that sam Harris seems quite

113
00:05:08,010 --> 00:05:05,770

proud of the fact that he hasn't done or

114

00:05:10,790 --> 00:05:08,020

go to his website look at his curriculum

115

00:05:13,230 --> 00:05:10,800

Vita it's obvious that he has the

116

00:05:16,020 --> 00:05:13,240

qualifications the brains the knowledge

117

00:05:19,200 --> 00:05:16,030

to speak with authority on these issues

118

00:05:22,110 --> 00:05:19,210

of course he knows neuroscience of

119

00:05:24,090 --> 00:05:22,120

course he knows neuroanatomy he taught

120

00:05:27,570 --> 00:05:24,100

at Harvard Medical School for

121

00:05:29,640 --> 00:05:27,580

fifteen years if dr. sam harris really

122

00:05:31,830 --> 00:05:29,650

wants to push this point he's gotta back

123

00:05:34,020 --> 00:05:31,840

it up because on the surface of it no

124

00:05:36,300 --> 00:05:34,030

one's gonna buy that no one we've done

125

00:05:38,670 --> 00:05:36,310

the podcast we've published it I've

126

00:05:41,660 --> 00:05:38,680

gotten the response no one is buying

127

00:05:44,160 --> 00:05:41,670

your argument that Evan Alexander's

128

00:05:46,650 --> 00:05:44,170

qualifications don't stack up that he's

129

00:05:49,470 --> 00:05:46,660

not an expert no one's buying it let it

130

00:05:52,590 --> 00:05:49,480

go but wait there's another point he

131

00:05:55,170 --> 00:05:52,600

makes in this email he says by relying

132

00:05:58,590 --> 00:05:55,180

on bad science in the way that you are

133

00:06:01,640 --> 00:05:58,600

meaning me and labeling criticism as a

134

00:06:04,260 --> 00:06:01,650

symptom of arrogance or atheist

135

00:06:07,020 --> 00:06:04,270

fundamentalism which I probably did you

136

00:06:09,300 --> 00:06:07,030

are actually doing a lot of harm to your

137

00:06:11,580 --> 00:06:09,310

cause this is the interesting part you

138

00:06:14,130 --> 00:06:11,590

apparently have no idea how foolish you

139

00:06:15,780 --> 00:06:14,140

sound in your most recent podcast unlike

140

00:06:18,300 --> 00:06:15,790

most of my fellow scientists and

141

00:06:22,560 --> 00:06:18,310

skeptics I happen to be sympathetic to

142

00:06:24,390 --> 00:06:22,570

the aims of SCI research but now even I

143

00:06:28,160 --> 00:06:24,400

will have nothing to do with you so nice

144

00:06:31,860 --> 00:06:28,170

work you just made the backwater of SCI

145

00:06:35,580 --> 00:06:31,870

even less accessible to serious people

146

00:06:38,460 --> 00:06:35,590

now that's actually very interesting and

147

00:06:42,930 --> 00:06:38,470

very revealing I mean here he is

148

00:06:45,180 --> 00:06:42,940

equating NDE research to psy research

149

00:06:46,950 --> 00:06:45,190

now the only person that would do

150

00:06:50,130 --> 00:06:46,960

something like that is someone who knows

151
00:06:53,370 --> 00:06:50,140
very little about each I mean we know

152
00:06:55,710 --> 00:06:53,380
that psy researchers Dean Radin Rupert

153
00:06:58,950 --> 00:06:55,720
