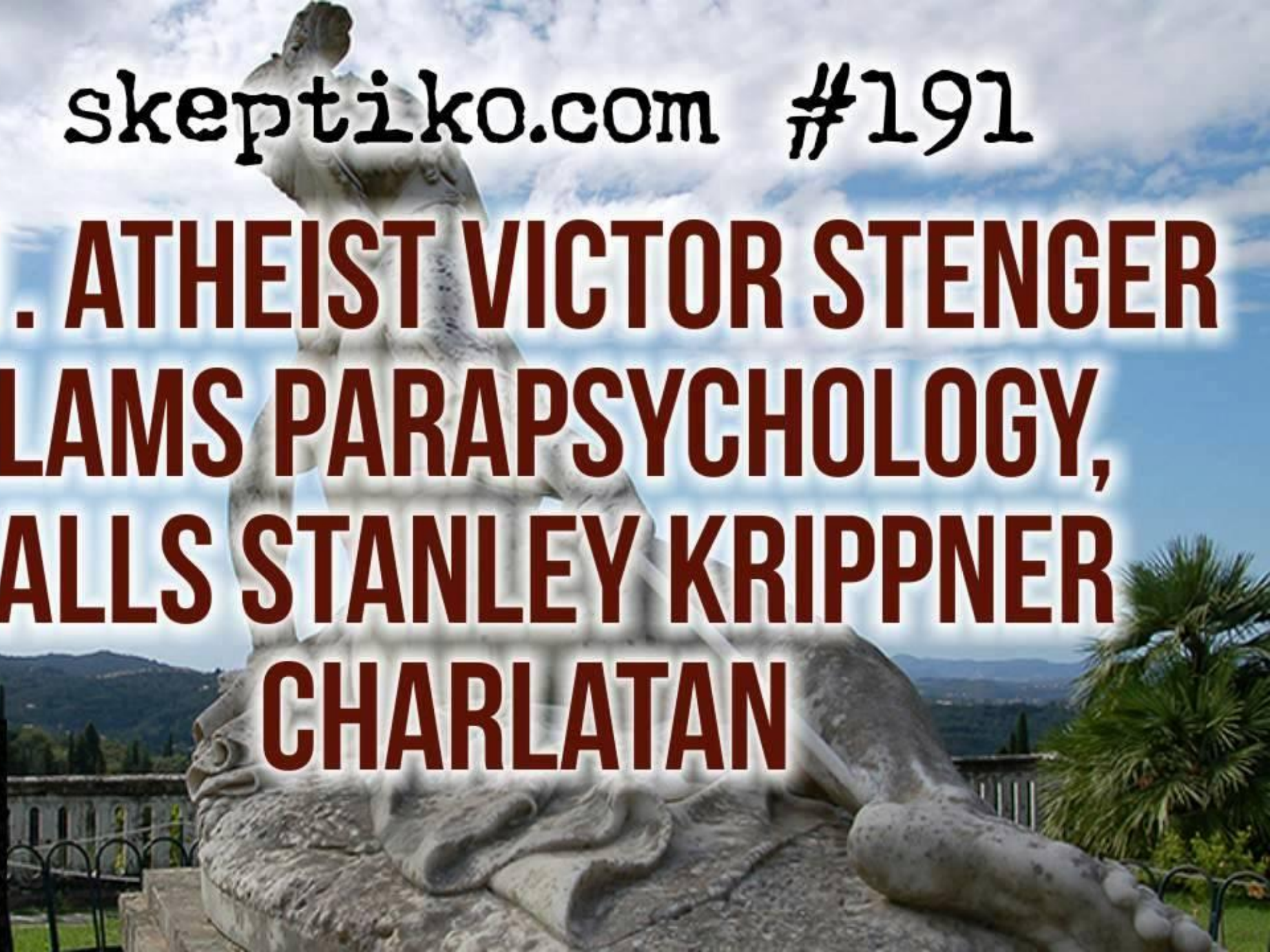
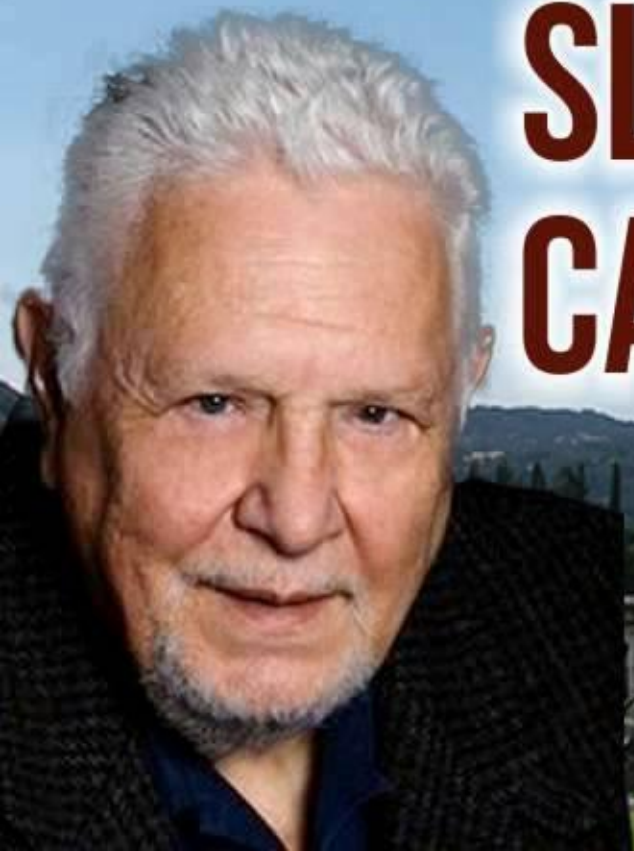


