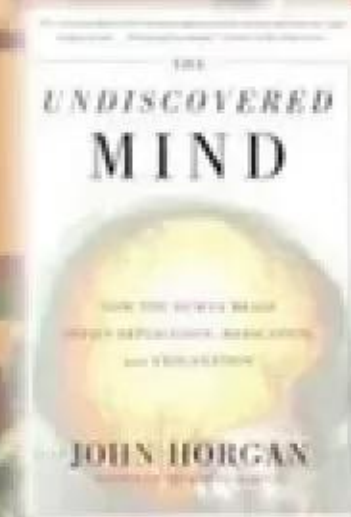
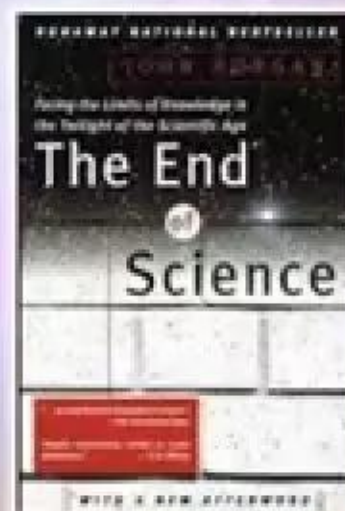
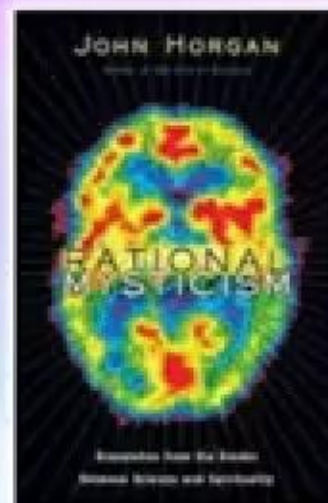