Sheldrake they're studying ESP

154
00:07:01,920 --> 00:06:58,960
clairvoyance telekinesis those kind of

155
00:07:03,960 --> 00:07:01,930
things psy phenomena there's no overlap

156
00:07:05,910 --> 00:07:03,970
with near-death experience the

157
00:07:08,330 --> 00:07:05,920
near-death experience researchers were

158
00:07:10,980 --> 00:07:08,340
talking about our pin bomb lama

159
00:07:14,130 --> 00:07:10,990
cardiologist 20-year study in the

160
00:07:17,550 --> 00:07:14,140
netherlands jeff long radiologist in a

161
00:07:19,080 --> 00:07:17,560
hospital studying cases jan holden Bruce

162
00:07:23,370 --> 00:07:19,090
Greyson at the University of Virginia

163
00:07:26,700 --> 00:07:23,380

for him to confuse psy research in NDE

164

00:07:29,640 --> 00:07:26,710

research is very telling as to the

165

00:07:31,860 --> 00:07:29,650

extent that he understands either one of

166

00:07:34,519 --> 00:07:31,870

these topics and the other thing that's

167

00:07:37,779 --> 00:07:34,529

very revealing about that quote

168

00:07:40,009 --> 00:07:37,789

this when he says you just made the

169

00:07:43,699 --> 00:07:40,019

backwater of Sai

170

00:07:46,129 --> 00:07:43,709

even less accessible to serious people

171

00:07:49,519 --> 00:07:46,139

now despite what some of you think I

172

00:07:52,939 --> 00:07:49,529

really don't like confrontation but you

173

00:07:55,579 --> 00:07:52,949

know what I do like I like knowing the

174

00:07:58,849 --> 00:07:55,589

truth I like when little nuggets of

175

00:08:01,099 --> 00:07:58,859

truth like this are revealed because if

176

00:08:04,429 --> 00:08:01,109

we just listen to Sam Harris's public

177

00:08:06,769 --> 00:08:04,439

stance on SCI on parapsychology on

178

00:08:09,889 --> 00:08:06,779

Rupert Sheldrake Dean Radin it's all

179

00:08:11,839 --> 00:08:09,899

very open very collaborative very go

180

00:08:14,749 --> 00:08:11,849

boys let's see what you got I'm not

181

00:08:16,429 --> 00:08:14,759

against it but when you read this you

182

00:08:18,979 --> 00:08:16,439

see what he really thinks about SCI

183

00:08:21,469 --> 00:08:18,989

research it's in the backwater of

184

00:08:24,319 --> 00:08:21,479

science that's where it really is force

185

00:08:26,619 --> 00:08:24,329

and understanding that revealing that

186

00:08:29,209 --> 00:08:26,629

makes it worth going through this

187

00:08:31,369 --> 00:08:29,219

confrontation so back to the email

188

00:08:32,839 --> 00:08:31,379

here's what I wrote back to Sam Sam I'm

189

00:08:34,909 --> 00:08:32,849

not exactly sure what you expect me to

190

00:08:36,619 --> 00:08:34,919

do with your response I guess I could

191

00:08:38,689 --> 00:08:36,629

publish it along with my commentary

192

00:08:41,089 --> 00:08:38,699

maybe well it turns out that's what I am

193

00:08:43,309 --> 00:08:41,099

doing or post it on the forum probably

194

00:08:45,889 --> 00:08:43,319

but I really don't understand why you

195

00:08:48,889 --> 00:08:45,899