skeptiko.com #191

**191. ATHEIST VICTOR STENGER
SLAMS PARAPSYCHOLOGY,
CALLS STANLEY KRIPPNER
CHARLATAN**



1
00:00:14,609 --> 00:00:11,940
on this episode of skeptic Oh Alex talks

2
00:00:17,249 --> 00:00:14,619
with atheist and author dr. Victor

3
00:00:18,900 --> 00:00:17,259
Stenger and that's the problem these

4
00:00:23,400 --> 00:00:18,910
people are charlatans who are claiming

5
00:00:25,830 --> 00:00:23,410
that that there's evidence for a quantum

6
00:00:27,690 --> 00:00:25,840
aspect of the mind that's just not true

7
00:00:29,580 --> 00:00:27,700
maybe they'll find one someday we're

8
00:00:31,679 --> 00:00:29,590
open to that but they just do not have a

9
00:00:34,200 --> 00:00:31,689
date it to support that and they don't

10
00:00:36,959 --> 00:00:34,210
have the theory to support that you're

11
00:00:39,780 --> 00:00:36,969
not saying Christophe Kok is a charlatan

12
00:00:41,849 --> 00:00:39,790
or Stuart Hameroff is a charlatan since

13
00:00:44,040 --> 00:00:41,859

I assume so who are the charlatans I

14

00:00:45,419 --> 00:00:44,050

know that I know who's Stanley Crick

15

00:00:46,860 --> 00:00:45,429

there I know some of the other people

16

00:00:50,489 --> 00:00:46,870

that are on the list of people that used

17

00:00:53,520 --> 00:00:50,499

an interview in the past I saw your list

18

00:00:56,340 --> 00:00:53,530

I'll tell you they're not part of any

19

00:00:58,279 --> 00:00:56,350

mainstream that I know of so do you

20

00:01:00,200 --> 00:00:58,289

think Stanley Crippler is a charlatan

21

00:01:14,940 --> 00:01:00,210

absolutely

22

00:01:18,730 --> 00:01:17,200

welcome to skeptic aware we explore

23

00:01:20,890 --> 00:01:18,740

controversial science with leading

24

00:01:22,899 --> 00:01:20,900

researchers thinkers and their critics

25

00:01:25,750 --> 00:01:22,909

I'm your host Aleksic Harris and on this

26

00:01:28,210 --> 00:01:25,760

episode of skeptic Oh dr. Vik Stenger

27

00:01:31,990 --> 00:01:28,220

now there's a lot I could say about my

28

00:01:34,270 --> 00:01:32,000

dialogue with dr. stinger but I think he

29

00:01:36,460 --> 00:01:34,280

does a pretty good job of speaking up

30

00:01:41,050 --> 00:01:36,470

for himself let's get right to the

31

00:01:43,660 --> 00:01:41,060

interview today we welcome dr. Victor

32

00:01:45,639 --> 00:01:43,670

Stenger to skeptic Oh dr. Stenger is an

33

00:01:47,859 --> 00:01:45,649

adjunct professor of philosophy at the

34

00:01:50,469 --> 00:01:47,869

university of colorado but that's really

35

00:01:53,050 --> 00:01:50,479

a second academic career forum as he's

36

00:01:54,760 --> 00:01:53,060

also professor emeritus in physics and

37

00:01:57,160 --> 00:01:54,770

astronomy from the University of Hawaii

38

00:02:00,100 --> 00:01:57,170

he's also a very successful author

39

00:02:03,490 --> 00:02:00,110

having published 11 books including the

40

00:02:06,940 --> 00:02:03,500

2007 New York Times bestseller God the

41

00:02:10,270 --> 00:02:06,950

failed hypothesis how science shows that

42

00:02:13,090 --> 00:02:10,280

God does not exist and his latest book

43

00:02:15,490 --> 00:02:13,100

God and the folly of faith

44

00:02:16,300 --> 00:02:15,500

welcome to skeptic avec thanks so much

45

00:02:21,550 --> 00:02:16,310

for joining me

46

00:02:24,250 --> 00:02:21,560

well I'm really great well I'm looking

47

00:02:25,960 --> 00:02:24,260

forward to the to the discussion

48

00:02:27,670 --> 00:02:25,970

let's give folks a little bit of a

49

00:02:31,030 --> 00:02:27,680

background on you quite an impressive

50

00:02:34,270 --> 00:02:31,040

academic career well-respected in your

51
00:02:38,170 --> 00:02:34,280
field well published known but then you

52
00:02:40,479 --> 00:02:38,180
also have this parallel career as one of

53
00:02:44,280 --> 00:02:40,489
the founders really of this movement

54
00:02:46,990 --> 00:02:44,290
that's come to be known as New Atheism

55
00:02:49,270 --> 00:02:47,000
take us through a little bit of that in

56
00:02:51,880 --> 00:02:49,280
in particular this interplay between

57
00:02:54,880 --> 00:02:51,890
your academic career and then how you

58
00:02:57,340 --> 00:02:54,890
got interested in the Atheist movement

59
00:03:00,550 --> 00:02:57,350
and maybe along the way helped people

60
00:03:04,479 --> 00:03:00,560
understand what is a new atheist okay

61
00:03:06,849 --> 00:03:04,489
that's quite a large order but let me

62
00:03:09,960 --> 00:03:06,859
let me get started and then don't

63
00:03:16,720 --> 00:03:09,970

hesitate to interrupt me and and ask for

64

00:03:18,190 --> 00:03:16,730

the clarifying point but now I spent my

65

00:03:22,150 --> 00:03:18,200

career working in the field of

66

00:03:24,190 --> 00:03:22,160

elementary particle physics was very

67

00:03:27,520 --> 00:03:24,200

much involved and all the activity that

68

00:03:29,740 --> 00:03:27,530

led to the eventual acceptance of what

69

00:03:32,170 --> 00:03:29,750

is called the standard model and then

70

00:03:35,890 --> 00:03:32,180

went more into astronomy and cosmology

71

00:03:38,470 --> 00:03:35,900

and then the 80s so my interest has

72

00:03:43,059 --> 00:03:38,480

always been a basic understanding of the

73

00:03:45,040 --> 00:03:43,069

universe the nature of matter and you

74

00:03:49,960 --> 00:03:45,050

know where what's everything all about

75

00:03:55,350 --> 00:03:49,970

fundamentally and so toward the end of

76

00:03:58,839 --> 00:03:55,360

the 80s and early 90s I started reading

77

00:04:02,949 --> 00:03:58,849

popular literature where people were

78

00:04:03,640 --> 00:04:02,959

claiming that science supported a lot of

79

00:04:12,009 --> 00:04:03,650

ideas

80

00:04:15,309 --> 00:04:12,019

ESP and and quantum spirituality and and

81

00:04:17,770 --> 00:04:15,319

so on and then and so I started writing

82

00:04:20,140 --> 00:04:17,780

about that the early nineties that wrote

83

00:04:23,110 --> 00:04:20,150

a book called physics and psychics I

84

00:04:25,390 --> 00:04:23,120

wrote another book called the

85

00:04:29,980 --> 00:04:25,400

unconscious quantum which challenged the

86

00:04:33,219 --> 00:04:29,990

idea that there's a quantum element to

87

00:04:35,050 --> 00:04:33,229

thinking and then I gradually moved more

88

00:04:38,230 --> 00:04:35,060

and more toward the religious thing

89

00:04:39,310 --> 00:04:38,240

because I found out a lot of the there

90

00:04:42,390 --> 00:04:39,320

was a lot of literature out there

91

00:04:45,960 --> 00:04:42,400

claiming scientific evidence for God and

92

00:04:49,120 --> 00:04:45,970

so I wrote a book has science found God

93

00:04:52,029 --> 00:04:49,130

and then I wrote God the failed

94

00:04:53,560 --> 00:04:52,039

hypothesis which was a very successful

95

00:04:56,800 --> 00:04:53,570

book it made the New York Times

96

00:05:00,159 --> 00:04:56,810

bestseller list in 2007 so that's kind

97

00:05:03,340 --> 00:05:00,169

of my like my main book my biggest hit

98

00:05:06,340 --> 00:05:03,350

if it's called hate and then back with

99

00:05:08,230 --> 00:05:06,350

new atheism which discussed the whole

100

00:05:13,120 --> 00:05:08,240

new atheist movement that had begun

101
00:05:16,960 --> 00:05:13,130
around night around 2006 first with San

102
00:05:21,219 --> 00:05:16,970
Paris's bestseller on the end of face

103
00:05:21,879 --> 00:05:21,229
and that was a 2006 in 2007 my book came

104
00:05:26,860 --> 00:05:21,889
out

105
00:05:30,790 --> 00:05:26,870
also Richard Dawkins book and a year

106
00:05:33,190 --> 00:05:30,800
later Daniel Dennett and those and

107
00:05:35,409 --> 00:05:33,200
Christopher Hitchens of course was God

108
00:05:37,959 --> 00:05:35,419
is not great held religion poisons

109
00:05:40,629 --> 00:05:37,969
everything and those four authors

110
00:05:41,409 --> 00:05:40,639
to be known as the Four Horsemen of the

111
00:05:43,899 --> 00:05:41,419
New Atheism

112
00:05:46,209 --> 00:05:43,909
and so then I wrote a book called the

113
00:05:48,729 --> 00:05:46,219

dubious atheism about their ideas I kind

114

00:05:51,639 --> 00:05:48,739

of included myself since I'd had also

115

00:05:56,109 --> 00:05:51,649

written a best-seller during that same

116

00:05:58,539 --> 00:05:56,119

period and so I listed myself as kind of

117

00:06:01,569 --> 00:05:58,549

the stable man of the disabled boy of

118

00:06:03,879 --> 00:06:01,579

the year well I think more than a

119

00:06:06,339 --> 00:06:03,889

stableboy but I think that's fair to to

120

00:06:10,449 --> 00:06:06,349

throw you in that lot you certainly make

121

00:06:12,969 --> 00:06:10,459

a very convincing argument for standing

122

00:06:16,329 --> 00:06:12,979

up to fuzzy thinking if you will and I

123

00:06:18,539 --> 00:06:16,339

like how you really push the point that

124

00:06:20,889 --> 00:06:18,549

we shouldn't give religious folks an

125

00:06:23,889 --> 00:06:20,899

intellectual free pass in this

126

00:06:26,109 --> 00:06:23,899

discussion and I imagine tell us a

127

00:06:28,689 --> 00:06:26,119

little bit about that and maybe why you

128

00:06:30,609 --> 00:06:28,699

felt that was necessary to really stand

129

00:06:33,249 --> 00:06:30,619

up and say that to what extent do we

130

00:06:35,289 --> 00:06:33,259

give folks a free pass just because they

131

00:06:37,989 --> 00:06:35,299

say this is my belief this is this is my

132

00:06:39,639 --> 00:06:37,999

religion this is what I tried to say was

133

00:06:40,269 --> 00:06:39,649

the major difference between the New

134

00:06:43,179 --> 00:06:40,279

Atheists

135

00:06:44,949 --> 00:06:43,189

and what might be called the old atheist

136

00:06:47,739 --> 00:06:44,959

so believe me I got a lot of flack from

137

00:06:51,459 --> 00:06:47,749

from all the way theists people who've

138

00:06:54,489 --> 00:06:51,469

been in the field of writing about

139

00:06:57,219 --> 00:06:54,499

atheism longer than I was and then they

140

00:06:59,259 --> 00:06:57,229

felt kind of couldn't kind of left out I

141

00:07:02,439 --> 00:06:59,269

should have included them but most of

142

00:07:04,179 --> 00:07:02,449

these people were more accommodationist

143

00:07:07,689 --> 00:07:04,189

toward religion they had the attitude

144

00:07:09,549 --> 00:07:07,699

that we had to go along with with the

145

00:07:10,959 --> 00:07:09,559

religion after all they're the majority

146

00:07:13,239 --> 00:07:10,969

we have to try to get them on our side

147

00:07:16,119 --> 00:07:13,249

especially with regard to things like

148

00:07:18,429 --> 00:07:16,129

the teaching of evolution in schools we

149

00:07:20,859 --> 00:07:18,439

needed their support scientists in

150

00:07:26,350 --> 00:07:20,869

particular or even even though most

151

00:07:27,959 --> 00:07:26,360

scientists are are atheistic only 7% of

152

00:07:31,359 --> 00:07:27,969

the National Academy of Sciences

153

00:07:34,989 --> 00:07:31,369

believes in a personal God and certainly

154

00:07:40,539 --> 00:07:34,999

a majority of people call themselves

155

00:07:43,569 --> 00:07:40,549

scientists also or non-believers but

156

00:07:46,389 --> 00:07:43,579

they all for the most part most all of

157

00:07:48,609 --> 00:07:46,399

them or want to avoid getting into any

158

00:07:51,320 --> 00:07:48,619

conflict with with religion because

159

00:07:52,700 --> 00:07:51,330

they're worried about probably

160

00:07:54,439 --> 00:07:52,710

more than anything about support for

161

00:07:56,749 --> 00:07:54,449

science they don't want to lose some

162

00:07:59,420 --> 00:07:56,759

public support for science which after

163

00:08:02,510 --> 00:07:59,430

all requires a lot of tax money to

164

00:08:04,850 --> 00:08:02,520

proceed and we the the Four Horsemen I

165

00:08:08,480 --> 00:08:04,860

did ponder that we saw the merits of

166

00:08:10,240 --> 00:08:08,490

that argument that you you really want

167

00:08:16,540 --> 00:08:10,250

to try to get along much as possible

168

00:08:22,040 --> 00:08:16,550

within society but I the way I tried to

169

00:08:25,600 --> 00:08:22,050

explain it was that in the long run what

170

00:08:28,360 --> 00:08:25,610

was important was to question the whole

171

00:08:31,879 --> 00:08:28,370

thinking process that's involved with

172

00:08:36,079 --> 00:08:31,889

religion because this is what makes

173

00:08:39,310 --> 00:08:36,089

people to believe in nonsense the idea

174

00:08:42,380 --> 00:08:39,320

that there can be something outside of

175

00:08:45,590 --> 00:08:42,390

your senses that for which there's

176
00:08:48,470 --> 00:08:45,600
absolutely no evidence is something that

177