skeptiko.com



1  
00:00:14,310 --> 00:00:11,509  
on this episode of skeptico

2  
00:00:17,430 --> 00:00:14,320  
i think consciousness studies is the

3  
00:00:19,830 --> 00:00:17,440  
most exciting frontier in science right

4  
00:00:21,590 --> 00:00:19,840  
now i'm really burned out on cosmology

5  
00:00:24,870 --> 00:00:21,600  
and particle physics they're still

6  
00:00:27,429 --> 00:00:24,880  
peddling multiverses and string theory

7  
00:00:29,509 --> 00:00:27,439  
and it seems uh stale and i don't even

8  
00:00:30,710 --> 00:00:29,519  
think it's very scientific but by

9  
00:00:33,110 --> 00:00:30,720  
default

10  
00:00:35,670 --> 00:00:33,120  
i still am a materialist to the extent

11  
00:00:37,350 --> 00:00:35,680  
that i think if there will be

12  
00:00:40,709 --> 00:00:37,360  
understanding

13  
00:00:42,310 --> 00:00:40,719

of consciousness and mind in general and

14

00:00:44,470 --> 00:00:42,320

all the you know the different aspects

15

00:00:45,510 --> 00:00:44,480

of the mind it will come

16

00:00:47,910 --> 00:00:45,520

from

17

00:00:51,190 --> 00:00:47,920

probing the physiological

18

00:00:53,670 --> 00:00:51,200

underpinnings of the mind which as far

19

00:00:55,830 --> 00:00:53,680

as we know is the brain itself what i

20

00:00:59,029 --> 00:00:55,840

have a problem with is the fundamental

21

00:01:02,310 --> 00:00:59,039

assumption the paradigm and that is that

22

00:01:04,149 --> 00:01:02,320

mind equals brain that you are this

23

00:01:06,630 --> 00:01:04,159

biological robot in a meaningless

24

00:01:07,350 --> 00:01:06,640

universe but the real problem that bugs

25

00:01:10,070 --> 00:01:07,360

me

26

00:01:13,429 --> 00:01:10,080

is that we have good evidence

27

00:01:15,750 --> 00:01:13,439

that that has been falsified and even if

28

00:01:17,910 --> 00:01:15,760

you look at the story arc like i laid

29

00:01:20,149 --> 00:01:17,920

out there hey 20 years ago no one was

30

00:01:22,230 --> 00:01:20,159

talking about uh consciousness being an

31

00:01:24,550 --> 00:01:22,240

emergent property and there wasn't some

32

00:01:27,429 --> 00:01:24,560

discovery that brought that on it was a

33

00:01:29,109 --> 00:01:27,439

default a fallback position because

34

00:01:31,749 --> 00:01:29,119

these guys who are peddling this

35

00:01:34,550 --> 00:01:31,759

consciousness is an illusion thing they

36

00:01:35,910 --> 00:01:34,560

just got beaten down by the data

37

00:01:47,990 --> 00:01:35,920

stay with us

38

00:01:51,190 --> 00:01:49,670

welcome to skeptico where we explore

39

00:01:53,910 --> 00:01:51,200

controversial science with leading

40

00:01:56,230 --> 00:01:53,920

researchers thinkers and their critics

41

00:01:57,910 --> 00:01:56,240

i'm your host alex sacaris and on this

42

00:02:00,069 --> 00:01:57,920

episode of skeptico we talk about

43

00:02:02,389 --> 00:02:00,079

science journalism and while i've often

44

00:02:04,310 --> 00:02:02,399

been very critical of science journalism

45

00:02:06,789 --> 00:02:04,320

because it seems to be all about

46

00:02:09,109 --> 00:02:06,799

maintaining the status quo and ignoring

47

00:02:12,470 --> 00:02:09,119

data that goes against the party line i

48

00:02:14,869 --> 00:02:12,480

can't say that about today's guest john

49

00:02:17,030 --> 00:02:14,879

horgan is not only a fabulous writer a

50

00:02:19,589 --> 00:02:17,040

fabulous science writer but someone

51  
00:02:22,229 --> 00:02:19,599  
who's willing to mix it up and sweep

52  
00:02:24,070 --> 00:02:22,239  
away the old ideas and take a fresh look

53  
00:02:26,390 --> 00:02:24,080  
at what's new and where science is

54  
00:02:28,550 --> 00:02:26,400  
really leading us of course rather than

55  
00:02:30,949 --> 00:02:28,560  
spend an hour singing the praises of

56  
00:02:33,589 --> 00:02:30,959  
john horgan's work which i could do i

57  
00:02:35,589 --> 00:02:33,599  
spent an hour picking and poking at the

58  
00:02:37,589 --> 00:02:35,599  
points in his writing and thinking that

59  
00:02:40,229 --> 00:02:37,599  
i disagree with but then this is

60  
00:02:42,309 --> 00:02:40,239  
skeptico that's what we do

61  
00:02:44,710 --> 00:02:42,319  
so we talk about a number of topics in

62  
00:02:46,630 --> 00:02:44,720  
this interview of course the state of

63  
00:02:48,150 --> 00:02:46,640

science we talk about near-death

64

00:02:50,070 --> 00:02:48,160

experience we talk a lot about

65

00:02:53,030 --> 00:02:50,080

consciousness research we even talk

66

00:02:54,550 --> 00:02:53,040

about esp and telepathy and rupert

67

00:02:57,350 --> 00:02:54,560

sheldrick's work

68

00:02:59,670 --> 00:02:57,360

all in all it was terrific to have john

69

00:03:01,910 --> 00:02:59,680

on the show and i thank him so much for

70

00:03:04,949 --> 00:03:01,920

joining me i hope you enjoy this

71

00:03:06,949 --> 00:03:04,959

interview with john horgan

72

00:03:09,030 --> 00:03:06,959

today we welcome award-winning science

73

00:03:11,270 --> 00:03:09,040

writer and author john horgan to

74

00:03:14,070 --> 00:03:11,280

skeptico john has written a great deal

75

00:03:16,149 --> 00:03:14,080

about scientific dogmatism materialism

76  
00:03:17,910 --> 00:03:16,159  
consciousness and so many of the other

77  
00:03:20,470 --> 00:03:17,920  
topics we love to talk about here on

78  
00:03:21,990 --> 00:03:20,480  
skeptico he's also written several books

79  
00:03:24,949 --> 00:03:22,000  
that we'll want to talk about in this

80  
00:03:26,949 --> 00:03:24,959  
interview including the end of science

81  
00:03:29,910 --> 00:03:26,959  
facing the limits of knowledge in the

82  
00:03:33,030 --> 00:03:29,920  
twilight of the scientific age fantastic

83  
00:03:34,550 --> 00:03:33,040  
title rational mysticism spirituality

84  
00:03:38,070 --> 00:03:34,560  
meets science in the search for

85  
00:03:39,750 --> 00:03:38,080  
enlightenment and the end of war john

86  
00:03:41,670 --> 00:03:39,760  
it's great to have you on skeptico

87  
00:03:43,910 --> 00:03:41,680  
thanks so much for joining me

88  
00:03:46,030 --> 00:03:43,920

thanks for having me on alex

89

00:03:47,830 --> 00:03:46,040

you know first off i have to

90

00:03:50,630 --> 00:03:47,840

congratulate you

91

00:03:52,550 --> 00:03:50,640

on this fabulous career that you've been

92

00:03:55,350 --> 00:03:52,560

able to put together you're really a

93

00:03:58,830 --> 00:03:55,360

terrific writer but as you know that

94

00:04:02,390 --> 00:03:58,840

doesn't often translate into having a

95

00:04:04,869 --> 00:04:02,400

successful sustainable career i think

96

00:04:07,429 --> 00:04:04,879

you give hope to people who

97

00:04:09,830 --> 00:04:07,439

love to write and love science and

98

00:04:12,710 --> 00:04:09,840

especially people who aren't afraid to

99

00:04:14,949 --> 00:04:12,720

ruffle feathers but you know don't know

100

00:04:17,749 --> 00:04:14,959

if there really is a path for them to

101

00:04:19,749 --> 00:04:17,759

really be honest in their writing so i

102

00:04:22,950 --> 00:04:19,759

guess the first question is

103

00:04:25,350 --> 00:04:22,960

you know how did a provocateur like you

104

00:04:28,310 --> 00:04:25,360

make it as a science writer and number

105

00:04:29,909 --> 00:04:28,320

two is it possible still in this day and

106

00:04:31,830 --> 00:04:29,919

age for someone to

107

00:04:33,830 --> 00:04:31,840

do the same

108

00:04:35,749 --> 00:04:33,840

i certainly hope so uh

109

00:04:38,070 --> 00:04:35,759

thanks for that very flattering

110

00:04:39,830 --> 00:04:38,080

introduction you know i

111

00:04:41,030 --> 00:04:39,840

when i got into science journalism it

112

00:04:42,790 --> 00:04:41,040

was in the

113

00:04:46,070 --> 00:04:42,800

in the early 80s

114

00:04:49,189 --> 00:04:46,080

and i think i entered it

115

00:04:51,189 --> 00:04:49,199

uh as a conventional what i call g whiz

116

00:04:53,270 --> 00:04:51,199

science journalist in other words i i

117

00:04:54,950 --> 00:04:53,280

love science i always loved it since i

118

00:04:58,230 --> 00:04:54,960

was a little kid

119

00:05:00,469 --> 00:04:58,240

and um after i

120

00:05:02,150 --> 00:05:00,479

lapsed from catholicism i thought of

121

00:05:03,830 --> 00:05:02,160

science as being

122

00:05:05,990 --> 00:05:03,840

our way to

123

00:05:08,390 --> 00:05:06,000

ultimate truth and understanding of the

124

00:05:11,350 --> 00:05:08,400

universe and understanding uh

125

00:05:12,469 --> 00:05:11,360

of ourselves and i wanted to

126

00:05:15,749 --> 00:05:12,479

um

127

00:05:17,029 --> 00:05:15,759

explore all these ways that science has

128

00:05:19,029 --> 00:05:17,039

of uh

129

00:05:20,070 --> 00:05:19,039

of telling us what's going on in the

130

00:05:22,310 --> 00:05:20,080

world

131

00:05:24,790 --> 00:05:22,320

and uh you know at at all levels

132

00:05:28,150 --> 00:05:24,800

revealing the the deepest possible

133

00:05:29,990 --> 00:05:28,160

truths that humans uh can learn and i

134

00:05:30,870 --> 00:05:30,000

wanted to convey

135

00:05:32,230 --> 00:05:30,880

that

136

00:05:34,950 --> 00:05:32,240

knowledge

137

00:05:36,870 --> 00:05:34,960

to the public from the scientists uh

138

00:05:39,350 --> 00:05:36,880

themselves which i think is

139

00:05:42,150 --> 00:05:39,360

how most science journalists

140

00:05:43,510 --> 00:05:42,160

uh look at their profession

141

00:05:46,070 --> 00:05:43,520

you know being the conduit from the

142

00:05:47,270 --> 00:05:46,080

scientists to the public and celebrating

143

00:05:48,550 --> 00:05:47,280

science

144

00:05:50,150 --> 00:05:48,560

and then

145

00:05:52,230 --> 00:05:50,160

something happened you know so that was

146

00:05:54,070 --> 00:05:52,240

early 80s and i started working at

147

00:05:56,790 --> 00:05:54,080

scientific american

148

00:05:58,550 --> 00:05:56,800

and i started i went through a period of

149

00:06:00,550 --> 00:05:58,560

disillusionment

150

00:06:02,710 --> 00:06:00,560

and that's when i became the you know

151  
00:06:04,830 --> 00:06:02,720  
the provocateur that you described and

152  