continue to shy away from a debate

196

00:08:51,920 --> 00:08:48,899

moreover your continued insistence that

197

00:08:54,710 --> 00:08:51,930

you own the only opinion that matters

198

00:08:56,480 --> 00:08:54,720

ie there's nothing to debate is really

199

00:08:59,540 --> 00:08:56,490

not going to play well I mean who's

200

00:09:00,650 --> 00:08:59,550

gonna buy that I will however drill into

201
00:09:02,840 --> 00:09:00,660
your response

202
00:09:05,449 --> 00:09:02,850
I think Alexander might have something

203
00:09:08,449 --> 00:09:05,459
to say about how his neuroscience

204
00:09:10,189 --> 00:09:08,459
qualifications stack up against yours

205
00:09:12,710 --> 00:09:10,199
and I did go ahead and forward that

206
00:09:14,749 --> 00:09:12,720
email to dr. Alexander and then I got

207
00:09:17,240 --> 00:09:14,759
the response that y'all saw in episode

208
00:09:19,369 --> 00:09:17,250
189 but this email exchange continues

209
00:09:23,259 --> 00:09:19,379
dr. Harris wrote me back

210
00:09:26,269 --> 00:09:23,269
this isn't about credentials he writes

211
00:09:27,650 --> 00:09:26,279
funny that seemed to be what he was

212
00:09:29,509 --> 00:09:27,660
saying when there's this big difference

213
00:09:31,400 --> 00:09:29,519

between a neuroscientist and a

214

00:09:33,739 --> 00:09:31,410

neurosurgeon seemed to be about

215

00:09:36,049 --> 00:09:33,749

credentials then but now it's not about

216

00:09:38,119 --> 00:09:36,059

credentials the fact that you would

217

00:09:40,759 --> 00:09:38,129

interpret my stated reasons for not

218

00:09:43,400 --> 00:09:40,769

debating Alexander is deceptive he goes

219

00:09:45,079 --> 00:09:43,410

on to say I may very well debate him at

220

00:09:48,360 --> 00:09:45,089

some point but it won't be on your

221

00:09:50,550 --> 00:09:48,370

podcast so I wrote back them I tried

222

00:09:53,220 --> 00:09:50,560

ignore all the personal attacks so

223

00:09:55,410 --> 00:09:53,230

here's what I wrote back Sam the one

224

00:09:57,360 --> 00:09:55,420

thing that continues to jump out at me

225

00:10:00,780 --> 00:09:57,370

from your emails is your lack of

226

00:10:03,120 --> 00:10:00,790

appreciation for NDE science I mean it's

227

00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:03,130

not like Evan Alexander is the first to

228

00:10:06,840 --> 00:10:06,010

report an NDE or study the NDE

229

00:10:09,090 --> 00:10:06,850

literature

230

00:10:11,850 --> 00:10:09,100

he's just the first neurosurgeon from

231

00:10:14,340 --> 00:10:11,860

Harvard Medical School to have one have

232

00:10:17,250 --> 00:10:14,350

you ever heard of folks like then I sent

233

00:10:21,269 --> 00:10:17,260

him the links to my interview 164 with

234

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:21,279

Jan Holden 119 with dr. pendel Namal 118

235

00:10:26,880 --> 00:10:24,010

with dr. Jeffery long number 90 with dr.

236

00:10:28,710 --> 00:10:26,890

penny Sartori and number 64 with dr.