00:08:52,850 --> 00:08:48,480
should not be just swept under the rug

178
00:08:54,650 --> 00:08:52,860
we should be willing to - Louie

179
00:08:57,860 --> 00:08:54,660
scientists should be willing to stand up

180
00:09:00,110 --> 00:08:57,870
and say look that's just not the

181
00:09:01,610 --> 00:09:00,120
scientific fact that you're talking

182
00:09:03,500 --> 00:09:01,620
about there even though you're claiming

183
00:09:07,040 --> 00:09:03,510
it isn't so that's if they didn't claim

184
00:09:09,800 --> 00:09:07,050
if people didn't claim scientific

185
00:09:12,130 --> 00:09:09,810
support for before these ideas for

186
00:09:15,910 --> 00:09:12,140
things like ESP and quantum

187
00:09:18,500 --> 00:09:15,920
consciousness and in God for that matter

188
00:09:20,810 --> 00:09:18,510

then we wouldn't have a complaint but

189

00:09:22,100 --> 00:09:20,820

well I'll agree with you on many of those

190

00:09:23,840 --> 00:09:22,110

points I disagree with you and a lot of

191

00:09:25,880 --> 00:09:23,850

them - but the part point I really want

192

00:09:29,509 --> 00:09:25,890

to focus on that I do agree with is that

193

00:09:31,670 --> 00:09:29,519

I don't think it helps to let that kind

194

00:09:34,730 --> 00:09:31,680

of fuzzy thinking stand and I think

195

00:09:36,860 --> 00:09:34,740

standing up for just saying we have to

196

00:09:38,449 --> 00:09:36,870

use this kind of method this kind of

197

00:09:40,810 --> 00:09:38,459

logic and reason to sort these things

198

00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:40,820

out I don't know why we would want to

199

00:09:46,100 --> 00:09:44,010

accommodate people and give them a free

200

00:09:48,079 --> 00:09:46,110

pass I don't know how that serves any

201

00:09:50,660 --> 00:09:48,089

good I think it plays into this kind of

202

00:09:53,540 --> 00:09:50,670

schizophrenia that we have about science

203

00:09:55,490 --> 00:09:53,550

as a society where we you know we only

204

00:09:57,829 --> 00:09:55,500

elect people that make these

205

00:09:59,389 --> 00:09:57,839

proclamations about their faith and yet

206

00:10:02,180 --> 00:09:59,399

at the same time I mean does anyone

207

00:10:04,410 --> 00:10:02,190

really believe that Obama is a Christian

208

00:10:07,110 --> 00:10:04,420

I don't think so so we have this kind of

209

00:10:10,050 --> 00:10:07,120

schizophrenia going on and I really

210

00:10:11,970 --> 00:10:10,060

applaud the efforts that you've made to

211

00:10:13,530 --> 00:10:11,980

kind of bring that out front and throw

212

00:10:17,790 --> 00:10:13,540

it on the table and say let's hash this

213

00:10:20,070 --> 00:10:17,800

out with the best methods that we give

214

00:10:23,070 --> 00:10:20,080

you a very specific example very central

215

00:10:24,960 --> 00:10:23,080

example and that has to do with with

216

00:10:26,250 --> 00:10:24,970

evolution the scientific community

217

00:10:29,070 --> 00:10:26,260

including the National Academy of

218

00:10:31,440 --> 00:10:29,080

Sciences is this and many other

219

00:10:33,810 --> 00:10:31,450

organizations have all made statements

220

00:10:37,110 --> 00:10:33,820

to the effect that there's no reason for

221

00:10:39,510 --> 00:10:37,120

people to to fear evolution that

222

00:10:42,600 --> 00:10:39,520

evolution does not challenge religious

223

00:10:45,060 --> 00:10:42,610

belief and that's for all them and

224

00:10:49,580 --> 00:10:45,070

furthermore right furthermore most

225

00:10:55,530 --> 00:10:49,590

believers know what's wrong there was a

226

00:11:01,100 --> 00:10:55,540

there was a Gallup poll that showed that

227

00:11:03,540 --> 00:11:01,110

only 16% of Americans believe in in

228

00:11:06,270 --> 00:11:03,550

Darwinian evolution which is the random

229

00:11:12,330 --> 00:11:06,280

mutation evolution the rest either

230

00:11:15,360 --> 00:11:12,340

believe in in creationism as described

231

00:11:19,050 --> 00:11:15,370

in the Bible the 6,000 year old the

232

00:11:23,510 --> 00:11:19,060

creationist theory or those who are

233

00:11:28,800 --> 00:11:23,520

willing to accept evolution in terms of

234

00:11:30,630 --> 00:11:28,810

you want to be an old earth the life

235

00:11:33,440 --> 00:11:30,640

evolved over million of billions of

236

00:11:36,690 --> 00:11:33,450

years they accept that but they still

237

00:11:40,080 --> 00:11:36,700

they still say it's guided by God that's

238

00:11:42,570 --> 00:11:40,090

theistic evolution and if you look at

239

00:11:46,680 --> 00:11:42,580

the 16% number that's exactly the number

240

00:11:48,810 --> 00:11:46,690

of people who who say they don't belong

241

00:11:51,950 --> 00:11:48,820

to any religion now of course it could

242

00:11:56,670 --> 00:11:51,960

be overlap but but it seems reasonable

243

00:12:00,840 --> 00:11:56,680

to suspect that most believers if not

244

00:12:09,269 --> 00:12:00,850

all believers and either don't believe

245

00:12:12,750 --> 00:12:09,279

in evolution at all or that's about 40

246

00:12:15,540 --> 00:12:12,760

believe it amount of Americans of the

247

00:12:18,569 --> 00:12:15,550

recent poll of 34 countries developed

248

00:12:20,310 --> 00:12:18,579

countries showed that only turkey of

249

00:12:22,410 --> 00:12:20,320

these 30 for developed countries only

250

00:12:27,090 --> 00:12:22,420

Turkey has a lower belief in evolution

251
00:12:28,769 --> 00:12:27,100
than than we do so these people who say

252
00:12:33,150 --> 00:12:28,779
they believe in evolution the moderate

253
00:12:34,800 --> 00:12:33,160
Christians the Catholic Church what they

254
00:12:38,490 --> 00:12:34,810
really believe in is what's called

255
00:12:40,560 --> 00:12:38,500
theistic evolution if you want to read

256
00:12:46,550 --> 00:12:40,570
about the istic rug rat the evolution

257
00:12:53,069 --> 00:12:50,210
Francis Collins the director of the

258
00:12:56,430 --> 00:12:53,079
National Institutes of Health's the

259
00:12:59,220 --> 00:12:56,440
language of God where he shows why he

260
00:13:01,829 --> 00:12:59,230
believes in God and when it's consistent

261
00:13:05,129 --> 00:13:01,839
with science and of course he's it he's

262
00:13:06,600 --> 00:13:05,139
a very much Pro evolutionist the expert

263
00:13:10,800 --> 00:13:06,610

on DNA leads

264

00:13:14,040 --> 00:13:10,810

let the human genome project and yet

265

00:13:16,860 --> 00:13:14,050

he'll give you a good explanation of

266

00:13:18,540 --> 00:13:16,870

what is what a cystic evolution in other

267

00:13:20,910 --> 00:13:18,550

words God still behind it God just

268

00:13:22,680 --> 00:13:20,920

happened to choose to do it this way if

269

00:13:24,900 --> 00:13:22,690

he threw the dice in other words he

270

00:13:29,699 --> 00:13:24,910

randomized the universe when he created

271

00:13:31,889 --> 00:13:29,709

it and let it just run but see when he

272

00:13:33,660 --> 00:13:31,899

was still there behind it directing it

273

00:13:35,819 --> 00:13:33,670

to make sure that humans evolved and

274

00:13:38,939 --> 00:13:35,829

that's the difference the difference is

275

00:13:44,129 --> 00:13:38,949

that in Darwinian evolution Humanity is

276

00:13:47,240 --> 00:13:44,139

a pure accident that a few you started

277

00:13:50,970 --> 00:13:47,250

all over again humans wouldn't evolve

278

00:13:54,540 --> 00:13:50,980

the the world could still be filled with

279

00:13:57,300 --> 00:13:54,550

Dinosaurs if this wasn't that accidental

280

00:14:04,410 --> 00:13:57,310

asteroid that hit Hitler 65 million

281

00:14:08,639 --> 00:14:04,420

years ago so the idea that humans are

282

00:14:15,389 --> 00:14:08,649

are just accidental production of a

283

00:14:19,769 --> 00:14:15,399

random process is totally incompatible

284

00:14:21,569 --> 00:14:19,779

totally irreconcilable with the standard

285

00:14:22,830 --> 00:14:21,579

religious belief that he was a special

286

00:14:24,420 --> 00:14:22,840

creations of God

287

00:14:27,810 --> 00:14:24,430

we are special that were destined for

288

00:14:31,019 --> 00:14:27,820

eternity and so on that's just so in

289

00:14:35,160 --> 00:14:31,029

violation of Darwinian evolution and yet

290

00:14:37,710 --> 00:14:35,170

people still take that as a possibility

291

00:14:39,300 --> 00:14:37,720

that God still created the whole thing

292

00:14:41,220 --> 00:14:39,310

to begin with oh that's not evolution

293

00:14:42,750 --> 00:14:41,230

that's intelligent design well you know

294

00:14:44,640 --> 00:14:42,760

that relates to another point that I

295

00:14:47,730 --> 00:14:44,650

think you make very convincingly and

296

00:14:50,940 --> 00:14:47,740

that's this idea of exposing if you will

297

00:14:52,500 --> 00:14:50,950

the moderate Christian and maybe you

298

00:14:54,680 --> 00:14:52,510

want to speak to that a little bit in

299

00:14:56,820 --> 00:14:54,690

how we can get into this

300

00:14:58,740 --> 00:14:56,830

accommodationist mode where we want to

301
00:15:00,769 --> 00:14:58,750
say oh gee things really are the same

302
00:15:03,060 --> 00:15:00,779
and I think maybe you just did that and

303
00:15:05,280 --> 00:15:03,070
what you're saying is that when we

304
00:15:07,620 --> 00:15:05,290
really strip it down no there are some

305
00:15:09,390 --> 00:15:07,630
there are some fundamental differences

306
00:15:12,420 --> 00:15:09,400
that we really have to deal with and

307
00:15:15,210 --> 00:15:12,430
let's deal with them yes I I have had a

308
00:15:20,130 --> 00:15:15,220
long-standing argument with Eugenie

309
00:15:22,260 --> 00:15:20,140
Scott who's the director of the the

310
00:15:24,990 --> 00:15:22,270
National Center for Science education

311
00:15:29,310 --> 00:15:25,000
that which does wonderful work in in

312
00:15:31,890 --> 00:15:29,320
promoting evolution and keeping it in

313
00:15:36,090 --> 00:15:31,900

front on the front burner so that people

314

00:15:38,970 --> 00:15:36,100

know about it understand it and make

315

00:15:42,300 --> 00:15:38,980

sure that it it's taught in schools

316

00:15:44,780 --> 00:15:42,310

properly and my argument batteries he's

317

00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:44,790

constantly making the statement that

318

00:15:50,250 --> 00:15:48,010

evolution is not does not contradict

319

00:15:51,810 --> 00:15:50,260

their religion and they see the same

320

00:15:54,180 --> 00:15:51,820

thing that's in the National Academy of

321

00:15:57,180 --> 00:15:54,190

Sciences and I might claim this is just

322

00:15:59,340 --> 00:15:57,190

wrong on my people and this is a big

323

00:16:01,620 --> 00:15:59,350

difference between God guided evolution

324

00:16:03,540 --> 00:16:01,630

theistic evolution and natural

325

00:16:06,690 --> 00:16:03,550

naturalist what's called naturalist

326

00:16:09,420 --> 00:16:06,700

evolution where were God play any role

327

00:16:12,540 --> 00:16:09,430

in it at all right well you know that's

328

00:16:15,030 --> 00:16:12,550

great I mean we might not agree on much

329

00:16:17,040 --> 00:16:15,040

else the rest of this interview but I

330

00:16:18,750 --> 00:16:17,050

certainly like the way that you approach

331

00:16:21,510 --> 00:16:18,760

these topics and I'd like to kind of

332

00:16:23,550 --> 00:16:21,520

take that approach and move it forward

333

00:16:26,400 --> 00:16:23,560

as we talk to talk about a couple of the

334

00:16:28,380 --> 00:16:26,410

topics from your book God in the folly

335

00:16:32,040 --> 00:16:28,390

of faith so next I guess I'd like to

336

00:16:34,020 --> 00:16:32,050

talk about consciousness and your take

337

00:16:36,150 --> 00:16:34,030

on the current state of consciousness

338

00:16:36,630 --> 00:16:36,160

research because I got to tell you we've

339

00:16:38,550 --> 00:16:36,640

had the

340

00:16:41,040 --> 00:16:38,560

opportunity to interview some of the

341

00:16:43,200 --> 00:16:41,050

world's leading neuroscientists and

342

00:16:46,560 --> 00:16:43,210

particularly consciousness researchers

343

00:16:49,350 --> 00:16:46,570

people like Christoph cough Stuart

344

00:16:52,290 --> 00:16:49,360

Hameroff folks that if you go to the

345

00:16:53,700 --> 00:16:52,300

consciousness conference as these guys

346

00:16:55,680 --> 00:16:53,710

are front and center some of the most

347

00:16:57,750 --> 00:16:55,690

prominent researchers and they're coming

348

00:17:01,200 --> 00:16:57,760

back and telling us hey wait a minute

349

00:17:03,180 --> 00:17:01,210

this materialistic very reductionistic

350

00:17:05,790 --> 00:17:03,190

idea we've had about consciousness

351

00:17:09,420 --> 00:17:05,800