00:06:07,029 --> 00:06:04,840  
somebody who is actually quite

153  
00:06:09,029 --> 00:06:07,039  
critical of

154  
00:06:11,189 --> 00:06:09,039  
of many aspects of science and some of

155  
00:06:13,270 --> 00:06:11,199  
the things that scientists

156  
00:06:15,510 --> 00:06:13,280  
are saying and

157  
00:06:18,390 --> 00:06:15,520  
and began

158  
00:06:21,110 --> 00:06:18,400  
getting quite skeptical of

159  
00:06:22,469 --> 00:06:21,120  
string theory and unified theories of

160  
00:06:26,790 --> 00:06:22,479  
consciousness

161  
00:06:29,270 --> 00:06:26,800  
and some of these uh really exciting

162  
00:06:32,550 --> 00:06:29,280  
uh avenues for

163  
00:06:34,710 --> 00:06:32,560

explaining uh explaining the world and

164

00:06:36,870 --> 00:06:34,720

and just in terms of

165

00:06:40,309 --> 00:06:36,880

how i've made a living at it

166

00:06:42,870 --> 00:06:40,319

uh i i do feel extraordinarily lucky

167

00:06:46,309 --> 00:06:42,880

that i have been able

168

00:06:49,270 --> 00:06:46,319

basically to do what i want to do

169

00:06:52,550 --> 00:06:49,280

as a writer which is not that

170

00:06:54,390 --> 00:06:52,560

easy i've had some tough times um

171

00:06:56,629 --> 00:06:54,400

you know i had a very rocky period at

172

00:06:58,710 --> 00:06:56,639

scientific american after uh the end of

173

00:07:01,510 --> 00:06:58,720

science came out there there

174

00:07:04,230 --> 00:07:01,520

there have been people who have thought

175

00:07:06,150 --> 00:07:04,240

my style of journalism is bad for

176  
00:07:08,710 --> 00:07:06,160  
bad for science i bet

177  
00:07:11,029 --> 00:07:08,720  
and uh you know and see me as being

178  
00:07:12,070 --> 00:07:11,039  
anti-science when i think of myself as

179  
00:07:14,230 --> 00:07:12,080  
being

180  
00:07:16,070 --> 00:07:14,240  
i think my my kind of skepticism is

181  
00:07:17,430 --> 00:07:16,080  
absolutely essential for science

182  
00:07:21,830 --> 00:07:17,440  
absolutely

183  
00:07:24,790 --> 00:07:21,840  
but uh you know i'm i i do love

184  
00:07:26,629 --> 00:07:24,800  
debunking i love pointing out when

185  
00:07:28,790 --> 00:07:26,639  
when really smart people out there are

186  
00:07:32,230 --> 00:07:28,800  
saying things that might not necessarily

187  
00:07:35,909 --> 00:07:32,240  
uh be so i have found an audience

188  
00:07:36,790 --> 00:07:35,919

but it's not you know i sometimes envy

189

00:07:40,070 --> 00:07:36,800

uh

190

00:07:42,469 --> 00:07:40,080

other journalists who have a kind of

191

00:07:46,150 --> 00:07:42,479

tribal association you know that they

192

00:07:48,870 --> 00:07:46,160

may have found one theory one ideology

193

00:07:50,309 --> 00:07:48,880

that uh that they really believe in and

194

00:07:52,550 --> 00:07:50,319

they they promote that and there are

195

00:07:54,629 --> 00:07:52,560

lots of other people feel the same way i

196

00:07:57,189 --> 00:07:54,639

feel kind of like

197

00:07:59,189 --> 00:07:57,199

a lone wolf roaming around saying nasty

198

00:08:01,270 --> 00:07:59,199

things about about pretty much

199

00:08:04,550 --> 00:08:01,280

everything out there

200

00:08:07,270 --> 00:08:04,560

and it hasn't been easy always but but

201  
00:08:10,309 --> 00:08:07,280  
um it's been so much fun and i would

202  
00:08:12,309 --> 00:08:10,319  
encourage if there are any aspiring

203  
00:08:13,430 --> 00:08:12,319  
science writers out there i think right

204  
00:08:16,309 --> 00:08:13,440  
now

205  
00:08:17,350 --> 00:08:16,319  
more than ever we really need tough

206  
00:08:19,430 --> 00:08:17,360  
critical

207  
00:08:21,909 --> 00:08:19,440  
science journalism we've got way too

208  
00:08:24,550 --> 00:08:21,919  
much g-whiz science journalism

209  
00:08:27,430 --> 00:08:24,560  
uh and we need we need the critical

210  
00:08:29,270 --> 00:08:27,440  
style as a as a counterweight to that oh

211  
00:08:31,310 --> 00:08:29,280  
absolutely i couldn't agree more and you

212  
00:08:34,149 --> 00:08:31,320  
know i think it's that skeptical

213  
00:08:35,909 --> 00:08:34,159

irreverence that you show that really

214

00:08:38,870 --> 00:08:35,919

shines through and i know some people

215

00:08:41,190 --> 00:08:38,880

that it does probably rub them the wrong

216

00:08:43,430 --> 00:08:41,200

way but i do think it's essential and

217

00:08:44,630 --> 00:08:43,440

the other thing i think that i i loved

218

00:08:45,430 --> 00:08:44,640

you know

219

00:08:47,190 --> 00:08:45,440

one

220

00:08:49,590 --> 00:08:47,200

thing i found in preparation for this

221

00:08:51,910 --> 00:08:49,600

interview was an interview did you did

222

00:08:53,990 --> 00:08:51,920

with the nyu school of journalism it's a

223

00:08:56,389 --> 00:08:54,000

great background or if anyone wants to

224

00:08:58,710 --> 00:08:56,399

learn more about john and his history

225

00:09:01,110 --> 00:08:58,720

and it's really a little bit of inside

226

00:09:03,670 --> 00:09:01,120

baseball in terms of science journalism

227

00:09:06,470 --> 00:09:03,680

but that's what i really loved about it

228

00:09:07,670 --> 00:09:06,480

and i love the story that you tell

229

00:09:09,910 --> 00:09:07,680

about

230

00:09:11,190 --> 00:09:09,920

when you were duped you know when you

231

00:09:13,269 --> 00:09:11,200

went in there with the guy with the

232

00:09:15,350 --> 00:09:13,279

white lab coat and you just wrote down

233

00:09:17,190 --> 00:09:15,360

everything he said and

234

00:09:18,550 --> 00:09:17,200

as you described it it was somewhat of a

235

00:09:21,350 --> 00:09:18,560

turning point

236

00:09:23,670 --> 00:09:21,360

for you to really trust your instincts

237

00:09:25,190 --> 00:09:23,680

in terms of i get the sense that you're

238

00:09:27,990 --> 00:09:25,200

someone who doesn't

239

00:09:30,389 --> 00:09:28,000

suffer fools mildly and is probably

240

00:09:33,110 --> 00:09:30,399

pretty skeptical at the beginning but

241

00:09:35,430 --> 00:09:33,120

like most journalists you know and you

242

00:09:36,949 --> 00:09:35,440

get in the the pomp and circumstance of

243

00:09:38,630 --> 00:09:36,959

this guy is the authority and has the

244

00:09:40,550 --> 00:09:38,640

white coat so you kind of were seduced

245

00:09:42,310 --> 00:09:40,560

by that but then when you came out of

246

00:09:43,990 --> 00:09:42,320

that i think that really was somewhat of

247

00:09:47,990 --> 00:09:44,000

a turning point for you it sounded like

248

00:09:49,990 --> 00:09:48,000

it yeah um well it was there were a

249

00:09:52,630 --> 00:09:50,000

number of times that happened early in

250

00:09:54,150 --> 00:09:52,640

my career because i was an english major

251  
00:09:56,230 --> 00:09:54,160  
and then i went to graduate school in

252  
00:09:57,829 --> 00:09:56,240  
journalism i loved reading

253  
00:10:00,389 --> 00:09:57,839  
uh popular

254  
00:10:02,389 --> 00:10:00,399  
accounts of science books and articles

255  
00:10:04,870 --> 00:10:02,399  
in the new yorker and new york times and

256  
00:10:06,870 --> 00:10:04,880  
and that sort of thing but then here i

257  
00:10:08,949 --> 00:10:06,880  
am and i and i first started working for

258  
00:10:10,150 --> 00:10:08,959  
a magazine for electrical engineers and

259  
00:10:11,829 --> 00:10:10,160  
i would encounter some of these

260  
00:10:14,230 --> 00:10:11,839  
scientists and they're just

261  
00:10:16,470 --> 00:10:14,240  
they're just throwing all this jargon at

262  
00:10:18,150 --> 00:10:16,480  
me and and some of them i could i could

263  
00:10:20,389 --> 00:10:18,160

tell we're deliberately trying to

264

00:10:23,350 --> 00:10:20,399

intimidate and impress me

265

00:10:24,470 --> 00:10:23,360

um with the the uh you know sort of

266

00:10:28,310 --> 00:10:24,480

technical

267

00:10:29,750 --> 00:10:28,320

uh detail and i and i did feel insecure

268

00:10:31,829 --> 00:10:29,760

i think most science journalists would

269

00:10:33,910 --> 00:10:31,839

in a situation like that at some point i

270

00:10:35,990 --> 00:10:33,920

realized that if somebody is not

271

00:10:36,949 --> 00:10:36,000

explaining his work

272

00:10:38,710 --> 00:10:36,959

uh

273

00:10:40,790 --> 00:10:38,720

clearly enough so that i i can

274

00:10:43,509 --> 00:10:40,800

understand it then that's not

275

00:10:45,910 --> 00:10:43,519

necessarily my problem it might be that

276

00:10:47,829 --> 00:10:45,920

person's problem and i started trusting

277

00:10:48,550 --> 00:10:47,839

my own instincts if somebody is telling

278

00:10:52,949 --> 00:10:48,560

me

279

00:10:54,710 --> 00:10:52,959

it's not always necessarily

280

00:10:57,590 --> 00:10:54,720

sometimes it can be that i don't just

281

00:10:59,030 --> 00:10:57,600

understand it well enough at first

282

00:11:01,509 --> 00:10:59,040

but

283

00:11:03,470 --> 00:11:01,519

often it would turn out to be

284

00:11:05,030 --> 00:11:03,480

especially in this day and age of

285

00:11:07,829 --> 00:11:05,040

interdisciplinary

286

00:11:10,150 --> 00:11:07,839

uh work you know i mean scientists have

287

00:11:11,910 --> 00:11:10,160

to write in that manner because their

288

00:11:14,069 --> 00:11:11,920

work is often being

289

00:11:15,509 --> 00:11:14,079

read and used by people outside of their

290

00:11:18,310 --> 00:11:15,519

immediate field right

291

00:11:19,190 --> 00:11:18,320

that's right um so it's

292

00:11:20,389 --> 00:11:19,200

you know

293

00:11:22,230 --> 00:11:20,399

it's

294

00:11:24,310 --> 00:11:22,240

this is actually an interesting time in

295

00:11:25,590 --> 00:11:24,320

science journalism i've done a couple of

296

00:11:29,430 --> 00:11:25,600

pieces

297

00:11:31,910 --> 00:11:29,440

lately on this question of experts

298

00:11:33,350 --> 00:11:31,920

versus the public and how deferential

299

00:11:35,110 --> 00:11:33,360

the public should be and even

300

00:11:36,389 --> 00:11:35,120

journalists should be

301  
00:11:39,829 --> 00:11:36,399  
toward

302  
00:11:42,790 --> 00:11:39,839  
scientific experts or experts in even in

303  
00:11:44,310 --> 00:11:42,800  
non-scientific fields and especially