237

00:10:30,630 --> 00:10:28,720

Peter fennec and I wrapped it up by

238

00:10:33,390 --> 00:10:30,640

saying you need to get out of the

239

00:10:35,880 --> 00:10:33,400

atheist bubble you're in and explore the

240

00:10:38,760 --> 00:10:35,890

considerable research on this amazing

241

00:10:40,350 --> 00:10:38,770

medical mystery well maybe I was digging

242

00:10:42,540 --> 00:10:40,360

him a little harder than I thought here

243

00:10:45,900 --> 00:10:42,550

because here's what he wrote back Alex

244

00:10:48,329 --> 00:10:45,910

you were either very confused or are

245

00:10:50,850 --> 00:10:48,339

being deliberately annoying I can

246

00:10:53,400 --> 00:10:50,860

guarantee I was doing a second it's hard

247

00:10:56,010 --> 00:10:53,410

to tell by email here's the important

248

00:10:59,160 --> 00:10:56,020

point he says I am familiar with the NDE

249

00:11:03,600 --> 00:10:59,170

research but all of it is irrelevant

250

00:11:06,690 --> 00:11:03,610

here later he says I'm not in an atheist

251
00:11:09,210 --> 00:11:06,700
bubble I'm the one prominent atheist who

252
00:11:12,120 --> 00:11:09,220
has publicly argued that SCI research

253
00:11:14,280 --> 00:11:12,130
has been unfairly stigmatized but the

254
00:11:17,460 --> 00:11:14,290
way you've treated this issue makes this

255
00:11:19,290 --> 00:11:17,470
digna perfectly understandable okay a

256
00:11:20,670 --> 00:11:19,300
couple things jump out first this

257
00:11:23,130 --> 00:11:20,680
statement I'm familiar with the

258
00:11:25,980 --> 00:11:23,140
near-death experience literature but all

259
00:11:28,680 --> 00:11:25,990
of it is irrelevant here again this is

260
00:11:31,199 --> 00:11:28,690
almost too goofy to respond to all the

261
00:11:34,500 --> 00:11:31,209
in de literature is irrelevant to

262
00:11:36,269 --> 00:11:34,510
understanding dr. Alexander's case this

263
00:11:38,010 --> 00:11:36,279

is why the logic is this guy in some

264

00:11:40,829 --> 00:11:38,020

debate can you imagine someone trying to

265

00:11:42,780 --> 00:11:40,839

defend that statement it's silly and the

266

00:11:46,410 --> 00:11:42,790

other thing that jumps out is again he's

267

00:11:48,150 --> 00:11:46,420

equated NDE research with SCI research

268

00:11:48,900 --> 00:11:48,160

so if you thought it was a mistake the

269

00:11:52,230 --> 00:11:48,910

first time

270

00:11:54,840 --> 00:11:52,240

rest assured dr. Sam Harris really

271

00:11:57,210 --> 00:11:54,850

doesn't seem to know the difference okay

272

00:11:59,280 --> 00:11:57,220

here's what I wrote back to him Sam

273

00:12:02,069 --> 00:11:59,290

you say you're familiar with the NDE

274

00:12:05,249 --> 00:12:02,079

literature how so what have you

275

00:12:07,499 --> 00:12:05,259

any of the researchers I cited have you

276

00:12:10,199 --> 00:12:07,509

ever cited any NDE studies in your

277

00:12:12,299 --> 00:12:10,209

writing I don't think so regarding

278

00:12:14,309 --> 00:12:12,309

relevance even a rudimentary

279

00:12:17,519 --> 00:12:14,319

understanding of the body of

280

00:12:19,530 --> 00:12:17,529

peer-reviewed NDE research should give

281

00:12:22,799 --> 00:12:19,540

you an appreciation for the larger

282

00:12:26,249 --> 00:12:22,809

neurological questions surrounding NDEs

283

00:12:28,470 --> 00:12:26,259

for example how can experiencers with a

284

00:12:30,960 --> 00:12:28,480

wide variety of medical conditions and

285

00:12:34,139 --> 00:12:30,970

even those who experience no medical

286

00:12:37,259 --> 00:12:34,149

trauma have similar hyper lucid

287

00:12:39,629 --> 00:12:37,269

transformative experiences doctor

288

00:12:44,129 --> 00:12:39,639

Alexander's account must be understood

289

00:12:45,989 --> 00:12:44,139

within the context of this work NDEs are

290

00:12:48,569 --> 00:12:45,999

one of the greatest medical mysteries of

291

00:12:50,720 --> 00:12:48,579

our time the medical nature of the

292

00:12:53,400 --> 00:12:50,730

mystery is one of the reasons dr.