probably isn't going to hold up here

352

00:17:12,300 --> 00:17:09,430

guys and we have to start looking beyond

353

00:17:15,660 --> 00:17:12,310

a material explanation for consciousness

354

00:17:19,230 --> 00:17:15,670

what is your take on the state of that

355

00:17:22,280 --> 00:17:19,240

rule at all people he mentioned another

356

00:17:24,689 --> 00:17:22,290

another all representative of the neuro

357

00:17:29,190 --> 00:17:24,699

science community you mentioned Stuart

358

00:17:32,460 --> 00:17:29,200

Hameroff he's not even a neuroscientist

359

00:17:35,340 --> 00:17:32,470

he's he say is as far as I know he's an

360

00:17:41,100 --> 00:17:35,350

anesthesiologist he's gotten off on this

361

00:17:45,390 --> 00:17:41,110

on this quantum thing with in which

362

00:17:49,880 --> 00:17:45,400

there microtubules and in the brain that

363

00:17:52,800 --> 00:17:49,890

carry quantum coherent notions around it

364

00:17:54,750 --> 00:17:52,810

they're a fringe element of the

365

00:17:57,600 --> 00:17:54,760

consciousness community they have a lot

366

00:17:59,970 --> 00:17:57,610

of conferences and so on but you if you

367

00:18:03,000 --> 00:17:59,980

look at the the real neuroscience you

368

00:18:05,550 --> 00:18:03,010

find the people who write on

369

00:18:12,330 --> 00:18:05,560

neuroscience there's philosophers of

370

00:18:14,250 --> 00:18:12,340

mind none of them take that seriously

371

00:18:16,710 --> 00:18:14,260

and it shouldn't be taken seriously

372

00:18:19,440 --> 00:18:16,720

because there's absolutely no no basis

373

00:18:21,300 --> 00:18:19,450

whatsoever for saying that there's some

374

00:18:23,940 --> 00:18:21,310

quantum phenomena involved in the

375

00:18:26,700 --> 00:18:23,950

thinking process it's nonsense total

376

00:18:28,320 --> 00:18:26,710

nonsense I think I got to push you a

377

00:18:31,160 --> 00:18:28,330

little bit to back off from that I mean

378

00:18:35,460 --> 00:18:31,170

when you talk about Christoph cop he's

379

00:18:38,030 --> 00:18:35,470

you know Caltech professor if you go

380

00:18:40,920 --> 00:18:38,040

through the roster of the consciousness

381

00:18:43,080 --> 00:18:40,930

conferences which are the meeting place

382

00:18:44,910 --> 00:18:43,090

for researchers who are interested in

383

00:18:46,950 --> 00:18:44,920

this you're gonna have a real divide

384

00:18:48,600 --> 00:18:46,960

you're gonna have probably about a 50/50

385

00:18:49,730 --> 00:18:48,610

percent of people who are going to side

386

00:18:52,700 --> 00:18:49,740

with

387

00:18:55,990 --> 00:18:52,710

folks like Hameroff III agree that

388

00:18:58,340 --> 00:18:56,000

there's still a lot of discussion about

389

00:19:02,810 --> 00:18:58,350

about the nature of consciousness that

390

00:19:05,840 --> 00:19:02,820

it's not settled and and I'm not

391

00:19:09,320 --> 00:19:05,850

claiming that something might eventually

392

00:19:10,790 --> 00:19:09,330

be found where there's some immaterial

393

00:19:13,190 --> 00:19:10,800

element involved but that would be

394

00:19:17,450 --> 00:19:13,200

astounding that would mean that that the

395

00:19:21,169 --> 00:19:17,460

whole materialistic view of science of

396

00:19:22,880 --> 00:19:21,179

the nature of the universe was wrong and

397

00:19:26,870 --> 00:19:22,890

that there's a duality there's something

398

00:19:29,240 --> 00:19:26,880

else besides matter out there but boy to

399

00:19:31,010 --> 00:19:29,250

be able to show that they need to do

400

00:19:32,930 --> 00:19:31,020

more than just argue make these

401

00:19:35,090 --> 00:19:32,940

theoretical arguments about quantum

402

00:19:36,470 --> 00:19:35,100

mechanics and so on especially when they

403

00:19:37,700 --> 00:19:36,480

don't even know what they're talking

404

00:19:39,560 --> 00:19:37,710

about when they're talking about quantum

405

00:19:42,560 --> 00:19:39,570

mechanics I don't care how expert they

406

00:19:45,380 --> 00:19:42,570

might be in the mind if about what they

407

00:19:47,360 --> 00:19:45,390

say about quantum mechanics is and I can

408

00:19:48,890 --> 00:19:47,370

testify as a physicist and believe me

409

00:19:51,770 --> 00:19:48,900

there and any number of other physicists

410

00:19:55,790 --> 00:19:51,780

out there max tegmark for one who could

411

00:19:57,919 --> 00:19:55,800

point out in in great mathematical

412

00:20:00,560 --> 00:19:57,929

detail why the assumptions these people

413

00:20:02,030 --> 00:20:00,570

make it wrong well I think there's a

414

00:20:06,110 --> 00:20:02,040

lot of folks that have gone down that

415

00:20:07,730 --> 00:20:06,120

path I mean this is a very hot area of

416

00:20:10,250 --> 00:20:07,740

research I don't think these guys are

417

00:20:12,799 --> 00:20:10,260

off in the corner kind of doing their

418

00:20:14,419 --> 00:20:12,809

own thing without any scrutiny I mean

419

00:20:17,600 --> 00:20:14,429

they're publishing and people are

420

00:20:20,419 --> 00:20:17,610

criticizing in or supporting both the

421

00:20:24,110 --> 00:20:20,429

the quantum physics aspect of it as well

422

00:20:26,140 --> 00:20:24,120

as some of the neurobiology aspect of it

423

00:20:27,760 --> 00:20:26,150

you know as you mentioned ham raphson

424

00:20:29,810 --> 00:20:27,770

anesthesiologist and it's kind of

425

00:20:32,419 --> 00:20:29,820

crossing disciplines here but he

426

00:20:34,820 --> 00:20:32,429

certainly aligned himself with Nobel

427

00:20:37,430 --> 00:20:34,830

prize-winner I mean some of the top

428

00:20:39,140 --> 00:20:37,440

people in the field so but let's move on

429

00:20:41,299 --> 00:20:39,150

from that a little bit because what I

430

00:20:43,910 --> 00:20:41,309

really wanted to get with that is what

431

00:20:46,700 --> 00:20:43,920

is at stake and you touched on it a

432

00:20:49,669 --> 00:20:46,710

little bit what is at stake for atheism

433

00:20:53,330 --> 00:20:49,679

with this idea of consciousness being

434

00:20:56,740 --> 00:20:53,340

more than materialism more than the mind

435

00:21:00,460 --> 00:20:56,750

being more than just the brain okay I

436

00:21:02,670 --> 00:21:00,470

know that is those who were scientists

437

00:21:05,190 --> 00:21:02,680

science really understand

438

00:21:07,530 --> 00:21:05,200

the scientific method will say if you

439

00:21:11,220 --> 00:21:07,540

know you show me the evidence for

440

00:21:14,010 --> 00:21:11,230

something beyond matter then we'll

441

00:21:16,740 --> 00:21:14,020

believe it so we're we're open to that

442

00:21:18,660 --> 00:21:16,750

it's not so much that we have any

443

00:21:20,760 --> 00:21:18,670

particular state other than the state of

444

00:21:23,100 --> 00:21:20,770

determining the truth of it as best as

445

00:21:24,780 --> 00:21:23,110

we can and that's the problem these

446

00:21:29,780 --> 00:21:24,790

people are charlatans who are claiming

447

00:21:32,820 --> 00:21:29,790

that that there's evidence for a quantum

448

00:21:34,680 --> 00:21:32,830

aspect of the mind that's just not true

449

00:21:36,360 --> 00:21:34,690

maybe they'll find one someday we're

450

00:21:38,610 --> 00:21:36,370

open to that but they just do not have

451
00:21:41,520 --> 00:21:38,620
the data to support that and they don't

452
00:21:43,169 --> 00:21:41,530
have the theory to support that and that

453
00:21:45,090 --> 00:21:43,179
that's the thing that's so upsetting

454
00:21:46,560 --> 00:21:45,100
about it because they were able to get

455
00:21:51,840 --> 00:21:46,570
away with this because they're talking

456
00:21:53,700 --> 00:21:51,850
to audiences who are not aware of the

457
00:21:56,450 --> 00:21:53,710
science I really don't know the science

458
00:21:58,799 --> 00:21:56,460
you're not saying Christophe Kok is a

459
00:22:01,290 --> 00:21:58,809
charlatan or Stuart Hameroff is a

460
00:22:02,910 --> 00:22:01,300
charlatan since I assume right so who

461
00:22:04,770 --> 00:22:02,920
are the charlatans I know that I know

462
00:22:05,940 --> 00:22:04,780
Stanley Creek there I know there's some

463
00:22:09,990 --> 00:22:05,950

of the other people that are on the list

464

00:22:14,430 --> 00:22:10,000

of people that use you've interviewed in

465

00:22:16,710 --> 00:22:14,440

the past I saw your list and I'll tell

466

00:22:19,049 --> 00:22:16,720

you they're not part of any mainstream

467

00:22:21,840 --> 00:22:19,059

that I know of so do you think Stanley

468

00:22:23,240 --> 00:22:21,850

Crippler is a Charlotte absolutely okay

469

00:22:25,590 --> 00:22:23,250

fair enough

470

00:22:28,049 --> 00:22:25,600

let's approach this issue of

471

00:22:30,090 --> 00:22:28,059

consciousness from another angle and

472

00:22:31,530 --> 00:22:30,100

that is from something you talk about in

473

00:22:33,990 --> 00:22:31,540

your book and certainly something we've

474

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:34,000

talked a lot about on this show so it's

475

00:22:38,010 --> 00:22:36,010

probably going to be a real hotbed of

476

00:22:40,530 --> 00:22:38,020

discussion and that's near-death

477

00:22:42,990 --> 00:22:40,540

experience we've looked at it from both

478

00:22:45,120 --> 00:22:43,000

proponents perspective and skeptical

479

00:22:47,490 --> 00:22:45,130

perspective you covered a lot in your

480

00:22:48,630 --> 00:22:47,500

book and and here's a case where we have

481

00:22:50,820 --> 00:22:48,640

as we were just talking about the

482

00:22:53,160 --> 00:22:50,830

neuroscientists coming at this question

483

00:22:54,900 --> 00:22:53,170

of mind equal brain duality from one

484

00:22:56,310 --> 00:22:54,910

angle and here you have these medical

485

00:22:58,530 --> 00:22:56,320

folks that are coming at it from another

486

00:23:01,890 --> 00:22:58,540

angle saying hey these people seem to be

487

00:23:04,500 --> 00:23:01,900

dying on my hospital bed and yet they're

488

00:23:07,740 --> 00:23:04,510

coming back and they're telling us these

489

00:23:10,020 --> 00:23:07,750

stories so what is your overall take on

490

00:23:13,140 --> 00:23:10,030

the near-death experience research what

491

00:23:16,480 --> 00:23:13,150

you have again it's a matter of the

492

00:23:18,910 --> 00:23:16,490

scientific evidence I have suggests

493

00:23:21,010 --> 00:23:18,920

the experiments that could be performed

494

00:23:22,510 --> 00:23:21,020

and some of them have been a law was a

495

00:23:26,520 --> 00:23:22,520

version of the suggested mental claim

496

00:23:29,110 --> 00:23:26,530

that they're following my lead but a

497

00:23:36,090 --> 00:23:29,120

very simple experiment that you could do

498

00:23:41,130 --> 00:23:36,100

is is this put some random number or

499

00:23:44,980 --> 00:23:41,140

phrase up on a table over an operating

500

00:23:46,480 --> 00:23:44,990

table on a counter up high above an

501
00:23:48,760 --> 00:23:46,490
operating table and so when someone

502
00:23:50,380 --> 00:23:48,770
floats above has this near-death

503
00:23:52,480 --> 00:23:50,390
experience where very often they match

504
00:23:54,790 --> 00:23:52,490
themselves floating above the operating

505
00:23:56,440 --> 00:23:54,800
table didn't have them read this message

506
00:24:00,220 --> 00:23:56,450
and return with it and that would be

507
00:24:03,760 --> 00:24:00,230
evidence that indeed they did do

508
00:24:05,620 --> 00:24:03,770
something supernatural and this has been

509
00:24:10,030 --> 00:24:05,630
tried at least a half a dozen times and

510
00:24:13,360 --> 00:24:10,040
it's never worked and similarly every

511
00:24:16,240 --> 00:24:13,370
other claim that's made is just that I

512
00:24:19,210 --> 00:24:16,250
had a patient has had this experience

513
00:24:21,190 --> 00:24:19,220

and makes all these claims and none of

514

00:24:24,220 --> 00:24:21,200

them are verifiable in fact you don't

515

00:24:28,140 --> 00:24:24,230

even know that the person that this

516

00:24:34,690 --> 00:24:28,150

happened during a period of what

517

00:24:37,710 --> 00:24:34,700

possible brain although you know the

518

00:24:42,700 --> 00:24:37,720

flat line of should be talked about on

519

00:24:45,400 --> 00:24:42,710

their concept esophagram is just

520

00:24:47,020 --> 00:24:45,410

thinking up a signal from the outer part

521

00:24:48,820 --> 00:24:47,030

of the brain the inner part of the brain

522

00:24:51,070 --> 00:24:48,830

could still be could still be

523

00:24:56,160 --> 00:24:51,080

functioning so there's no evidence that

524

00:24:59,110 --> 00:24:56,170

any of them were were in any kind of a

525

00:25:00,640 --> 00:24:59,120