304  
00:11:46,150 --> 00:11:44,320  
because of

305  
00:11:48,389 --> 00:11:46,160  
global warming the debate over global

306  
00:11:50,389 --> 00:11:48,399  
warming and vaccines and you know where

307  
00:11:52,949 --> 00:11:50,399  
the there are these sort of populist

308  
00:11:55,190 --> 00:11:52,959  
movements uh challenging

309  
00:11:56,870 --> 00:11:55,200  
some of these experts i'm not saying i

310  
00:11:59,269 --> 00:11:56,880  
agree

311  
00:12:02,150 --> 00:11:59,279  
with those specific challenges but what

312  
00:12:03,509 --> 00:12:02,160  
concerns me is that some journalists and

313  
00:12:05,110 --> 00:12:03,519

scientists are saying you know the

314

00:12:06,790 --> 00:12:05,120

public should shut up and just listen to

315

00:12:09,030 --> 00:12:06,800

what the experts are saying and i

316

00:12:12,470 --> 00:12:09,040

couldn't disagree with that more i think

317

00:12:15,590 --> 00:12:12,480

that's undemocratic i think that is not

318

00:12:18,790 --> 00:12:15,600

in the spirit of science as i see it and

319

00:12:22,150 --> 00:12:18,800

it also would mean that it delegitimizes

320

00:12:24,710 --> 00:12:22,160

people like me who are non-experts

321

00:12:28,150 --> 00:12:24,720

uh but who are

322

00:12:29,670 --> 00:12:28,160

uh paid it's my profession to go to the

323

00:12:31,990 --> 00:12:29,680

scientists and try to figure out what

324

00:12:33,110 --> 00:12:32,000

they're saying and not just to

325

00:12:36,150 --> 00:12:33,120

uh

326

00:12:38,069 --> 00:12:36,160

just to market their ideas to the public

327

00:12:40,550 --> 00:12:38,079

but to

328

00:12:42,230 --> 00:12:40,560

challenge them to consider them to weigh

329

00:12:45,430 --> 00:12:42,240

the evidence for and against those

330

00:12:47,110 --> 00:12:45,440

claims and try to tell people if i think

331

00:12:49,990 --> 00:12:47,120

that maybe

332

00:12:52,389 --> 00:12:50,000

they're being sold a bill of goods

333

00:12:54,150 --> 00:12:52,399

great i mean i think anyone who's

334

00:12:57,509 --> 00:12:54,160

thoughtful would see it that is an

335

00:12:59,910 --> 00:12:57,519

absolute vital role for someone to fill

336

00:13:03,030 --> 00:12:59,920

and you do a great job of filling it but

337

00:13:04,949 --> 00:13:03,040

okay enough nicey nicey stuff when i

338

00:13:07,750 --> 00:13:04,959

sent you all this stuff

339

00:13:10,310 --> 00:13:07,760

you replied like i knew you would and

340

00:13:13,110 --> 00:13:10,320

saying bring it on and i love that

341

00:13:15,350 --> 00:13:13,120

because in the interviews i do i often

342

00:13:17,829 --> 00:13:15,360

have to kind of dance around and kind of

343

00:13:18,790 --> 00:13:17,839

play nice with people before i can

344

00:13:21,110 --> 00:13:18,800

really

345

00:13:23,269 --> 00:13:21,120

let go with what i've discovered and

346

00:13:25,190 --> 00:13:23,279

match it up with what's out there in

347

00:13:26,949 --> 00:13:25,200

terms of mainstream science so

348

00:13:28,710 --> 00:13:26,959

we're gonna have a good time i think

349

00:13:30,230 --> 00:13:28,720

you've talked about a lot of the issues

350

00:13:31,350 --> 00:13:30,240

as i described earlier that we care

351  
00:13:34,629 --> 00:13:31,360  
about

352  
00:13:37,110 --> 00:13:34,639  
on this show so i'm looking forward to

353  
00:13:39,190 --> 00:13:37,120  
this kind of bring it down in a very

354  
00:13:40,629 --> 00:13:39,200  
fun way and in a respectful way because

355  
00:13:42,790 --> 00:13:40,639  
i think what you do

356  
00:13:45,190 --> 00:13:42,800  
is absolutely great and i think where

357  
00:13:48,550 --> 00:13:45,200  
you're coming from as you just described

358  
00:13:50,150 --> 00:13:48,560  
is absolutely perfect so if i'm wrong i

359  
00:13:52,949 --> 00:13:50,160  
want to know that i'm wrong i don't want

360  
00:13:54,470 --> 00:13:52,959  
to go out and spew a bunch of nonsense

361  
00:13:56,949 --> 00:13:54,480  
that doesn't really

362  
00:13:59,590 --> 00:13:56,959  
stand up to scrutiny and i get the sense

363  
00:14:01,670 --> 00:13:59,600

that you're the same way like that first

364

00:14:03,350 --> 00:14:01,680

or those first series of interviews were

365

00:14:05,509 --> 00:14:03,360

you don't want to be bullshitted didn't

366

00:14:07,350 --> 00:14:05,519

the terence mckenna uh

367

00:14:09,189 --> 00:14:07,360

famous who made frames yeah i want to be

368

00:14:10,069 --> 00:14:09,199

able to tell from shinola i mean

369

00:14:13,189 --> 00:14:10,079

that's

370

00:14:14,790 --> 00:14:13,199

ultimately my goal so

371

00:14:16,150 --> 00:14:14,800

so yeah let's jump in and talk about

372

00:14:18,069 --> 00:14:16,160

consciousness i think we're going to

373

00:14:21,590 --> 00:14:18,079

come back to talking about consciousness

374

00:14:23,150 --> 00:14:21,600

again and again i think that there is

375

00:14:25,269 --> 00:14:23,160

somewhat of a

376

00:14:27,509 --> 00:14:25,279

misunderstanding out there in terms of

377

00:14:30,310 --> 00:14:27,519

the consciousness research that i've

378

00:14:31,509 --> 00:14:30,320

looked at i think it gets misinterpreted

379

00:14:32,550 --> 00:14:31,519

and often

380

00:14:35,189 --> 00:14:32,560

spun

381

00:14:38,310 --> 00:14:35,199

in a news cycle kind of way within the

382

00:14:41,509 --> 00:14:38,320

science media and the first point that i

383

00:14:43,750 --> 00:14:41,519

brought to your attention was this whole

384

00:14:45,910 --> 00:14:43,760

charade of

385

00:14:48,150 --> 00:14:45,920

property of consciousness that is you'll

386

00:14:50,550 --> 00:14:48,160

hear folks say oh

387

00:14:53,590 --> 00:14:50,560

we've seen the light consciousness is

388

00:14:55,829 --> 00:14:53,600

not an illusion because we know

389

00:14:59,350 --> 00:14:55,839

20 years ago that was the dominant

390

00:15:01,189 --> 00:14:59,360

paradigm that was the idea that

391

00:15:03,590 --> 00:15:01,199

consciousness was some kind of an

392

00:15:06,550 --> 00:15:03,600

epiphenomenon of the brain daniel

393

00:15:08,790 --> 00:15:06,560

dennett famous philosopher said yeah

394

00:15:11,030 --> 00:15:08,800

consciousness is an illusion and we

395

00:15:13,670 --> 00:15:11,040

built this whole materialistic

396

00:15:15,990 --> 00:15:13,680

neuroscience on that assumption but in

397

00:15:18,710 --> 00:15:16,000

the last 20 years there's been more and

398

00:15:22,550 --> 00:15:18,720

more of an eroding away at that

399

00:15:25,430 --> 00:15:22,560

simplistic idea and now these guys have

400

00:15:28,310 --> 00:15:25,440

backpedaled into this idea of well maybe

401  
00:15:30,550 --> 00:15:28,320  
it's not exactly an epiphenomenon but ah

402  
00:15:32,710 --> 00:15:30,560  
it's an emergent property of the brain

403  
00:15:34,790 --> 00:15:32,720  
that's what it is even though we don't

404  
00:15:35,750 --> 00:15:34,800  
know what the constituent elements are

405  
00:15:38,470 --> 00:15:35,760  
even though we don't know when

406  
00:15:40,389 --> 00:15:38,480  
consciousness begins when it ends what

407  
00:15:42,629 --> 00:15:40,399  
are the necessary and sufficient causes

408  
00:15:44,870 --> 00:15:42,639  
of human consciousness but we can kind

409  
00:15:46,949 --> 00:15:44,880  
of just throw this blanket over it and

410  
00:15:49,430 --> 00:15:46,959  
say oh it's an emergent property of the

411  
00:15:51,189 --> 00:15:49,440  
brain are you buying that

412  
00:15:52,829 --> 00:15:51,199  
well

413  
00:15:56,230 --> 00:15:52,839

i think

414

00:15:57,749 --> 00:15:56,240

that consciousness studies neuroscience

415

00:16:00,470 --> 00:15:57,759

in general

416

00:16:03,350 --> 00:16:00,480

i think is the most exciting

417

00:16:05,670 --> 00:16:03,360

frontier in science right now i'm really

418

00:16:08,069 --> 00:16:05,680

i'm kind of burned out on cosmology and

419

00:16:11,110 --> 00:16:08,079

particle physics they're still in there

420

00:16:13,269 --> 00:16:11,120

they're still peddling multi-verses and

421

00:16:15,430 --> 00:16:13,279

string theory and the same kind of stuff

422

00:16:17,430 --> 00:16:15,440

that i was writing about 25 years ago

423

00:16:18,389 --> 00:16:17,440

and it was pretty novel then and now it

424

00:16:20,949 --> 00:16:18,399

just

425

00:16:22,470 --> 00:16:20,959

it seems stale and i don't even think

426

00:16:25,670 --> 00:16:22,480

it's very scientific

427

00:16:27,990 --> 00:16:25,680

um anymore but but neuroscience the

428

00:16:31,269 --> 00:16:28,000

attempt to under you know what i i love

429

00:16:33,350 --> 00:16:31,279

the fact that the greatest mystery

430

00:16:34,470 --> 00:16:33,360

uh in the universe

431

00:16:37,829 --> 00:16:34,480

is

432

00:16:40,710 --> 00:16:37,839

right inside the the skull of each and

433

00:16:43,189 --> 00:16:40,720

every one of us the greatest mystery is

434

00:16:46,069 --> 00:16:43,199

what makes it possible to have for us to

435

00:16:48,550 --> 00:16:46,079

have this conversation right now and to

436

00:16:51,269 --> 00:16:48,560

understand each other's uh to the extent

437

00:16:53,110 --> 00:16:51,279

that we do understand each other

438

00:16:54,230 --> 00:16:53,120

i've been writing about consciousness

439

00:16:56,470 --> 00:16:54,240

for

440

00:16:58,389 --> 00:16:56,480

almost 30 years now

441

00:17:02,470 --> 00:16:58,399

and

442

00:17:03,269 --> 00:17:02,480

by default i still am a materialist i i

443

00:17:05,429 --> 00:17:03,279

still

444

00:17:06,470 --> 00:17:05,439

to the extent that i think

445

00:17:09,669 --> 00:17:06,480

um

446

00:17:10,549 --> 00:17:09,679

if there will be understanding

447

00:17:13,429 --> 00:17:10,559

of

448

00:17:15,029 --> 00:17:13,439

consciousness and mind in general and

449

00:17:17,590 --> 00:17:15,039

all the you know the different aspects

450

00:17:18,870 --> 00:17:17,600

of the mind it will come

451  
00:17:21,669 --> 00:17:18,880  
from

452  
00:17:25,350 --> 00:17:21,679  
probing the physiological uh

453  
00:17:28,069 --> 00:17:25,360  
underpinnings uh of the mind which as

454  
00:17:30,950 --> 00:17:28,079  
far as we know is the brain itself