293

00:12:56,189 --> 00:12:53,410

Alexander is in a better position to

294

00:12:58,169 --> 00:12:56,199

speak authoritative lis about what might

295

00:12:59,639 --> 00:12:58,179

be going on unless I said

296

00:13:01,919 --> 00:12:59,649

parenthetically you think your

297

00:13:04,559 --> 00:13:01,929

background Trump's his in this area it

298

00:13:07,079 --> 00:13:04,569

would serve you well to engage in the

299

00:13:09,869 --> 00:13:07,089

mystery rather than churn out more of

300

00:13:14,340 --> 00:13:09,879

the same a theistic party line talking

301
00:13:16,230 --> 00:13:14,350
points for your adoring fans well as you

302
00:13:19,379 --> 00:13:16,240
might expect this is getting pretty

303
00:13:22,169 --> 00:13:19,389
close to the end of this email exchange

304
00:13:25,169 --> 00:13:22,179
he did fire me back this nice email

305
00:13:26,819 --> 00:13:25,179
though Alex so you're accusing me of

306
00:13:32,549 --> 00:13:26,829
lying again

307
00:13:37,259 --> 00:13:32,559
now I understand you're actually uh I'm

308
00:13:39,780 --> 00:13:37,269
done Sam well well dr. Harris I guess

309
00:13:42,900 --> 00:13:39,790
it's my fault for asking you to back up

310
00:13:46,919 --> 00:13:42,910
your claim for asking you to show where

311
00:13:48,840 --> 00:13:46,929
you've ever cited any NDE research not

312
00:13:51,659 --> 00:13:48,850
SCI research mind you because that's

313
00:13:53,549 --> 00:13:51,669

something different so let me help you

314

00:13:57,150 --> 00:13:53,559

long here let me do a little google

315

00:13:59,460 --> 00:13:57,160

search through your blog Sam Harris org

316

00:14:01,319 --> 00:13:59,470

and we'll search through that site your

317

00:14:05,069 --> 00:14:01,329

blog your essays everything you've

318

00:14:10,079 --> 00:14:05,079

published and let's search for pin Van

319

00:14:12,210 --> 00:14:10,089

LOM Oh nope the only hit we have are

320

00:14:14,400 --> 00:14:12,220

from some some other people have posted

321

00:14:20,100 --> 00:14:14,410

okay so let's look

322

00:14:26,420 --> 00:14:20,110

geoffery long no nothing

323

00:14:31,260 --> 00:14:26,430

how about Jan Holden let's try for a sin

324

00:14:33,690 --> 00:14:31,270

no none of those either hmm fact is I

325

00:14:36,930 --> 00:14:33,700

couldn't find a single reference to any

326

00:14:39,540 --> 00:14:36,940

published in de research in any of Sam's

327

00:14:42,120 --> 00:14:39,550

writings but I guess we should just take

328

00:14:43,590 --> 00:14:42,130

his word for it he is dr. Sam Harris we

329

00:14:46,440 --> 00:14:43,600

shouldn't challenge him should we we

330

00:14:48,810 --> 00:14:46,450

shouldn't engage in critical thinking so

331

00:14:51,630 --> 00:14:48,820

if he says he's familiar with the ND

332

00:14:54,090 --> 00:14:51,640

literature I'm sure he is he probably

333

00:14:57,900 --> 00:14:54,100

read Vick Stenger's book or maybe

334

00:14:59,730 --> 00:14:57,910

something by Michael Shermer okay onto

335

00:15:02,040 --> 00:14:59,740

another email exchange this one much

336

00:15:04,230 --> 00:15:02,050

more pleasant and that is the one that I

337

00:15:06,030 --> 00:15:04,240

had with dr. Jan Holden from the

338

00:15:07,980 --> 00:15:06,040

University of North Texas who of course

339

00:15:10,020 --> 00:15:07,990

is one of the co editors along with

340

00:15:13,500 --> 00:15:10,030

Bruce Grayson of the handbook of

341

00:15:16,530 --> 00:15:13,510

near-death experiences and I sent Jan a

342

00:15:19,440 --> 00:15:16,540

link to episode 190 where we talked

343

00:15:22,950 --> 00:15:19,450

about dr. Vick Stenger's book and his

344

00:15:25,080 --> 00:15:22,960

quotations and citations of Jan Holden's

345