true death state when they had this

526
00:25:03,760 --> 00:25:00,650
experience for anymore you don't know

527
00:25:05,140 --> 00:25:03,770
that when even when their brain was

528
00:25:06,250 --> 00:25:05,150
flatlined that they were having that

529
00:25:08,650 --> 00:25:06,260
experience there's no way of knowing

530
00:25:11,049 --> 00:25:08,660
that this story that they come back with

531
00:25:13,780 --> 00:25:11,059
that occurred during that period so

532
00:25:16,390 --> 00:25:13,790
there just isn't the data to back this

533
00:25:19,660 --> 00:25:16,400
up you just have these personal

534
00:25:23,169 --> 00:25:19,670
experiences now I really admit that the

535
00:25:26,020 --> 00:25:23,179
people having the experience feel very

536
00:25:27,850 --> 00:25:26,030
profound about it very often it even

537
00:25:29,510 --> 00:25:27,860
changes their their lives because they'd

538
00:25:32,510 --> 00:25:29,520

be completely convinced that the

539

00:25:33,980 --> 00:25:32,520

after life after all yeah yeah but Vic

540

00:25:36,169 --> 00:25:33,990

we don't neither one of us care very

541

00:25:37,970 --> 00:25:36,179

much about that or that data what I do

542

00:25:39,620 --> 00:25:37,980

is come back and challenge you on some

543

00:25:41,960 --> 00:25:39,630

of that other data that you're kind of

544

00:25:44,090 --> 00:25:41,970

throwing out there one is the experiment

545

00:25:46,970 --> 00:25:44,100

that you've kind of outlined this seeing

546

00:25:49,640 --> 00:25:46,980

images above the bed is one that's being

547

00:25:51,799 --> 00:25:49,650

done right now by dr. Sam Varney of

548

00:25:53,660 --> 00:25:51,809

course and he's been on the show and

549

00:25:56,360 --> 00:25:53,670

we've talked to him I don't think that's

550

00:25:57,799 --> 00:25:56,370

the only experiment you could do and I

551
00:25:59,900 --> 00:25:57,809
don't think you're suggesting it's the

552
00:26:02,270 --> 00:25:59,910
only experiment you can do as a matter

553
00:26:04,580 --> 00:26:02,280
of fact we've also had on dr. penny

554
00:26:06,530 --> 00:26:04,590
Sartori who is a colleague of Sam par

555
00:26:08,980 --> 00:26:06,540
Nia and they've done an experiment

556
00:26:11,299 --> 00:26:08,990
related to that that has shown very

557
00:26:13,400 --> 00:26:11,309
significant results and I think is very

558
00:26:16,370 --> 00:26:13,410
convincing is what they do is when a

559
00:26:20,320 --> 00:26:16,380
patient recovers after a near-death

560
00:26:22,640 --> 00:26:20,330
experience they ask him to relate their

561
00:26:24,200 --> 00:26:22,650
resuscitation process what was the

562
00:26:26,720 --> 00:26:24,210
process that they went through and being

563
00:26:29,240 --> 00:26:26,730

resuscitated and then they compare that

564

00:26:31,400 --> 00:26:29,250

to a control group of people who didn't

565

00:26:33,110 --> 00:26:31,410

have a near-death experience so this is

566

00:26:36,500 --> 00:26:33,120

another way to see whether there is

567

00:26:39,500 --> 00:26:36,510

really a component of knowing during

568

00:26:41,810 --> 00:26:39,510

that state of being dead that is

569

00:26:43,820 --> 00:26:41,820

verifiable and they've found they've

570

00:26:45,410 --> 00:26:43,830

found very statistically significant

571

00:26:46,940 --> 00:26:45,420

results let me just throw in one more

572

00:26:48,770 --> 00:26:46,950

piece and then I'll let you let you

573

00:26:51,620 --> 00:26:48,780

respond to that the other part of that

574

00:26:55,370 --> 00:26:51,630

in terms of the EEG only measuring

575

00:26:57,860 --> 00:26:55,380

activity on the surface of the brain is

576
00:26:59,750 --> 00:26:57,870
something we've talked about and have

577
00:27:03,260 --> 00:26:59,760
interviewed some of the or one of the

578
00:27:05,480 --> 00:27:03,270
leading EEG researchers in the world and

579
00:27:08,540 --> 00:27:05,490
it just doesn't hold up there isn't

580
00:27:10,910 --> 00:27:08,550
really any current medical explanation

581
00:27:13,400 --> 00:27:10,920
for how someone could have anything

582
00:27:17,090 --> 00:27:13,410
approaching this kind of experience and

583
00:27:20,090 --> 00:27:17,100
yet have a flat EEG so if something like

584
00:27:21,770 --> 00:27:20,100
that is going on it's just highly highly

585
00:27:24,650 --> 00:27:21,780
doubtful that it is and it would totally

586
00:27:26,840 --> 00:27:24,660
overturn our understanding of how the

587
00:27:28,340 --> 00:27:26,850
brain works exactly the point I was

588
00:27:30,650 --> 00:27:28,350

making with you we have no way of

589

00:27:32,810 --> 00:27:30,660

knowing that the experience that they

590

00:27:34,400 --> 00:27:32,820

had occurred during the flatline they

591

00:27:37,280 --> 00:27:34,410

couldn't they have no way of knowing

592

00:27:38,810 --> 00:27:37,290

that what we do we do in the penny sir

593

00:27:40,130 --> 00:27:38,820

let me just let me just make sure we're

594

00:27:41,540 --> 00:27:40,140

talking about the same thing Vic I'll

595

00:27:42,860 --> 00:27:41,550

give you a plenty chance to talk but

596

00:27:43,360 --> 00:27:42,870

let's make sure we're talking about the

597

00:27:46,510 --> 00:27:43,370

same thing

598

00:27:48,760 --> 00:27:46,520

when dr. penny Sartori and dr. Peter

599

00:27:51,340 --> 00:27:48,770

fennec did that research where they

600

00:27:54,250 --> 00:27:51,350

interviewed people and asked them about

601
00:27:57,130 --> 00:27:54,260
the resuscitation process they did then

602
00:27:59,590 --> 00:27:57,140
by definition know that these people

603
00:28:02,050 --> 00:27:59,600
were their brain was severely

604
00:28:06,340 --> 00:28:02,060
compromised and yet they were able to

605
00:28:09,190 --> 00:28:06,350
accurately say the particular procedures

606
00:28:11,860 --> 00:28:09,200
that went on in their resuscitation much

607
00:28:13,750 --> 00:28:11,870
more accurately than folks who didn't

608
00:28:15,640 --> 00:28:13,760
have or claimed to have that auto body

609
00:28:18,850 --> 00:28:15,650
experience that seems to me to be very

610
00:28:21,160 --> 00:28:18,860
compelling evidence that they were able

611
00:28:22,990 --> 00:28:21,170
to have some recollection when their

612
00:28:24,370 --> 00:28:23,000
brain was severely compromised do you

613
00:28:26,140 --> 00:28:24,380

understand where I'm going they're also

614

00:28:30,400 --> 00:28:26,150

Jan Holden has also done a similar

615

00:28:32,950 --> 00:28:30,410

research along those lines totally

616

00:28:35,170 --> 00:28:32,960

unconvincing totally unconvincing they

617

00:28:38,320 --> 00:28:35,180

have no way of knowing that they just

618

00:28:39,850 --> 00:28:38,330

have their own ideas about about how the

619

00:28:41,980 --> 00:28:39,860

brain works what they don't know enough

620

00:28:45,340 --> 00:28:41,990

about the brain to say that it was

621

00:28:47,230 --> 00:28:45,350

impossible for a person to have some

622

00:28:49,360 --> 00:28:47,240

knowledge of what was going on some

623

00:28:51,040 --> 00:28:49,370

awareness of what was going on after all

624

00:28:53,470 --> 00:28:51,050

that was happening to them right there

625

00:28:57,070 --> 00:28:53,480

on the operating table they were having

626
00:28:59,650 --> 00:28:57,080
an X they were having a sensory input

627
00:29:01,510 --> 00:28:59,660
all all well that that was happening I

628
00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:01,520
don't see how they can say that was

629
00:29:06,760 --> 00:29:04,010
impossible well because their medical

630
00:29:08,560 --> 00:29:06,770
experts Vic I mean it totally defies our

631
00:29:10,720 --> 00:29:08,570
medical understanding of how the brain

632
00:29:13,570 --> 00:29:10,730
works I mean take another guy like Penn

633
00:29:17,230 --> 00:29:13,580
van LOM he's a cardiologist for 20 years

634
00:29:19,630 --> 00:29:17,240
he understands what happens to the brain

635
00:29:22,750 --> 00:29:19,640
what happens with his patients when they

636
00:29:25,240 --> 00:29:22,760
undergo resuscitation and he'll tell you

637
00:29:27,100 --> 00:29:25,250
and anyone who studied brain science

638
00:29:29,350 --> 00:29:27,110

will tell you that this is not

639

00:29:33,340 --> 00:29:29,360

consistent with what we'd expect people

640

00:29:34,810 --> 00:29:33,350

to be able to process or recall so we're

641

00:29:37,810 --> 00:29:34,820

really talking about something that is

642

00:29:41,050 --> 00:29:37,820

completely outside of our current

643

00:29:47,530 --> 00:29:41,060

understanding of how the brain works do

644

00:29:50,170 --> 00:29:47,540

you acknowledge that or no maybe they

645

00:29:52,150 --> 00:29:50,180

will but currently we don't understand

646

00:29:53,590 --> 00:29:52,160

it so currently we have to I mean I

647

00:29:56,140 --> 00:29:53,600

think we have to deal with what we have

648

00:29:56,590 --> 00:29:56,150

we can't project into the future and and

649

00:29:58,420 --> 00:29:56,600

get

650

00:29:59,500 --> 00:29:58,430

these promissory notes that someday will

651

00:30:01,900 --> 00:29:59,510

understand it that's why it's

652

00:30:05,770 --> 00:30:01,910

unconvincing because they can't they

653

00:30:09,300 --> 00:30:05,780

can't demonstrate any any scientific

654

00:30:13,900 --> 00:30:09,310

fact any observable fact that they can

655

00:30:17,080 --> 00:30:13,910

that they can show falsifies falsify is

656

00:30:19,660 --> 00:30:17,090

the hypothesis of a purely material

657

00:30:23,080 --> 00:30:19,670

brain that's what they have to do it's a

658

00:30:27,010 --> 00:30:23,090

very tough task I agree but to to claim

659

00:30:29,890 --> 00:30:27,020

that we have some aspect to existence

660

00:30:32,590 --> 00:30:29,900

sickos beyond the purely material is

661

00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:32,600

that extraordinary claim and only only

662

00:30:39,190 --> 00:30:36,010

the most extraordinary evidence could

663

00:30:40,750 --> 00:30:39,200

falsify that claim and this is so far

664

00:30:43,510 --> 00:30:40,760

from that just giving these guys

665

00:30:45,190 --> 00:30:43,520

opinions that all I don't know I don't

666

00:30:49,000 --> 00:30:45,200

understand that so therefore it must be

667

00:30:51,460 --> 00:30:49,010

it must be supernatural that is a silly

668

00:30:54,370 --> 00:30:51,470

god of the gaps argument that should not

669

00:31:00,840 --> 00:30:54,380

even be discussed because it's not it's

670

00:31:03,340 --> 00:31:00,850

not it's not science it's speculation I

671

00:31:07,510 --> 00:31:03,350

gotta say I wonder if you're really

672

00:31:09,400 --> 00:31:07,520

being fair and dispassionate with regard

673

00:31:11,710 --> 00:31:09,410

to really looking at this data you know

674

00:31:13,570 --> 00:31:11,720

when I was reading your book one of the

675

00:31:16,330 --> 00:31:13,580

costs that just jumped out at me was

676

00:31:18,250 --> 00:31:16,340

from Susan Blackmore near-death

677

00:31:20,320 --> 00:31:18,260

experience skeptic and someone we've had

678

00:31:23,260 --> 00:31:20,330

on the show a couple times and the quote

679

00:31:26,740 --> 00:31:23,270

from your book is that Susan having

680

00:31:29,170 --> 00:31:26,750

reviewed all the NDE evidence concluded

681

00:31:32,350 --> 00:31:29,180

that none of it holds up to scientific

682

00:31:33,940 --> 00:31:32,360

scrutiny and this to me kind of harkens

683

00:31:35,620 --> 00:31:33,950

back to the to the first part of our

684

00:31:37,650 --> 00:31:35,630

discussion we're having where we really

685

00:31:39,910 --> 00:31:37,660

have to have clear thinking and

686

00:31:42,910 --> 00:31:39,920

dispassionately cut through all the bull

687

00:31:46,090 --> 00:31:42,920

I mean I had Blackmore on the show in

688

00:31:49,030 --> 00:31:46,100

2010 and here is what she told me about

689

00:31:51,730 --> 00:31:49,040

her near-death experience research I

690

00:31:53,860 --> 00:31:51,740

gave all of this stuff up so many years

691

00:31:55,750 --> 00:31:53,870

ago if you're a researcher in the field

692

00:31:58,030 --> 00:31:55,760

that behooves you to read as much as you

693

00:32:00,250 --> 00:31:58,040

can about the best work otherwise you

694

00:32:03,490 --> 00:32:00,260

can't be a researcher in the field I am

695

00:32:06,850 --> 00:32:03,500

NOT a researcher in the field I have not

696

00:32:10,400 --> 00:32:06,860

been for a long time so why would we

697

00:32:13,070 --> 00:32:10,410

rely on Susan Blackmore

698

00:32:16,340 --> 00:32:13,080

quoted again and again and again by NDE

699

00:32:19,640 --> 00:32:16,350

skeptics as opposed to someone like dr.