455  
00:17:33,510 --> 00:17:30,960  
but it's it's amazing how little

456  
00:17:35,590 --> 00:17:33,520  
progress there has been

457  
00:17:39,190 --> 00:17:35,600  
uh in this field

458  
00:17:41,350 --> 00:17:39,200  
and i think people are perfectly

459  
00:17:42,470 --> 00:17:41,360  
right to

460  
00:17:44,390 --> 00:17:42,480  
question

461  
00:17:46,310 --> 00:17:44,400  
uh the the

462  
00:17:48,710 --> 00:17:46,320  
arrogance of some scientists who think

463  
00:17:50,870 --> 00:17:48,720

that we're closing in on a solution or

464

00:17:52,230 --> 00:17:50,880

just to kind of wave their hands around

465

00:17:54,870 --> 00:17:52,240

and throw out

466

00:17:57,029 --> 00:17:54,880

uh terms like emergent phenomenon and

467

00:17:58,150 --> 00:17:57,039

that that sort of thing

468

00:18:00,630 --> 00:17:58,160

um

469

00:18:02,470 --> 00:18:00,640

but it is an exciting time i think one

470

00:18:04,230 --> 00:18:02,480

of the one of the things that excites me

471

00:18:07,110 --> 00:18:04,240

is the possibility of

472

00:18:09,830 --> 00:18:07,120

of uh applied neuroscience of

473

00:18:14,150 --> 00:18:09,840

of uh having devices

474

00:18:17,190 --> 00:18:14,160

that can um allow us to interact with

475

00:18:19,909 --> 00:18:17,200

machines in a much more direct way

476

00:18:21,750 --> 00:18:19,919

uh artificial cochleas where you know

477

00:18:24,710 --> 00:18:21,760

these are these are the little devices

478

00:18:26,710 --> 00:18:24,720

that allow deaf people to hear they were

479

00:18:28,710 --> 00:18:26,720

just on the horizon when i got into

480

00:18:30,230 --> 00:18:28,720

science journalism in the early 80s and

481

00:18:32,470 --> 00:18:30,240

there are a lot of neuroscientists who

482

00:18:34,070 --> 00:18:32,480

thought that it they would never happen

483

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

that the the

484

00:18:38,870 --> 00:18:36,640

coding of neural information auditory

485

00:18:41,190 --> 00:18:38,880

information was too complex

486

00:18:43,190 --> 00:18:41,200

to be reproduced by a little electronic

487

00:18:44,549 --> 00:18:43,200

device they were wrong there are more

488

00:18:46,150 --> 00:18:44,559

than hundred thousand people have

489

00:18:48,950 --> 00:18:46,160

artificial cochlears around the world

490

00:18:51,750 --> 00:18:48,960

today maybe it's possible

491

00:18:55,669 --> 00:18:51,760

to have other neural prostheses possibly

492

00:18:56,870 --> 00:18:55,679

even brain ships that allow

493

00:19:00,549 --> 00:18:56,880

matrix

494

00:19:03,990 --> 00:19:00,559

style scenarios that's kind of the

495

00:19:05,909 --> 00:19:04,000

that's the hypey view of neuroscience

496

00:19:08,830 --> 00:19:05,919

and i understand why people have that

497

00:19:13,510 --> 00:19:08,840

view i get excited about it sometimes uh

498

00:19:15,350 --> 00:19:13,520

myself but the fact is that we're still

499

00:19:17,430 --> 00:19:15,360

just kind of

500

00:19:19,350 --> 00:19:17,440

scratching at the surface of the brain

501  
00:19:21,029 --> 00:19:19,360  
and and it's one of those weird areas of

502  
00:19:22,830 --> 00:19:21,039  
science that

503  
00:19:26,789 --> 00:19:22,840  
seems to get

504  
00:19:29,750 --> 00:19:26,799  
more mysterious and complicated

505  
00:19:31,830 --> 00:19:29,760  
uh the more research we do it's almost

506  
00:19:34,470 --> 00:19:31,840  
as though we're going backwards in a way

507  
00:19:36,950 --> 00:19:34,480  
in our understanding of ourselves well i

508  
00:19:39,430 --> 00:19:36,960  
would suggest to you that's because we

509  
00:19:41,029 --> 00:19:39,440  
keep pounding on this mind equals brain

510  
00:19:43,190 --> 00:19:41,039  
thing and you just did it there a couple

511  
00:19:45,909 --> 00:19:43,200  
times in equating the brain with the

512  
00:19:48,310 --> 00:19:45,919  
mind and i think that the best evidence

513  
00:19:49,990 --> 00:19:48,320

we have is that that idea has been

514

00:19:52,070 --> 00:19:50,000

falsified you know

515

00:19:54,870 --> 00:19:52,080

you know the exciting advances

516

00:19:56,549 --> 00:19:54,880

technology engineering great bring it on

517

00:19:59,270 --> 00:19:56,559

you know and you want to embed an

518

00:20:01,029 --> 00:19:59,280

ipad in my uh head and all that stuff

519

00:20:02,630 --> 00:20:01,039

i'll be the first one in line to sign up

520

00:20:04,630 --> 00:20:02,640

not the first one let me take that back

521

00:20:06,390 --> 00:20:04,640

i won't be the first one but i don't

522

00:20:07,990 --> 00:20:06,400

have any problem with that

523

00:20:11,350 --> 00:20:08,000

what i have a problem with is the

524

00:20:14,070 --> 00:20:11,360

fundamental assumption the paradigm and

525

00:20:17,990 --> 00:20:14,080

where that paradigm takes us and that is

526

00:20:19,830 --> 00:20:18,000

that mind equals brain that you are this

527

00:20:21,909 --> 00:20:19,840

biological robot in a meaningless

528

00:20:24,630 --> 00:20:21,919

universe and we can't get away from that

529

00:20:27,350 --> 00:20:24,640

but the real problem that bugs me

530

00:20:30,710 --> 00:20:27,360

is that we have good evidence

531

00:20:33,029 --> 00:20:30,720

that that has been falsified and even if

532

00:20:35,190 --> 00:20:33,039

you look at the story arc like i laid

533

00:20:37,430 --> 00:20:35,200

out there hey 20 years ago no one was

534

00:20:39,430 --> 00:20:37,440

talking about uh consciousness being an

535

00:20:41,830 --> 00:20:39,440

emergent property and there wasn't some

536

00:20:44,630 --> 00:20:41,840

discovery that brought that on it was a

537

00:20:46,390 --> 00:20:44,640

default a fallback position because

538

00:20:49,029 --> 00:20:46,400

these guys who are peddling this

539

00:20:51,909 --> 00:20:49,039

consciousness is an illusion thing they

540

00:20:54,230 --> 00:20:51,919

just got beaten down by the data but no

541

00:20:56,789 --> 00:20:54,240

one ever came out and said oh we were

542

00:20:59,669 --> 00:20:56,799

wrong about that they've instead just

543

00:21:02,390 --> 00:20:59,679

tried to slip this next meme in here

544

00:21:05,350 --> 00:21:02,400

that it's an emergent property it's just

545

00:21:07,590 --> 00:21:05,360

it doesn't hold up and as i

546

00:21:10,070 --> 00:21:07,600

just said you know emergent property

547

00:21:12,950 --> 00:21:10,080

this is what they use to talk about

548

00:21:14,950 --> 00:21:12,960

tornadoes or sand dunes or snow drifts

549

00:21:17,750 --> 00:21:14,960

or any of the rest of that whenever we

550

00:21:18,549 --> 00:21:17,760

talk about an emergent property we talk

551  
00:21:21,510 --> 00:21:18,559  
about

552  
00:21:24,070 --> 00:21:21,520  
knowing how it's formed we know within a

553  
00:21:26,149 --> 00:21:24,080  
sand dune it's from sand and wind and

554  
00:21:29,270 --> 00:21:26,159  
moisture and certain weather conditions

555  
00:21:31,190 --> 00:21:29,280  
we can model it but we can't do any of

556  
00:21:33,430 --> 00:21:31,200  
that with consciousness like i said we

557  
00:21:35,830 --> 00:21:33,440  
can't say who's consciousness what is

558  
00:21:38,070 --> 00:21:35,840  
consciousness is your dog conscious is

559  
00:21:40,470 --> 00:21:38,080  
this plant out in front of my office

560  
00:21:42,710 --> 00:21:40,480  
conscious we can't say when it begins we

561  
00:21:44,710 --> 00:21:42,720  
can't say when it ends and yet we're

562  
00:21:47,830 --> 00:21:44,720  
still married

563  
00:21:50,029 --> 00:21:47,840

to this mind equals brain thing and i

564

00:21:53,510 --> 00:21:50,039

just think it doesn't hold up

565

00:21:54,950 --> 00:21:53,520

experimentally or philosophically well i

566

00:21:58,390 --> 00:21:54,960

you know maybe we have to get more

567

00:22:01,350 --> 00:21:58,400

explicit about where you think the model

568

00:22:03,430 --> 00:22:01,360

uh breaks down i do think that there is

569

00:22:05,430 --> 00:22:03,440

tremendous confusion

570

00:22:07,430 --> 00:22:05,440

when it comes to how i mean we're

571

00:22:08,950 --> 00:22:07,440

talking about the mind body problem

572

00:22:11,270 --> 00:22:08,960

which is something that plato and

573

00:22:13,669 --> 00:22:11,280

socrates worried about uh you know it's

574

00:22:16,230 --> 00:22:13,679

it's it's if not the oldest problem

575

00:22:18,789 --> 00:22:16,240

certainly one of the oldest problems of

576

00:22:21,270 --> 00:22:18,799

philosophy or just of human thought uh

577

00:22:25,669 --> 00:22:21,280

sort of contemplating the oddness

578

00:22:28,470 --> 00:22:25,679

of uh reality as i said i think it's for

579

00:22:29,669 --> 00:22:28,480

me it's too early to abandon it just

580

00:22:32,549 --> 00:22:29,679

because i'm not sure what the

581

00:22:35,029 --> 00:22:32,559

alternative is uh you know it's it's

582

00:22:38,149 --> 00:22:35,039

bizarre to me that a major

583

00:22:40,710 --> 00:22:38,159

neuroscientist or christoph

584

00:22:42,230 --> 00:22:40,720

who used to be one of my go-to guys for

585

00:22:45,029 --> 00:22:42,240

neuroscience is now

586

00:22:47,270 --> 00:22:45,039

talking about pan-psychism that maybe

587

00:22:48,710 --> 00:22:47,280

consciousness is a kind of fundamental

588

00:22:51,190 --> 00:22:48,720

property of the universe like

589

00:22:53,110 --> 00:22:51,200

electromagnetism and gravity i mean that

590

00:22:56,789 --> 00:22:53,120

opens up a lot more doors and i talked

591

00:22:58,710 --> 00:22:56,799

to too and uh a few years ago and i

592

00:23:00,950 --> 00:22:58,720

think i tried to pull him into that

593

00:23:03,350 --> 00:23:00,960

because what i read in his writing was

594

00:23:05,110 --> 00:23:03,360

him moving exactly in that direction and

595

00:23:08,870 --> 00:23:05,120

he wanted to play it both ways in terms

596

00:23:11,110 --> 00:23:08,880

of this propping up this materialism

597

00:23:13,190 --> 00:23:11,120

on one hand and on the other hand kind

598

00:23:15,750 --> 00:23:13,200

of venturing into these other areas but

599

00:23:18,230 --> 00:23:15,760

in terms of again john if we just follow

600

00:23:20,270 --> 00:23:18,240