00:15:27,510 --> 00:15:25,090

work so I'm not going to read you her

346

00:15:29,460 --> 00:15:27,520

entire response into this podcast but I

347

00:15:31,650 --> 00:15:29,470

do encourage you to look at it I'm gonna

348

00:15:32,850 --> 00:15:31,660

post it there on the website I don't

349

00:15:36,210 --> 00:15:32,860

think it will come as much of a surprise

350

00:15:38,430 --> 00:15:36,220

to you that she totally refutes Stingers

351
00:15:40,620 --> 00:15:38,440
conclusions and really at the end of the

352
00:15:43,050 --> 00:15:40,630
day the only conclusion you can come to

353
00:15:45,840 --> 00:15:43,060
is that the guy willfully misrepresented

354
00:15:47,550 --> 00:15:45,850
her position but you can read that

355
00:15:51,870 --> 00:15:47,560
yourself and while you're at it

356
00:15:55,920 --> 00:15:51,880
I'd like you to compare and contrast the

357
00:15:57,050 --> 00:15:55,930
way she presents the facts the data the

358
00:16:00,600 --> 00:15:57,060
evidence

359
00:16:03,900 --> 00:16:00,610
compared to our friend dr. Sam Harris

360
00:16:07,170 --> 00:16:03,910
and our friend dr. Vick Stenger here is

361
00:16:10,230 --> 00:16:07,180
a researcher here is someone who is

362
00:16:12,960 --> 00:16:10,240
engaged in the data and whether you like

363
00:16:15,590 --> 00:16:12,970

the data or not I think you have to

364

00:16:18,420 --> 00:16:15,600

appreciate that you're being given

365

00:16:22,050 --> 00:16:18,430

scientific evidence and not a bunch of

366

00:16:24,420 --> 00:16:22,060

chest-thumping bravado so that wraps up

367

00:16:26,640 --> 00:16:24,430

this little follow-up I wanted to do I

368

00:16:27,720 --> 00:16:26,650

have to tell you we are moving off of

369

00:16:29,850 --> 00:16:27,730

this top

370

00:16:32,069 --> 00:16:29,860

and some of you will be very glad other

371

00:16:33,870 --> 00:16:32,079

of you maybe not we'll come back and

372

00:16:35,819 --> 00:16:33,880

touch on near-death experience in the

373

00:16:38,850 --> 00:16:35,829

future but there's many many other areas

374

00:16:41,670 --> 00:16:38,860

to talk about and and dive into in the

375

00:16:44,220 --> 00:16:41,680

way that we like to do them on this show

376

00:16:46,530 --> 00:16:44,230

so let me wrap up by inviting you to

377

00:16:49,259 --> 00:16:46,540

join me in dialogue about this episode

378

00:16:51,509 --> 00:16:49,269

if you think I'm off here if you think

379

00:16:54,329 --> 00:16:51,519

sam harris is right or if you think

380

00:16:56,040 --> 00:16:54,339

Janne Holden is wrong whatever we'd love

381

00:16:57,720 --> 00:16:56,050

to hear your opinion would love to have

382

00:16:59,400 --> 00:16:57,730

you share that opinion as long as you do

383

00:17:01,350 --> 00:16:59,410

it in a civil way that's attempting to

384

00:17:02,879 --> 00:17:01,360

engage in a real dialogue we'd love to

385

00:17:05,370 --> 00:17:02,889

hear from you the place to do that is

386

00:17:09,329 --> 00:17:05,380

either on this skeptical website at sk

387

00:17:11,549 --> 00:17:09,339

EPT Iko calm or the sceptical forum

388

00:17:13,140 --> 00:17:11,559

which you can get to from the website as

389

00:17:14,789 --> 00:17:13,150

well while you're at the web site you

390

00:17:17,610 --> 00:17:14,799

can of course check out all of our

391

00:17:19,530 --> 00:17:17,620

almost 200 previous shows and of course

392

00:17:21,360 --> 00:17:19,540

find the link to send me an email or

393

00:17:23,850 --> 00:17:21,370

Facebook well that's gonna do it for

394

00:17:26,220 --> 00:17:23,860

this episode of skeptic Oh several good

395

00:17:28,860 --> 00:17:26,230

episodes in the hopper just ready to get

396

00:17:31,530 --> 00:17:28,870

out there as soon as I can stay with me