700

00:32:21,140 --> 00:32:19,650

Jan Holden who is the editor along with

701
00:32:25,090 --> 00:32:21,150
Bruce Grayson of the handbook of

702
00:32:27,410 --> 00:32:25,100
near-death experiences has looked at 65

703
00:32:29,840 --> 00:32:27,420
peer-reviewed near-death experience

704
00:32:33,290 --> 00:32:29,850
studies from labs all over the world why

705
00:32:35,810 --> 00:32:33,300
would we prefer black war over Jan

706
00:32:38,240 --> 00:32:35,820
Holden I referred to in the book did you

707
00:32:40,970 --> 00:32:38,250
see that I said prefer not refer you

708
00:32:43,520 --> 00:32:40,980
refer to her but you did you preferred

709
00:32:45,110 --> 00:32:43,530
it hasn't been the evidence you talk

710
00:32:47,840 --> 00:32:45,120
about the experts what about Kenneth

711
00:32:50,660 --> 00:32:47,850
ring I mean you're not giving us fair

712
00:32:53,840 --> 00:32:50,670
representation of what's in what's in my

713
00:32:57,590 --> 00:32:53,850

book on this subject I I go through that

714

00:32:59,720 --> 00:32:57,600

I go through in great detail these fears

715

00:33:02,270 --> 00:32:59,730

reports like I mentioned that handbook

716

00:33:05,330 --> 00:33:02,280

and I refer to it in any number of

717

00:33:07,130 --> 00:33:05,340

places so no Vic I'm not saying that you

718

00:33:09,470 --> 00:33:07,140

don't mention the handbook but you don't

719

00:33:11,150 --> 00:33:09,480

mention Jan Holden's work in in a

720

00:33:14,300 --> 00:33:11,160

favorable light you say it doesn't hold

721

00:33:17,810 --> 00:33:14,310

up to scrutiny that's what you say well

722

00:33:20,750 --> 00:33:17,820

I mean Jan Holden concludes that nd E's

723

00:33:23,420 --> 00:33:20,760

are real and highly suggestive that

724

00:33:25,850 --> 00:33:23,430

consciousness survives death that's Jan

725

00:33:27,830 --> 00:33:25,860

Holden's position after having reviewed

726

00:33:29,960 --> 00:33:27,840

all the science and you disagree with

727

00:33:32,120 --> 00:33:29,970

that that's okay I'm just saying well I

728

00:33:34,490 --> 00:33:32,130

don't see that I misrepresenting your

729

00:33:40,490 --> 00:33:34,500

position but correct me I'm open to that

730

00:33:42,950 --> 00:33:40,500

no I don't recall so I I recall quoting

731

00:33:45,260 --> 00:33:42,960

her someplace where she says that we

732

00:33:48,020 --> 00:33:45,270

still are not convinced I have to find

733

00:33:52,010 --> 00:33:48,030

it for you Phebe's if I may take it I've

734

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:52,020

had Jan Holden on the show interviewed

735

00:33:56,120 --> 00:33:53,010

her at length

736

00:33:58,370 --> 00:33:56,130

she's quite clearly convinced that

737

00:34:00,920 --> 00:33:58,380

near-death experience research is

738

00:34:05,300 --> 00:34:00,930

suggestive of consciousness surviving

739

00:34:08,409 --> 00:34:05,310

death the basic point and that is that

740

00:34:11,870 --> 00:34:08,419

if someone had the near-death experience

741

00:34:14,540 --> 00:34:11,880

where they really did go into another

742

00:34:17,630 --> 00:34:14,550

realm of some sort they should return

743

00:34:23,820 --> 00:34:17,640

with some information that they couldn't

744

00:34:26,100 --> 00:34:23,830

possibly known not experience well

745

00:34:28,170 --> 00:34:26,110

operating table and their senses were

746

00:34:30,930 --> 00:34:28,180

still operating the occasions that is it

747

00:34:34,050 --> 00:34:30,940

as an example now something that they

748

00:34:37,350 --> 00:34:34,060

couldn't possibly have done and yet no

749

00:34:39,300 --> 00:34:37,360

one has so I don't understand how they

750

00:34:41,160 --> 00:34:39,310

think however they can claim anything

751
00:34:42,720 --> 00:34:41,170
except a they would like to like to

752
00:34:44,370 --> 00:34:42,730
believe and that's their what they'd be

753
00:34:48,440 --> 00:34:44,380
very famous of course if they could show

754
00:34:50,700 --> 00:34:48,450
that there was a world beyond matter but

755
00:34:53,310 --> 00:34:50,710
where they done that I don't think

756
00:34:56,820 --> 00:34:53,320
they've done much well this is when we

757
00:34:59,220 --> 00:34:56,830
get into debate I guess about the data

758
00:35:01,590 --> 00:34:59,230
and what is the data and how we should

759
00:35:03,750 --> 00:35:01,600
look at the data and I guess I just

760
00:35:06,600 --> 00:35:03,760
focusing on one other specific because

761
00:35:09,300 --> 00:35:06,610
in your book you talk about dr. Jeff

762
00:35:11,550 --> 00:35:09,310
Long someone else who we've had on this

763
00:35:13,430 --> 00:35:11,560

and who wrote a book very popular in New

764

00:35:16,230 --> 00:35:13,440

York Times bestselling book about

765

00:35:18,270 --> 00:35:16,240

evidence of near-death experience he

766

00:35:20,400 --> 00:35:18,280

firmly concludes that it's highly

767

00:35:24,360 --> 00:35:20,410

suggestive that consciousness survives

768

00:35:27,360 --> 00:35:24,370

death and your criticism of long was

769

00:35:30,300 --> 00:35:27,370

that hey these are all anecdotes

770

00:35:33,540 --> 00:35:30,310

he's just collecting these stories if

771

00:35:35,880 --> 00:35:33,550

you will and what I thought again this

772

00:35:37,800 --> 00:35:35,890

is a kind of a specific debate that we

773

00:35:40,440 --> 00:35:37,810

could really have some substance to and

774

00:35:42,750 --> 00:35:40,450

that's that Jeff long counters that

775

00:35:45,120 --> 00:35:42,760

claim and he gets that that argument

776

00:35:47,220 --> 00:35:45,130

against him a lot and he says look you

777

00:35:50,730 --> 00:35:47,230

know these kind of medical surveys that

778

00:35:53,040 --> 00:35:50,740

I did are really the bedrock of medicine

779

00:35:55,410 --> 00:35:53,050

that's the first line that we do and

780

00:35:57,650 --> 00:35:55,420

finding out what's going on so don't

781

00:36:00,390 --> 00:35:57,660

criticize that these are surveys and

782

00:36:03,360 --> 00:36:00,400

moreover II says don't criticize that

783

00:36:05,790 --> 00:36:03,370

their online surveys I can show you and

784

00:36:07,560 --> 00:36:05,800

he does on his website a bunch of

785

00:36:10,050 --> 00:36:07,570

peer-reviewed articles that suggests

786

00:36:13,020 --> 00:36:10,060

that an online survey is no less

787

00:36:15,900 --> 00:36:13,030

reliable than a medical survey you might

788

00:36:18,270 --> 00:36:15,910

fill out your doctor's office so again

789

00:36:20,490 --> 00:36:18,280

don't we have to be fair and looking at

790

00:36:23,010 --> 00:36:20,500

that data and say hey Jeff Long's

791

00:36:25,980 --> 00:36:23,020

compiled all these surveys highly

792

00:36:28,830 --> 00:36:25,990

suggestive of near-death experience

793

00:36:31,350 --> 00:36:28,840

being a legitimate case of consciousness

794

00:36:34,710 --> 00:36:31,360

surviving a severely compromised brain

795

00:36:36,950 --> 00:36:34,720

what does it take to kind of meet that

796

00:36:39,650 --> 00:36:36,960

standard that we need to

797

00:36:41,450 --> 00:36:39,660

look at this mind-body relationship or

798

00:36:45,530 --> 00:36:41,460

this mind brain relationship different

799

00:36:47,900 --> 00:36:45,540

look yes I said an email exchange to you

800

00:36:49,850 --> 00:36:47,910

it's really very simple we're making it

801
00:36:52,820 --> 00:36:49,860
too complicated while he has his

802
00:36:55,430 --> 00:36:52,830
anecdotes if he had one anecdote where a

803
00:36:57,110 --> 00:36:55,440
person returned with with provable

804
00:37:01,280 --> 00:36:57,120
information that they could not have

805
00:37:03,650 --> 00:37:01,290
known then that we could change our mind

806
00:37:07,100 --> 00:37:03,660
about that let me I found a section that

807
00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:07,110
I'm talking about it's on page 233 of my