the data i think one i think the whole

601  
00:23:22,630 --> 00:23:20,280  
mindfulness thing self-directed

602  
00:23:24,950 --> 00:23:22,640  
neuroplasticity all the research that

603  
00:23:27,830 --> 00:23:24,960  
you looked into in terms of meditation

604  
00:23:31,510 --> 00:23:27,840  
for your book rational mysticism i think

605  
00:23:33,110 --> 00:23:31,520  
that research has been again uh largely

606  
00:23:34,470 --> 00:23:33,120  
i don't want to say misinterpreted

607  
00:23:37,270 --> 00:23:34,480  
because i think it's been interpreted

608  
00:23:39,669 --> 00:23:37,280  
very nicely and i had dan harris abc

609  
00:23:42,549 --> 00:23:39,679  
news superstar who wrote a best-selling

610  
00:23:45,190 --> 00:23:42,559  
book 10 happier all about meditation and

611  
00:23:47,510 --> 00:23:45,200  
all about that research hey that's great

612  
00:23:49,830 --> 00:23:47,520  
but like i told dan we've buried the

613  
00:23:52,070 --> 00:23:49,840

lead when we talk about that research

614

00:23:55,430 --> 00:23:52,080

because what that research really tells

615

00:23:58,710 --> 00:23:55,440

us is that the materialistic mind equals

616

00:24:02,549 --> 00:23:58,720

brain model does not work because if

617

00:24:05,430 --> 00:24:02,559

mind equals brain then mind can't do

618

00:24:07,669 --> 00:24:05,440

anything it can't do any real work if we

619

00:24:10,470 --> 00:24:07,679

have a closed system but when we see

620

00:24:12,470 --> 00:24:10,480

meditators even when as you report in

621

00:24:13,830 --> 00:24:12,480

rational mysticism we see him doing

622

00:24:16,470 --> 00:24:13,840

different things and we see him doing

623

00:24:19,990 --> 00:24:16,480

contradictory things but we definitely

624

00:24:22,549 --> 00:24:20,000

see in material thought affecting the

625

00:24:24,789 --> 00:24:22,559

physical structure of the brain here let

626

00:24:26,549 --> 00:24:24,799

me that this you're you're touching on a

627

00:24:29,430 --> 00:24:26,559

really point let me see if i can frame

628

00:24:30,470 --> 00:24:29,440

it a little differently frame it the way

629

00:24:35,350 --> 00:24:30,480

that

630

00:24:37,830 --> 00:24:35,360

think about uh think about this

631

00:24:39,830 --> 00:24:37,840

to me one of the uh

632

00:24:42,470 --> 00:24:39,840

the issues that really obsesses me and

633

00:24:45,430 --> 00:24:42,480

if you if you've looked at my blog

634

00:24:48,070 --> 00:24:45,440

you probably noticed this is free will

635

00:24:49,830 --> 00:24:48,080

i think free will is maybe

636

00:24:52,630 --> 00:24:49,840

you know it's like the riddle within the

637

00:24:54,549 --> 00:24:52,640

mystery of consciousness and it it gets

638

00:24:55,590 --> 00:24:54,559

at this question that you're talking

639

00:24:57,110 --> 00:24:55,600

about

640

00:24:59,830 --> 00:24:57,120

how can

641

00:25:01,909 --> 00:24:59,840

you know so the mind comes from matter

642

00:25:04,789 --> 00:25:01,919

and then it creates this emergent thing

643

00:25:05,990 --> 00:25:04,799

the mind that somehow then

644

00:25:09,029 --> 00:25:06,000

exerts

645

00:25:11,350 --> 00:25:09,039

a downward influence

646

00:25:12,310 --> 00:25:11,360

on on the matter itself

647

00:25:20,630 --> 00:25:12,320

and

648

00:25:23,350 --> 00:25:20,640

there are others who are kind of saying

649

00:25:26,549 --> 00:25:23,360

something similar to this is that

650

00:25:27,669 --> 00:25:26,559

um we need a whole new

651

00:25:31,669 --> 00:25:27,679

kind of

652

00:25:35,350 --> 00:25:31,679

causality that we're stuck in physics

653

00:25:37,510 --> 00:25:35,360

causality the billiard ball causality if

654

00:25:39,669 --> 00:25:37,520

you've you've got a system with a bunch

655

00:25:42,149 --> 00:25:39,679

of physical objects in it you know the

656

00:25:44,630 --> 00:25:42,159

forces that are acting upon that system

657

00:25:47,990 --> 00:25:44,640

you can predict its course infinitely

658

00:25:50,070 --> 00:25:48,000

far into the future that just obviously

659

00:25:53,029 --> 00:25:50,080

does not explain the world that we

660

00:25:54,870 --> 00:25:53,039

humans live in where we can

661

00:25:57,750 --> 00:25:54,880

look into the future right now i'm

662

00:25:58,789 --> 00:25:57,760

talking to you i can think of a couple

663

00:26:02,070 --> 00:25:58,799

of different

664

00:26:04,870 --> 00:26:02,080

things to say that will create whole new

665

00:26:06,950 --> 00:26:04,880

trajectories for this conversation i can

666

00:26:08,630 --> 00:26:06,960

do the same thing with my life i can

667

00:26:11,510 --> 00:26:08,640

radically change

668

00:26:15,110 --> 00:26:11,520

the course of my life and maybe change

669

00:26:17,990 --> 00:26:15,120

the course of other people's lives by

670

00:26:20,789 --> 00:26:18,000

taking in new information that makes me

671

00:26:22,950 --> 00:26:20,799

see the future differently and act in a

672

00:26:25,430 --> 00:26:22,960

different way well john hold on you've

673

00:26:28,390 --> 00:26:25,440

just violated your idea that you're a

674

00:26:31,750 --> 00:26:28,400

materialist you've also just violated

675

00:26:34,070 --> 00:26:31,760

the neo-darwinist idea of evolution you

676

00:26:36,950 --> 00:26:34,080

have you've added a new element to it

677

00:26:39,430 --> 00:26:36,960

and that is that thought immaterial

678

00:26:41,269 --> 00:26:39,440

thought can direct where we go i think

679

00:26:43,029 --> 00:26:41,279

that's well established i'm totally with

680

00:26:45,190 --> 00:26:43,039

you but i don't understand how you still

681

00:26:49,350 --> 00:26:45,200

call yourself a materialist i it's uh

682

00:26:52,230 --> 00:26:49,360

well my materialism is

683

00:26:53,669 --> 00:26:52,240

pretty expansive i mean i meet you know

684

00:26:56,390 --> 00:26:53,679

so for example

685

00:26:57,990 --> 00:26:56,400

uh there are some hardcore materialists

686

00:26:59,830 --> 00:26:58,000

out there who

687

00:27:02,310 --> 00:26:59,840

deny there are a lot of people who deny

688

00:27:05,269 --> 00:27:02,320

the existence of free will right now uh

689

00:27:05,830 --> 00:27:05,279

stephen hawking has

690

00:27:07,590 --> 00:27:05,840

but jerry coyne

691

00:27:09,510 --> 00:27:07,600

guys are dancing in the dark they're

692

00:27:11,269 --> 00:27:09,520

complete morons i mean your point jerry

693

00:27:13,029 --> 00:27:11,279

coin is a complete mourn as far as

694

00:27:16,310 --> 00:27:13,039

hawking i mean anyone who says that

695

00:27:18,149 --> 00:27:16,320

philosophy is dead is obviously kind of

696

00:27:19,510 --> 00:27:18,159

painted themselves into a

697

00:27:21,590 --> 00:27:19,520

a corner that they're not going to be

698

00:27:24,070 --> 00:27:21,600

able to think their way out of right

699

00:27:25,590 --> 00:27:24,080

well those guys are also you know some

700

00:27:27,590 --> 00:27:25,600

people are just provocateurs because

701  
00:27:30,470 --> 00:27:27,600  
they want to they they want to they want

702  
00:27:31,990 --> 00:27:30,480  
to piss readers off and um you know

703  
00:27:34,390 --> 00:27:32,000  
maybe it generates more traffic i

704  
00:27:35,430 --> 00:27:34,400  
understand that but but yeah some

705  
00:27:37,909 --> 00:27:35,440  
sometimes

706  
00:27:40,070 --> 00:27:37,919  
some of those guys say things that don't

707  
00:27:41,510 --> 00:27:40,080  
make any sense but there are

708  
00:27:43,350 --> 00:27:41,520  
i i know because i've gotten in

709  
00:27:44,630 --> 00:27:43,360  
arguments with with some of them there

710  
00:27:47,029 --> 00:27:44,640  
are people out there who have very

711  
00:27:48,789 --> 00:27:47,039  
serious objections to free will francis

712  
00:27:50,950 --> 00:27:48,799  
crick who i interviewed for my book the

713  
00:27:53,510 --> 00:27:50,960

end of science is one of the greatest

714

00:27:55,350 --> 00:27:53,520

minds i've ever encountered and he did

715

00:27:57,909 --> 00:27:55,360

not believe or he had serious doubts

716

00:28:00,470 --> 00:27:57,919

about free will as i said i just think

717

00:28:03,750 --> 00:28:00,480

our concept of materialism

718

00:28:05,029 --> 00:28:03,760

and material causality needs to be

719

00:28:06,389 --> 00:28:05,039

enormously

720

00:28:09,190 --> 00:28:06,399

expanded

721

00:28:11,110 --> 00:28:09,200

and by the way uh you know i've maybe

722

00:28:12,870 --> 00:28:11,120

this comes from my taking psychedelics

723

00:28:14,710 --> 00:28:12,880

i'm an old acid head i started tripping

724

00:28:17,830 --> 00:28:14,720

when i was just a kid when i was 15

725

00:28:19,350 --> 00:28:17,840

years old and i've taken psychedelics

726

00:28:21,909 --> 00:28:19,360

quite a few times i've written about

727

00:28:23,269 --> 00:28:21,919

this in my books and it has given me a

728

00:28:25,909 --> 00:28:23,279

picture

729

00:28:28,630 --> 00:28:25,919

of reality whatever the hell ad is

730

00:28:30,789 --> 00:28:28,640

and of the mind body problem

731

00:28:31,750 --> 00:28:30,799

and these issues that we we are talking

732

00:28:34,549 --> 00:28:31,760

about

733

00:28:36,310 --> 00:28:34,559

that makes me

734

00:28:39,029 --> 00:28:36,320

very suspicious

735

00:28:41,990 --> 00:28:39,039

of any conventional

736

00:28:45,669 --> 00:28:42,000

explanation so i'm a materialist with a

737

00:28:48,149 --> 00:28:45,679

big asterisk next to it because i think

738

00:28:50,710 --> 00:28:48,159

that materialism needs to be

739

00:28:54,149 --> 00:28:50,720

totally revamped

740

00:28:56,630 --> 00:28:54,159

and as i said a whole new kind of a

741

00:28:58,310 --> 00:28:56,640

physics of psychology

742

00:29:00,789 --> 00:28:58,320

created which we don't even have an

743

00:29:02,789 --> 00:29:00,799

inkling of at this point

744

00:29:05,990 --> 00:29:02,799

uh that gives us

745

00:29:07,750 --> 00:29:06,000

a more sophisticated sense of how the

746

00:29:09,430 --> 00:29:07,760

world works and particularly how our

747

00:29:12,230 --> 00:29:09,440

human world works

748

00:29:14,149 --> 00:29:12,240

and how it is that we are physical