808
00:37:18,290 --> 00:37:11,010
book where I talk about Holden and she

809
00:37:21,650 --> 00:37:18,300
took she talks about these EVPs

810
00:37:26,180 --> 00:37:21,660
how is she define it apparently long

811
00:37:28,880 --> 00:37:26,190
physical very dititional NDE perception

812
00:37:31,580 --> 00:37:28,890
AVP that's something that you can verify

813
00:37:33,320 --> 00:37:31,590

in other words there are there

814

00:37:35,600 --> 00:37:33,330

additional perceptions that apparently

815

00:37:38,350 --> 00:37:35,610

could not have been the result of

816

00:37:43,820 --> 00:37:38,360

interference from normal sensory

817

00:37:46,340 --> 00:37:43,830

processes so then in the handbook she

818

00:37:48,730 --> 00:37:46,350

talks about the attempts to verify AVP

819

00:37:51,770 --> 00:37:48,740

chapter 9 and the handbook have done

820

00:37:54,010 --> 00:37:51,780

near-death experiences and there's where

821

00:37:56,750 --> 00:37:54,020

I talk about the setup at the table she

822

00:37:58,310 --> 00:37:56,760

don'ts that this Citroen ideal situation

823

00:38:00,680 --> 00:37:58,320

is difficult to achieve with the

824

00:38:02,090 --> 00:38:00,690

operating room staff often gloom Singh

825

00:38:06,500 --> 00:38:02,100

the target information is thus

826

00:38:08,360 --> 00:38:06,510

compromising the protocol once more they

827

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:08,370

have more important matters to do to do

828

00:38:12,920 --> 00:38:11,010

so she could only report five studies

829

00:38:16,880 --> 00:38:12,930

that were conducted with proper controls

830

00:38:18,380 --> 00:38:16,890

she concludes the bottom line a findings

831

00:38:21,980 --> 00:38:18,390

from these five studies is quite

832

00:38:25,030 --> 00:38:21,990

disappointing no researcher has

833

00:38:28,400 --> 00:38:25,040

succeeded at capturing even one case of

834

00:38:30,470 --> 00:38:28,410

AVP that's quoted gentleman from her

835

00:38:33,290 --> 00:38:30,480

book and then later on she talks about

836

00:38:36,650 --> 00:38:33,300

receiving an email from Kenneth ring now

837

00:38:38,900 --> 00:38:36,660

Kenneth ring is a researcher in NDE

838

00:38:40,940 --> 00:38:38,910

experiences long term with researcher

839

00:38:45,170 --> 00:38:40,950

all these people incidentally would

840

00:38:46,700 --> 00:38:45,180

really love to discover a near-death

841

00:38:49,220 --> 00:38:46,710

experiences he's worth Kenneth Springs

842

00:38:49,970 --> 00:38:49,230

said there was so much anecdotal

843

00:38:53,450 --> 00:38:49,980

evidence

844

00:38:58,040 --> 00:38:53,460

suggests experiences can at least

845

00:39:01,010 --> 00:38:58,050

sometimes perceive very visually during

846

00:39:03,800 --> 00:39:01,020

nve's but isn't it true that well it's

847

00:39:09,080 --> 00:39:03,810

time has it been a single piece of a

848

00:39:11,840 --> 00:39:09,090

very dish if that perception reported by

849

00:39:14,120 --> 00:39:11,850

an NDE under controlled conditions I

850

00:39:15,620 --> 00:39:14,130

mean 30 years later it's still an old

851

00:39:19,010 --> 00:39:15,630

class as far as we know

852

00:39:21,440 --> 00:39:19,020

yes excuses excuses I know but really

853

00:39:25,880 --> 00:39:21,450

what you expected more than a few such

854

00:39:29,800 --> 00:39:25,890

cases at least by now that's in that

855

00:39:33,140 --> 00:39:29,810

handbook to be this that's convincing in

856

00:39:35,630 --> 00:39:33,150

until somebody comes up with again a

857

00:39:38,359 --> 00:39:35,640

very simple result they leave just come

858

00:39:40,520 --> 00:39:38,369

back with some information that they

859

00:39:43,340 --> 00:39:40,530

couldn't possibly had known and that's

860

00:39:45,290 --> 00:39:43,350

evidence that's evidence and that'd be

861

00:39:47,450 --> 00:39:45,300

worth considering and studying further

862

00:39:52,160 --> 00:39:47,460

and so on there right now that is not

863

00:39:54,580 --> 00:39:52,170

happen and after 30 years I think we

864

00:39:57,500 --> 00:39:54,590

could we can really put clue that that

865

00:40:01,099 --> 00:39:57,510

that's just something that's going on in

866

00:40:04,490 --> 00:40:01,109

the brain and we should stop even as we

867

00:40:05,960 --> 00:40:04,500

sing so much breath already I I think

868

00:40:08,060 --> 00:40:05,970

you kind of contradicted yourself in

869

00:40:10,520 --> 00:40:08,070

that very last sentence but first of all

870

00:40:12,920 --> 00:40:10,530

what what jane holden i think is saying

871

00:40:16,130 --> 00:40:12,930

there and what a lot of NDE researchers

872

00:40:19,609 --> 00:40:16,140

have said is why are we pushing towards

873

00:40:22,280 --> 00:40:19,619

this sampar Nia let's see if there's

874

00:40:25,010 --> 00:40:22,290

images above the bed thing when the

875

00:40:28,940 --> 00:40:25,020

pilot studies we've done haven't been

876

00:40:30,620 --> 00:40:28,950

successful so I think it's you may be

877

00:40:33,020 --> 00:40:30,630

misinterpreting what she's saying

878

00:40:35,120 --> 00:40:33,030

overall about her impression of the

879

00:40:37,700 --> 00:40:35,130

near-death experience research because

880

00:40:40,070 --> 00:40:37,710

it's very positive again I've had around

881

00:40:43,010 --> 00:40:40,080

the show but we can I'll be happy to

882

00:40:45,230 --> 00:40:43,020

follow up with her and after and make

883

00:40:47,750 --> 00:40:45,240

clear about that particular quote she's

884

00:40:49,520 --> 00:40:47,760

making but clearly she is a near-death

885

00:40:51,440 --> 00:40:49,530

experience proponent in that she

886

00:40:54,500 --> 00:40:51,450

believes that it's highly suggestive

887

00:40:56,690 --> 00:40:54,510

that consciousness survives death and as

888

00:40:59,390 --> 00:40:56,700

far as Kenneth rang Kenneth ring is also

889

00:41:01,430 --> 00:40:59,400

a proponent of near-death experience

890

00:41:03,259 --> 00:41:01,440

research he's not a skeptic so I think

891

00:41:05,659 --> 00:41:03,269

to pick out he

892

00:41:07,939 --> 00:41:05,669

is critique of some of the work that's

893

00:41:10,159 --> 00:41:07,949

being done I'm sure that's legitimate

894

00:41:11,989 --> 00:41:10,169

and I'm sure that's correctly quoted as

895

00:41:15,259 --> 00:41:11,999

you say but it doesn't represent his

896

00:41:17,239 --> 00:41:15,269

overall opinion of the research and and

897

00:41:19,069 --> 00:41:17,249

then as to your last point that's all we

898

00:41:21,799 --> 00:41:19,079

can do Vic at the end of the day is we

899

00:41:24,289 --> 00:41:21,809

can look to the best researchers and see

900

00:41:26,149 --> 00:41:24,299

what their conclusions are and unlike

901
00:41:29,089 --> 00:41:26,159
the consciousness research that we're

902
00:41:32,329 --> 00:41:29,099
talking about Hameroff and [\h__\h] here

903
00:41:34,519 --> 00:41:32,339
there is virtually no near-death

904
00:41:36,799 --> 00:41:34,529
experience researcher who has looked

905
00:41:39,009 --> 00:41:36,809
into the field extensively who has done

906
00:41:42,169 --> 00:41:39,019
the research and has concluded that

907
00:41:43,759 --> 00:41:42,179
near-death experience isn't what we're

908
00:41:45,380 --> 00:41:43,769
saying here I mean I don't think you can

909
00:41:47,839 --> 00:41:45,390
point to one and that's why we wind up

910
00:41:50,120 --> 00:41:47,849
with references like Susan Blackmore who

911
00:41:52,130 --> 00:41:50,130
who are isn't even in the field because

912
00:41:55,189 --> 00:41:52,140
you really have to search to find any

913
00:41:57,169 --> 00:41:55,199

NDE skeptic that has any bona fides in

914

00:42:01,370 --> 00:41:57,179

terms of doing NDE research are you

915

00:42:03,259 --> 00:42:01,380

aware of any I I mean we got Jeff long

916

00:42:05,209 --> 00:42:03,269

we got pin Val mama we got all these

917

00:42:07,579 --> 00:42:05,219

folks none of them are scam believers is

918

00:42:10,069 --> 00:42:07,589

what you do who would desperately want

919

00:42:12,559 --> 00:42:10,079

us to believe that there's an heir to

920

00:42:15,649 --> 00:42:12,569

life and all of that I mean the Pope

921

00:42:19,459 --> 00:42:15,659

does too and just because the pope that

922

00:42:21,169 --> 00:42:19,469

believes in an afterlife and thinks he

923

00:42:23,209 --> 00:42:21,179

has all kinds of evidence for it that

924

00:42:25,519 --> 00:42:23,219

doesn't mean he does and these people

925

00:42:28,629 --> 00:42:25,529

don't either they just don't but they

926
00:42:31,639 --> 00:42:28,639
have not made a case and then maybe you

927
00:42:34,159 --> 00:42:31,649
can't go you say we should go to the

928
00:42:35,779 --> 00:42:34,169
experts in this video believe me there

929
00:42:38,139 --> 00:42:35,789
are a lot of experts in all kinds of

930
00:42:40,789 --> 00:42:38,149
fields who believe stuff look at all the

931
00:42:42,349 --> 00:42:40,799
parapsychologists who believe in ESP you

932
00:42:44,329 --> 00:42:42,359
say all their experts we should believe

933
00:42:46,339 --> 00:42:44,339
that well they have to convince the rest

934
00:42:49,339 --> 00:42:46,349
of the scientific community that's the

935
00:42:51,499 --> 00:42:49,349
key and any discovery look let's talk

936
00:42:55,549 --> 00:42:51,509
about the Higgs boson for example and in

937
00:42:56,959 --> 00:42:55,559
my field the way if you look at the way

938
00:42:58,909 --> 00:42:56,969

that experiment was done by two

939

00:43:02,659 --> 00:42:58,919

independent groups the beauty of that

940

00:43:05,899 --> 00:43:02,669

the money spent the hours and hours

941

00:43:07,669 --> 00:43:05,909

thousands of people involved and and

942

00:43:09,859 --> 00:43:07,679

they came up with evidence that just

943

00:43:11,899 --> 00:43:09,869

didn't just convince themselves that

944

00:43:15,830 --> 00:43:11,909

convinced the whole scientific community

945

00:43:17,990 --> 00:43:15,840

that there was this marvelous

946

00:43:20,660 --> 00:43:18,000

article that had been predicted fifty

947

00:43:23,540 --> 00:43:20,670

years ago and was now found where do you

948

00:43:25,100 --> 00:43:23,550

see anything comparable to that in this

949

00:43:28,130 --> 00:43:25,110

line of research you have a bunch of

950

00:43:29,450 --> 00:43:28,140

people who you're saying oh they're

951
00:43:31,160 --> 00:43:29,460
experts we should listen to those

952
00:43:33,140 --> 00:43:31,170
experts well I don't listen to those

953
00:43:35,570 --> 00:43:33,150
experts I know I'm not gonna listen to

954
00:43:39,650 --> 00:43:35,580
what they say until they demonstrate to

955
00:43:42,320 --> 00:43:39,660
me as a scientist with 50 years of

956
00:43:46,640 --> 00:43:42,330
experience and research they show me

957
00:43:50,090 --> 00:43:46,650
some data that convinces me then then

958
00:43:51,530 --> 00:43:50,100
they can start talking to the rest of

959
00:43:52,880 --> 00:43:51,540
the community and they convince the rest

960
00:43:54,950 --> 00:43:52,890
of it we need then they have a real

961
00:43:56,920 --> 00:43:54,960
discovery that's worth mentioning up

962
00:43:59,690 --> 00:43:56,930
until now they have not achieved that

963
00:44:02,180 --> 00:43:59,700

but by those standards Vic how would we

964

00:44:04,580 --> 00:44:02,190

ever know oh that's the one thing that

965

00:44:06,520 --> 00:44:04,590

gets me about the NDE skeptics is is

966

00:44:08,960 --> 00:44:06,530

there seems to be some kind of edge

967

00:44:11,390 --> 00:44:08,970

associated with it it you seem to be

968

00:44:13,820 --> 00:44:11,400

suggesting that these NDE researchers

969

00:44:15,440 --> 00:44:13,830

are coming at this work with some kind

970

00:44:17,110 --> 00:44:15,450

of bias is that what you're suggesting

971

00:44:19,490 --> 00:44:17,120

that they're trying to sneak

972

00:44:21,950 --> 00:44:19,500

Christianity into the backdoor science

973

00:44:23,660 --> 00:44:21,960

that's not my read of these people is

974

00:44:26,480 --> 00:44:23,670

that where you think they're coming at I

975

00:44:28,520 --> 00:44:26,490

don't know they just have a good this

976
00:44:30,320 --> 00:44:28,530
the rest of the community and then shall