749

00:29:16,310 --> 00:29:14,159

creatures and yet

750

00:29:17,510 --> 00:29:16,320

we can make decisions we can make

751  
00:29:19,669 --> 00:29:17,520  
choices

752  
00:29:22,070 --> 00:29:19,679  
that alter the course that are at a

753  
00:29:23,909 --> 00:29:22,080  
psychological level because of a book

754  
00:29:25,590 --> 00:29:23,919  
we've read or a conversation we've had

755  
00:29:28,950 --> 00:29:25,600  
or something we've seen

756  
00:29:31,029 --> 00:29:28,960  
that can alter our physical course

757  
00:29:33,430 --> 00:29:31,039  
through the universe i'm totally with

758  
00:29:35,909 --> 00:29:33,440  
you john although i think that really

759  
00:29:39,110 --> 00:29:35,919  
points to the larger problem with

760  
00:29:41,029 --> 00:29:39,120  
science that you touch on very nicely in

761  
00:29:43,990 --> 00:29:41,039  
your book but also in your blog and in

762  
00:29:46,470 --> 00:29:44,000  
your many writings and that is i i think

763  
00:29:49,909 --> 00:29:46,480

science has become the emperor with no

764

00:29:51,350 --> 00:29:49,919

clothes on so when science says there is

765

00:29:53,750 --> 00:29:51,360

no free will

766

00:29:56,470 --> 00:29:53,760

or science says you are a biological

767

00:29:58,230 --> 00:29:56,480

robot like dawkins says or

768

00:30:00,789 --> 00:29:58,240

that we live in you're a biological

769

00:30:03,029 --> 00:30:00,799

robot a meaningless universe like uh

770

00:30:04,470 --> 00:30:03,039

lawrence krauss says who i just recently

771

00:30:06,310 --> 00:30:04,480

interviewed

772

00:30:09,590 --> 00:30:06,320

the physicist

773

00:30:12,070 --> 00:30:09,600

i think it loses credibility and people

774

00:30:14,070 --> 00:30:12,080

just go on it's like you're a lapsed

775

00:30:15,590 --> 00:30:14,080

catholic i have catholic friends and

776

00:30:17,830 --> 00:30:15,600

they don't really believe any of that

777

00:30:19,990 --> 00:30:17,840

stuff they just go to church go through

778

00:30:21,190 --> 00:30:20,000

the ritual and all the rest of that and

779

00:30:23,669 --> 00:30:21,200

go out and have a beer with their

780

00:30:25,510 --> 00:30:23,679

buddies after and watch the game i i get

781

00:30:27,510 --> 00:30:25,520

that that's a practical way of doing it

782

00:30:30,230 --> 00:30:27,520

i think that's what science has become

783

00:30:31,510 --> 00:30:30,240

no one takes that seriously uh i have no

784

00:30:33,990 --> 00:30:31,520

free will

785

00:30:37,750 --> 00:30:34,000

you're you're an idiot if you think that

786

00:30:40,070 --> 00:30:37,760

um i i'm a biological robot living in a

787

00:30:42,470 --> 00:30:40,080

meaningless world and i i don't have the

788

00:30:44,549 --> 00:30:42,480

love that i think i have for my family

789

00:30:47,830 --> 00:30:44,559

for my children for my wife come on

790

00:30:51,269 --> 00:30:47,840

that's an absurd idea and yet we're

791

00:30:53,029 --> 00:30:51,279

asked to just pile that absurdity on all

792

00:30:55,110 --> 00:30:53,039

the other absurdities you know you just

793

00:30:57,990 --> 00:30:55,120

wrote a book the end of war it's another

794

00:30:59,590 --> 00:30:58,000

absurdity politics is an absurdity and

795

00:31:01,669 --> 00:30:59,600

science has just become another

796

00:31:03,750 --> 00:31:01,679

absurdity that we just kind of shuffle

797

00:31:05,830 --> 00:31:03,760

along and go well i'm sure they're doing

798

00:31:07,669 --> 00:31:05,840

something over there but they really are

799

00:31:09,029 --> 00:31:07,679

in the dark

800

00:31:10,149 --> 00:31:09,039

well

801  
00:31:23,590 --> 00:31:10,159  
i

802  
00:31:26,389 --> 00:31:23,600  
our most powerful

803  
00:31:29,590 --> 00:31:26,399  
source of knowing ourselves

804  
00:31:32,389 --> 00:31:29,600  
and uh and the universe although i you

805  
00:31:33,669 --> 00:31:32,399  
know i read a lot of literature

806  
00:31:35,909 --> 00:31:33,679  
and

807  
00:31:37,350 --> 00:31:35,919  
watch a lot of movies so i think the

808  
00:31:41,029 --> 00:31:37,360  
arts

809  
00:31:43,430 --> 00:31:41,039  
are absolutely necessary to contemplate

810  
00:31:45,269 --> 00:31:43,440  
our scientific way of knowing the world

811  
00:31:47,269 --> 00:31:45,279  
but i do think that

812  
00:31:49,350 --> 00:31:47,279  
things are wide open

813  
00:31:51,909 --> 00:31:49,360

right now and it's a weird time there's

814

00:31:54,789 --> 00:31:51,919

some scientists who were kind of

815

00:31:58,149 --> 00:31:54,799

digging trenches and becoming

816

00:31:59,350 --> 00:31:58,159

uh very arrogant and

817

00:32:02,389 --> 00:31:59,360

rigid

818

00:32:05,190 --> 00:32:02,399

and doubting and hostile toward other

819

00:32:08,549 --> 00:32:05,200

ways of knowing including even the arts

820

00:32:12,070 --> 00:32:08,559

and as you say philosophy and certainly

821

00:32:13,750 --> 00:32:12,080

religion if we want to get more explicit

822

00:32:14,789 --> 00:32:13,760

you know maybe we would have to talk

823

00:32:17,269 --> 00:32:14,799

about

824

00:32:20,149 --> 00:32:17,279

um the possibility of god and the

825

00:32:22,549 --> 00:32:20,159

possibility of the transcendent and the

826

00:32:25,750 --> 00:32:22,559

supernatural the possibility

827

00:32:26,789 --> 00:32:25,760

of uh esp i think maybe where you and i

828

00:32:28,870 --> 00:32:26,799

differ

829

00:32:32,310 --> 00:32:28,880

is that um

830

00:32:36,470 --> 00:32:32,320

i am just as i am extremely skeptical

831

00:32:38,470 --> 00:32:36,480

of uh string theory and uh the all the

832

00:32:40,310 --> 00:32:38,480

theories of consciousness and the origin

833

00:32:42,389 --> 00:32:40,320

of life that are that are out there

834

00:32:45,350 --> 00:32:42,399

right now i am also

835

00:32:46,549 --> 00:32:45,360

an esp skeptic even though some of my

836

00:32:48,710 --> 00:32:46,559

best friends

837

00:32:50,710 --> 00:32:48,720

um are believers and believe in ghosts

838

00:32:53,509 --> 00:32:50,720

and reincarnation and so forth and i

839

00:32:56,630 --> 00:32:53,519

certainly have a lot of people i respect

840

00:32:58,950 --> 00:32:56,640

uh believe in a god who loves us and has

841

00:33:00,870 --> 00:32:58,960

has some idea of where we're going i

842

00:33:02,630 --> 00:33:00,880

can't believe in those things i'm too

843

00:33:05,029 --> 00:33:02,640

much of a doubter

844

00:33:05,830 --> 00:33:05,039

uh and i you know they i haven't seen

845

00:33:09,110 --> 00:33:05,840

any

846

00:33:11,509 --> 00:33:09,120

um evidence for esp that makes me uh

847

00:33:13,750 --> 00:33:11,519

a believer there's no concept of a

848

00:33:15,110 --> 00:33:13,760

loving god who cares for humanity that

849

00:33:16,070 --> 00:33:15,120

is coherent

850

00:33:19,190 --> 00:33:16,080

to me

851  
00:33:21,190 --> 00:33:19,200  
but i i really try to be open-minded

852  
00:33:23,509 --> 00:33:21,200  
because i realize how

853  
00:33:25,750 --> 00:33:23,519  
completely inadequate

854  
00:33:28,389 --> 00:33:25,760  
scientific knowledges for addressing

855  
00:33:31,350 --> 00:33:28,399  
some of those ultimate questions

856  
00:33:33,110 --> 00:33:31,360  
i i get that and i do get that in your

857  
00:33:35,990 --> 00:33:33,120  
writing and in that that openness i

858  
00:33:38,149 --> 00:33:36,000  
think is extremely appealing

859  
00:33:40,310 --> 00:33:38,159  
the way my approach is always to kind of

860  
00:33:42,549 --> 00:33:40,320  
return to science because i'm a lover of

861  
00:33:44,549 --> 00:33:42,559  
science too and i like sorting through

862  
00:33:46,630 --> 00:33:44,559  
the data and getting down to bedrock and

863  
00:33:48,389 --> 00:33:46,640

then i always think people can believe

864

00:33:51,430 --> 00:33:48,399

whatever they want at people who listen

865

00:33:52,350 --> 00:33:51,440

to my show and for myself i see it as my

866

00:33:56,710 --> 00:33:52,360

personal

867

00:33:59,029 --> 00:33:56,720

spirituality isn't really relevant my

868

00:34:01,669 --> 00:33:59,039

my point is just to say where does the

869

00:34:04,950 --> 00:34:01,679

data take us and i think the data

870

00:34:06,710 --> 00:34:04,960

falsifies some of these ideas that lead

871

00:34:08,790 --> 00:34:06,720

us in the wrong direction and of the

872

00:34:11,030 --> 00:34:08,800

latter leaning against the wrong wall if

873

00:34:13,909 --> 00:34:11,040

you will and a perfect example is near

874

00:34:15,430 --> 00:34:13,919

death experience science the research

875

00:34:17,589 --> 00:34:15,440

and you've covered some of this and i

876

00:34:19,349 --> 00:34:17,599

think you you i read an article that you

877

00:34:21,669 --> 00:34:19,359

wrote about evan alexander who's been on

878

00:34:25,109 --> 00:34:21,679

this show a couple times i think that

879

00:34:26,790 --> 00:34:25,119

that research is largely misunderstood

880

00:34:29,109 --> 00:34:26,800

not by people in the near-death

881

00:34:31,510 --> 00:34:29,119

experience community research community

882

00:34:32,869 --> 00:34:31,520

and i've interviewed so many of them

883

00:34:35,430 --> 00:34:32,879

extremely and you know when you

884

00:34:37,589 --> 00:34:35,440

interview those people and you have so

885

00:34:39,430 --> 00:34:37,599

much more experience than i do but one

886

00:34:42,149 --> 00:34:39,440

there's the misconception initially that

887

00:34:44,389 --> 00:34:42,159

these people are somehow crusaders for a

888

00:34:47,430 --> 00:34:44,399

cause and they're not

889

00:34:48,869 --> 00:34:47,440

they're just medical people like pin von

890

00:34:51,270 --> 00:34:48,879

lammel in the netherlands who was a

891

00:34:53,829 --> 00:34:51,280

cardiologist and you know is bringing

892

00:34:55,909 --> 00:34:53,839

these people back from cardiac arrest

893

00:34:59,270 --> 00:34:55,919

and they're saying doc you won't believe

894

00:35:01,190 --> 00:34:59,280

what i saw or jeff long who's an

895

00:35:04,230 --> 00:35:01,200

oncologist uh

896

00:35:07,190 --> 00:35:04,240

in in louisiana in the united states who

897

00:35:09,910 --> 00:35:07,200

same thing compiled the largest database