977
00:44:32,150 --> 00:44:30,330
they do I mean you're supposed to be a

978
00:44:35,720 --> 00:44:32,160
skeptic you should be skeptical of them

979
00:44:37,160 --> 00:44:35,730
too rather than defending them you they

980
00:44:38,990 --> 00:44:37,170
should have to convince you they should

981
00:44:43,130 --> 00:44:39,000
have to convince James Randi they should

982
00:44:44,870 --> 00:44:43,140
have to convince you know Paul Kurtz and

983
00:44:46,580 --> 00:44:44,880
and all the other skeptics out there

984
00:44:49,370 --> 00:44:46,590
when they do then they will have one

985
00:44:51,920 --> 00:44:49,380
there one there case but until they do

986
00:44:57,530 --> 00:44:51,930
until you convince the skeptics the most

987
00:44:59,920 --> 00:44:57,540
skeptical you don't have you can't claim

988
00:45:02,180 --> 00:44:59,930

that you've made it a major discovery

989

00:45:04,940 --> 00:45:02,190

well they've convinced me but they

990

00:45:06,680 --> 00:45:04,950

obviously haven't convinced you so Vic

991

00:45:09,380 --> 00:45:06,690

tell us some more about what's going on

992

00:45:11,900 --> 00:45:09,390

with you tell us about your website what

993

00:45:14,030 --> 00:45:11,910

people can find there and about anything

994

00:45:21,820 --> 00:45:14,040

else we need to know about this book God

995

00:45:24,200 --> 00:45:21,830

and the folly of faith a lot of links to

996

00:45:27,680 --> 00:45:24,210

information about these books and the

997

00:45:29,100 --> 00:45:27,690

reviews of the books and various claims

998

00:45:33,540 --> 00:45:29,110

they have

999

00:45:35,220 --> 00:45:33,550

I think 11 books now and the website can

1000

00:45:37,860 --> 00:45:35,230

give you that information I don't have

1001

00:45:39,600 --> 00:45:37,870

to read off the the address of the

1002

00:45:42,870 --> 00:45:39,610

website people can easily find it by

1003

00:45:46,410 --> 00:45:42,880

just googling my name Victor J Stenger

1004

00:45:48,000 --> 00:45:46,420

and I'll easily find the website right

1005

00:45:49,890 --> 00:45:48,010

and we'll link to it from this podcast

1006

00:45:52,410 --> 00:45:49,900

and I also want to alert people there's

1007

00:45:54,360 --> 00:45:52,420

a number of interesting fascinating

1008

00:45:57,120 --> 00:45:54,370

youtubes that have been produced of you

1009

00:45:59,880 --> 00:45:57,130

as well so people can see as well as a

1010

00:46:02,100 --> 00:45:59,890

read about you and you blog pretty often

1011

00:46:05,730 --> 00:46:02,110

at Huffington Post as well right yes I

1012

00:46:08,700 --> 00:46:05,740

write blogs off and on for traffic in

1013

00:46:10,500 --> 00:46:08,710

post in fact I'm working on one right

1014

00:46:14,220 --> 00:46:10,510

now or I want to talk about this

1015

00:46:19,230 --> 00:46:14,230

evolution business the different views

1016

00:46:21,390 --> 00:46:19,240

of God guided versus naturalistic f

1017

00:46:23,280 --> 00:46:21,400

evolution I'm working on that right now

1018

00:46:26,580 --> 00:46:23,290

I have another book that's gonna be out

1019

00:46:30,510 --> 00:46:26,590

next year early next year called God and

1020

00:46:33,570 --> 00:46:30,520

the atom which goes back to the early

1021

00:46:34,890 --> 00:46:33,580

atomists Democritus and so on and works

1022

00:46:38,670 --> 00:46:34,900

its way all the way up to the higgs

1023

00:46:40,650 --> 00:46:38,680

boson to show how how this notion of the

1024

00:46:45,990 --> 00:46:40,660

world being made of matter and nothing

1025

00:46:49,050 --> 00:46:46,000

else has been solidly confirmed by by

1026
00:46:51,780 --> 00:46:49,060
modern physics and that goes back at

1027
00:46:54,090 --> 00:46:51,790
2,500 years the ova edge that creates

1028
00:46:56,130 --> 00:46:54,100
the whole history of that of that idea

1029
00:46:58,560 --> 00:46:56,140
through to the ancient Greeks who

1030
00:47:01,050 --> 00:46:58,570
through the Dark Ages on to the

1031
00:47:02,370 --> 00:47:01,060
Renaissance and the Scientific

1032
00:47:05,520 --> 00:47:02,380
Revolution and then all the way up

1033
00:47:07,530 --> 00:47:05,530
through to the current time with the

1034
00:47:12,080 --> 00:47:07,540
latest kind of confirmation of the

1035
00:47:15,660 --> 00:47:12,090
standard model of particles and fields

1036
00:47:17,760 --> 00:47:15,670
so I hope people will take a look at

1037
00:47:20,040 --> 00:47:17,770
them right great well we'll certainly

1038
00:47:22,230 --> 00:47:20,050

look forward to that and thanks again

1039

00:47:23,970 --> 00:47:22,240

it's been great talking to you and kind

1040

00:47:25,680 --> 00:47:23,980

of hashing some of this stuff out thanks

1041

00:47:30,000 --> 00:47:25,690

for joining me today on skeptic oh sure

1042

00:47:31,680 --> 00:47:30,010

good talk thanks again to dr. Stanger

1043

00:47:33,720 --> 00:47:31,690

for joining me today on skeptic oh I

1044

00:47:36,450 --> 00:47:33,730

certainly appreciate his willingness to

1045

00:47:39,600 --> 00:47:36,460

engage in these topics and I think it

1046

00:47:41,580 --> 00:47:39,610

also demonstrates why so few skeptics

1047

00:47:42,680 --> 00:47:41,590

and atheists are really willing to

1048

00:47:44,510 --> 00:47:42,690

engage

1049

00:47:47,030 --> 00:47:44,520

think they have a very difficult road to

1050

00:47:48,980 --> 00:47:47,040

hoe when confronted with the data and

1051

00:47:51,339 --> 00:47:48,990

it's not surprising that they're

1052

00:47:53,480 --> 00:47:51,349

reluctant many times to do so

1053

00:47:56,480 --> 00:47:53,490

interesting little PostScript to this

1054

00:47:59,809 --> 00:47:56,490

interview so a couple of weeks after the

1055

00:48:01,609 --> 00:47:59,819

interview Vick sent me an email talking

1056

00:48:04,940 --> 00:48:01,619

about various things sent me a link to

1057

00:48:06,920 --> 00:48:04,950

his eben Alexander post on Huffington

1058

00:48:09,140 --> 00:48:06,930

Post and also said hey would you edit

1059

00:48:11,450 --> 00:48:09,150

out the part about Stanley Crippler that

1060

00:48:13,370 --> 00:48:11,460

slipped out and I really thought about

1061

00:48:15,290 --> 00:48:13,380

that and my first inclination was to do

1062

00:48:17,510 --> 00:48:15,300

it then I talked to a couple of friends

1063

00:48:20,150 --> 00:48:17,520

advisers and and kind of wondered what

1064

00:48:21,710 --> 00:48:20,160

to do and I emailed back doctor stinger

1065

00:48:25,190 --> 00:48:21,720

and I said you know you said in your

1066

00:48:27,559 --> 00:48:25,200

email that it slipped out and yet you

1067

00:48:29,480 --> 00:48:27,569

brought it up in the email exchange to

1068

00:48:31,280 --> 00:48:29,490

me initially I wasn't gonna bring it up

1069

00:48:33,470 --> 00:48:31,290

in the show then you brought it up in

1070

00:48:35,870 --> 00:48:33,480

the show with regard to Stuart Hameroff

1071

00:48:37,450 --> 00:48:35,880

which if you listen he's really calling

1072

00:48:39,770 --> 00:48:37,460

Hameroff and caulked

1073

00:48:41,630 --> 00:48:39,780

charlatans and I said to him you know I

1074

00:48:43,130 --> 00:48:41,640

kind of rescued for you from that and I

1075

00:48:45,829 --> 00:48:43,140

said that's not what you meant to say

1076

00:48:47,420 --> 00:48:45,839

right and then you see them insist that

1077

00:48:50,030 --> 00:48:47,430

I'm making your point and saying these

1078

00:48:51,740 --> 00:48:50,040

guys are charlatans so I said you know

1079

00:48:55,190 --> 00:48:51,750

I'm really not inclined to edit that out

1080

00:48:58,730 --> 00:48:55,200

and his response to that email was very

1081

00:49:00,500 --> 00:48:58,740

telling to he is extremely nasty and he

1082

00:49:03,920 --> 00:49:00,510

said you know you want to start a war I

1083

00:49:06,170 --> 00:49:03,930

have more ammunition and all the rest of

1084

00:49:08,569 --> 00:49:06,180

this does I think it is very very

1085

00:49:11,630 --> 00:49:08,579

telling as the whole interview is in

1086

00:49:14,599 --> 00:49:11,640

terms of what's represented by that

1087

00:49:16,550 --> 00:49:14,609

other position that atheist sceptical

1088

00:49:18,589 --> 00:49:16,560

position and as you see in the previous

1089

00:49:21,170 --> 00:49:18,599

shows we've done it's a pretty uniform

1090

00:49:23,480 --> 00:49:21,180

position Vick stinger is not really an

1091

00:49:25,520 --> 00:49:23,490

exception other than he's willing to

1092

00:49:27,410 --> 00:49:25,530

engage with people and talk about it and

1093

00:49:30,079 --> 00:49:27,420

turns out really being pretty open about

1094

00:49:32,030 --> 00:49:30,089

what his position is so without a couple

1095

00:49:34,130 --> 00:49:32,040

of questions to tee up from this

1096

00:49:38,240 --> 00:49:34,140

interview the first we have to get it

1097

00:49:41,000 --> 00:49:38,250

out there is what is the basis for this

1098

00:49:43,940 --> 00:49:41,010

kind of argument on the part of fix

1099

00:49:46,700 --> 00:49:43,950

tender stanley krypter charlatans fake

1100

00:49:48,740 --> 00:49:46,710

fraud where does that come from is there

1101

00:49:50,900 --> 00:49:48,750

any merit to it at all so that's

1102

00:49:53,900 --> 00:49:50,910

question number one question number two

1103

00:49:56,180 --> 00:49:53,910

has to do with near-death experience

1104

00:49:58,250 --> 00:49:56,190

science research literature now

1105

00:50:00,440 --> 00:49:58,260

I gave you a little sampling for what

1106

00:50:02,390 --> 00:50:00,450

Vic has represented in his book in terms

1107

00:50:04,609 --> 00:50:02,400

of his take on near-death experience

1108

00:50:07,339 --> 00:50:04,619

research I don't think it's very strong

1109

00:50:09,349 --> 00:50:07,349

I think it's unbelievably weak when

1110

00:50:12,650 --> 00:50:09,359

you're really dissected and I tried to

1111

00:50:15,230 --> 00:50:12,660

present that in the show but has anyone

1112

00:50:18,050 --> 00:50:15,240

from The Skeptical / atheist community

1113

00:50:20,390 --> 00:50:18,060

done a better job at least he gets the

1114

00:50:22,130 --> 00:50:20,400

references right I mean when we talked

1115

00:50:23,720 --> 00:50:22,140

to Caroline watt in her published

1116

00:50:25,520 --> 00:50:23,730

peer-reviewed paper she couldn't even

1117

00:50:27,559 --> 00:50:25,530

get their references to von Lama's paper

1118

00:50:29,450 --> 00:50:27,569

right so I don't think this is great

1119

00:50:31,520 --> 00:50:29,460

work on the part of stinger but this is

1120

00:50:33,620 --> 00:50:31,530

representative of really the best that's

1121

00:50:35,900 --> 00:50:33,630

being put out there by the skeptical

1122

00:50:37,849 --> 00:50:35,910

atheist you know Sam Harris we talked to

1123

00:50:40,550 --> 00:50:37,859

him last weekend and he claims to know

1124

00:50:43,220 --> 00:50:40,560

the NDE literature I think this is the

1125

00:50:44,900 --> 00:50:43,230

literature that Sam Paris knows I think

1126

00:50:47,270 --> 00:50:44,910

this is the literature that Steven

1127

00:50:49,370 --> 00:50:47,280

novella knows and the reason why I think

1128

00:50:52,790 --> 00:50:49,380

they run so scared when they're pressed

1129

00:50:55,940 --> 00:50:52,800

on defending their understanding of NDE

1130

00:50:59,780 --> 00:50:55,950

science is because they know deep down

1131

00:51:01,849 --> 00:50:59,790

that this is very weak stuff so what is

1132

00:51:04,040 --> 00:51:01,859

your take on Victor Stenger's

1133

00:51:07,250 --> 00:51:04,050

understanding of near-death experience

1134

00:51:09,079 --> 00:51:07,260

science so let me know your thoughts of

1135

00:51:13,370 --> 00:51:09,089

course the place to connect with me is

1136

00:51:15,740 --> 00:51:13,380

on skeptic Oh calm that's ske pti ke o

1137

00:51:17,930 --> 00:51:15,750

you can link up to our forum leave a

1138

00:51:20,240 --> 00:51:17,940

comment right there on the website you

1139

00:51:21,770 --> 00:51:20,250

can also send me an email or ping me on

1140

00:51:23,660 --> 00:51:21,780

Facebook well that's going to do it for

1141

00:51:26,690 --> 00:51:23,670

this episode couple of interesting shows

1142

00:51:28,940 --> 00:51:26,700

coming up always more in the hopper stay