898

00:35:13,190 --> 00:35:09,920

of medically reviewed near-death

899

00:35:16,310 --> 00:35:13,200

experience cases when you look at that

900

00:35:17,829 --> 00:35:16,320

science the evidence is absolutely

901  
00:35:21,510 --> 00:35:17,839  
overwhelming

902  
00:35:25,030 --> 00:35:21,520  
that consciousness is existing in at

903  
00:35:26,790 --> 00:35:25,040  
least a severely compromised brain i'll

904  
00:35:28,630 --> 00:35:26,800  
get away from the death thing because

905  
00:35:30,630 --> 00:35:28,640  
that's a whole other topic it's totally

906  
00:35:32,870 --> 00:35:30,640  
misunderstood again these people are

907  
00:35:35,190 --> 00:35:32,880  
clinically dead by every means and

908  
00:35:37,349 --> 00:35:35,200  
measure we have for them but even if we

909  
00:35:40,069 --> 00:35:37,359  
just say these people's brains are

910  
00:35:42,630 --> 00:35:40,079  
severely compromised beyond the point

911  
00:35:44,230 --> 00:35:42,640  
that we could recognize it being

912  
00:35:46,390 --> 00:35:44,240  
possible for them to have a conscious

913  
00:35:48,230 --> 00:35:46,400

experience and yet they have these

914

00:35:51,750 --> 00:35:48,240

conscious experiences

915

00:35:52,710 --> 00:35:51,760

it's game over yet we've found a way to

916

00:35:55,510 --> 00:35:52,720

kind of

917

00:35:58,710 --> 00:35:55,520

reposition that research ignore it

918

00:36:00,150 --> 00:35:58,720

bypass it talk about rats that uh you

919

00:36:01,990 --> 00:36:00,160

know the university of michigan thing

920

00:36:03,589 --> 00:36:02,000

rats and the brain bursts and all stuff

921

00:36:05,430 --> 00:36:03,599

like that i've had that discussion so

922

00:36:07,349 --> 00:36:05,440

many times it's such a ridiculous

923

00:36:09,109 --> 00:36:07,359

argument i talked to one nde researcher

924

00:36:11,589 --> 00:36:09,119

and he privately told me that's the

925

00:36:13,430 --> 00:36:11,599

stupidest explanation yet for near-death

926  
00:36:15,270 --> 00:36:13,440  
experience science but i come back to

927  
00:36:17,750 --> 00:36:15,280  
that science and i say you know that's

928  
00:36:19,109 --> 00:36:17,760  
bedrock that's bedrock there

929  
00:36:22,550 --> 00:36:19,119  
either there's something wrong with that

930  
00:36:24,310 --> 00:36:22,560  
science or it propels us into having a

931  
00:36:25,910 --> 00:36:24,320  
whole different perspective on these

932  
00:36:26,870 --> 00:36:25,920  
spiritual questions that you just

933  
00:36:28,870 --> 00:36:26,880  
mentioned

934  
00:36:31,190 --> 00:36:28,880  
here here's uh

935  
00:36:33,109 --> 00:36:31,200  
where i think we

936  
00:36:36,069 --> 00:36:33,119  
converge um

937  
00:36:39,349 --> 00:36:36,079  
i one of my favorite all-time

938  
00:36:41,829 --> 00:36:39,359

thinkers and seekers is william james

939

00:36:43,190 --> 00:36:41,839

because william james combined he was a

940

00:36:45,589 --> 00:36:43,200

seeker

941

00:36:47,910 --> 00:36:45,599

and and yet he was

942

00:36:49,910 --> 00:36:47,920

a skeptic and he was a seeker out of

943

00:36:51,510 --> 00:36:49,920

almost at a personal necessity he was a

944

00:36:54,069 --> 00:36:51,520

very tormented

945

00:36:55,430 --> 00:36:54,079

person prone to severe depression and

946

00:36:57,829 --> 00:36:55,440

anxiety

947

00:36:59,430 --> 00:36:57,839

and he also was enormously curious and

948

00:37:02,150 --> 00:36:59,440

fascinated by

949

00:37:04,230 --> 00:37:02,160

these wild transcendent experiences that

950

00:37:06,230 --> 00:37:04,240

people have where they feel that they

951  
00:37:07,910 --> 00:37:06,240  
are in touch with ultimate reality this

952  
00:37:09,510 --> 00:37:07,920  
is what he wrote about in the varieties

953  
00:37:12,230 --> 00:37:09,520  
of religious

954  
00:37:14,870 --> 00:37:12,240  
uh experience which is one of my

955  
00:37:17,270 --> 00:37:14,880  
favorite books and i think still

956  
00:37:20,230 --> 00:37:17,280  
maybe the best book

957  
00:37:23,750 --> 00:37:20,240  
on extraordinary experiences like

958  
00:37:27,190 --> 00:37:23,760  
near-death experiences uh i

959  
00:37:29,670 --> 00:37:27,200  
i jumped into that realm with my book uh

960  
00:37:31,670 --> 00:37:29,680  
rational mysticism which covered

961  
00:37:33,349 --> 00:37:31,680  
near-death experiences a little bit but

962  
00:37:34,470 --> 00:37:33,359  
mainly covered

963  
00:37:38,470 --> 00:37:34,480

really

964

00:37:40,630 --> 00:37:38,480

deep mystical experiences produced in

965

00:37:42,790 --> 00:37:40,640

various ways sometimes spontaneously or

966

00:37:44,470 --> 00:37:42,800

through meditation but i really got into

967

00:37:47,910 --> 00:37:44,480

the psychedelic stuff

968

00:37:50,069 --> 00:37:47,920

because that's what i was familiar with

969

00:37:52,550 --> 00:37:50,079

myself i've had many of these

970

00:37:55,190 --> 00:37:52,560

experiences and and what i come away

971

00:37:58,710 --> 00:37:55,200

with is something that i think this this

972

00:37:59,990 --> 00:37:58,720

is how james concluded that what we can

973

00:38:01,510 --> 00:38:00,000

say

974

00:38:04,390 --> 00:38:01,520

is that

975

00:38:05,750 --> 00:38:04,400

there are things going on in our minds

976  
00:38:08,950 --> 00:38:05,760  
and brains

977  
00:38:12,310 --> 00:38:08,960  
that are far beyond our capacity for

978  
00:38:14,790 --> 00:38:12,320  
understanding and really challenge

979  
00:38:15,829 --> 00:38:14,800  
some basic assumptions

980  
00:38:19,430 --> 00:38:15,839  
about

981  
00:38:23,109 --> 00:38:19,440  
how reality works uh i described this

982  
00:38:25,990 --> 00:38:23,119  
experience that i had back in 1982 in

983  
00:38:28,710 --> 00:38:26,000  
rational mysticism it's it's also i also

984  
00:38:31,270 --> 00:38:28,720  
mentioned it in a in a briefer more

985  
00:38:33,670 --> 00:38:31,280  
mysterious way at the end of my book the

986  
00:38:35,910 --> 00:38:33,680  
end of science i had a i had a really

987  
00:38:37,829 --> 00:38:35,920  
massive drug trip that completely

988  
00:38:38,870 --> 00:38:37,839

knocked me out and set me into a dream

989

00:38:41,990 --> 00:38:38,880

world

990

00:38:43,109 --> 00:38:42,000

uh for almost 24 hours

991

00:38:45,430 --> 00:38:43,119

and

992

00:38:48,470 --> 00:38:45,440

i've spent the rest of my life

993

00:38:50,150 --> 00:38:48,480

trying to understand that um experience

994

00:38:52,390 --> 00:38:50,160

and i i still

995

00:38:54,950 --> 00:38:52,400

haven't but if i you know

996

00:38:57,510 --> 00:38:54,960

if the hard-nosed skeptic

997

00:38:58,790 --> 00:38:57,520

uh scientific materialist if you if you

998

00:39:00,390 --> 00:38:58,800

will uh

999

00:39:02,630 --> 00:39:00,400

is trying to

1000

00:39:05,109 --> 00:39:02,640

come to grips with this what i would say

1001

00:39:07,109 --> 00:39:05,119

is that there's this

1002

00:39:09,990 --> 00:39:07,119

fantastic kind of

1003

00:39:12,470 --> 00:39:10,000

hyper imagination in our brains

1004

00:39:16,630 --> 00:39:12,480

that creates narratives

1005

00:39:19,030 --> 00:39:16,640

and stories and visionary worlds

1006

00:39:20,950 --> 00:39:19,040

uh out of

1007

00:39:23,750 --> 00:39:20,960

whatever stimuli

1008

00:39:26,069 --> 00:39:23,760

uh that this is what i assume happened

1009

00:39:27,510 --> 00:39:26,079

to even alexander it's what happened to

1010

00:39:28,470 --> 00:39:27,520

me when i was

1011

00:39:29,750 --> 00:39:28,480

tripping

1012

00:39:30,950 --> 00:39:29,760

and they

1013

00:39:33,190 --> 00:39:30,960

they

1014

00:39:34,310 --> 00:39:33,200

suggest that there are capacities that

1015

00:39:39,030 --> 00:39:34,320

we have

1016

00:39:41,109 --> 00:39:39,040

plum yet

1017

00:39:43,430 --> 00:39:41,119

and that might

1018

00:39:45,670 --> 00:39:43,440

if we explore them further

1019

00:39:48,630 --> 00:39:45,680

feed to whole new ways of knowing the

1020

00:39:51,190 --> 00:39:48,640

world and of living in the world and of

1021

00:39:52,950 --> 00:39:51,200

dealing with these ultimate questions

1022

00:39:54,950 --> 00:39:52,960

that we've answered with

1023

00:39:57,750 --> 00:39:54,960

religious explanations

1024

00:40:01,030 --> 00:39:57,760

in the past and um

1025

00:40:02,310 --> 00:40:01,040

you know evan alexander i wrote uh

1026

00:40:05,430 --> 00:40:02,320

skeptically

1027

00:40:07,670 --> 00:40:05,440

about him uh mainly because he was

1028

00:40:11,030 --> 00:40:07,680

giving a kind of he was suggesting that

1029

00:40:12,630 --> 00:40:11,040

the these things he saw were real that

1030

00:40:15,510 --> 00:40:12,640

they demonstrated the existence of

1031

00:40:16,630 --> 00:40:15,520

heaven at least that's what i assume

1032

00:40:18,870 --> 00:40:16,640

and

1033

00:40:21,589 --> 00:40:18,880

i can't go there but

1034

00:40:23,190 --> 00:40:21,599

but i do think that the experiences are

1035

00:40:26,150 --> 00:40:23,200

very important

1036

00:40:28,710 --> 00:40:26,160

and need to be paid attention to

1037

00:40:30,390 --> 00:40:28,720

and could lead in some really exciting

1038

00:40:32,470 --> 00:40:30,400

directions

1039

00:40:33,829 --> 00:40:32,480

yeah boy

1040

00:40:36,310 --> 00:40:33,839

you know i mean the problem with that i

1041

00:40:38,550 --> 00:40:36,320

always hear that from nde skeptics it's

1042

00:40:40,310 --> 00:40:38,560

like well no i don't believe it really

1043

00:40:42,390 --> 00:40:40,320

means anything but it's important to a

1044

00:40:43,670 --> 00:40:42,400

lot of other people so if it's an

1045

00:40:46,069 --> 00:40:43,680

important to their life then it's

1046

00:40:48,870 --> 00:40:46,079

important let's get down to

1047

00:40:51,109 --> 00:40:48,880

bedrock uh like the big thing about evan

1048

00:40:52,790 --> 00:40:51,119

alexander that always kind of aggravates

1049

00:40:54,230 --> 00:40:52,800

me and we've done a number of shows on

1050

00:40:56,470 --> 00:40:54,240

it is

1051  
00:40:58,230 --> 00:40:56,480  
evan alexander's experience is

1052  
00:41:00,470 --> 00:40:58,240  
irrelevant

1053  
00:41:03,430 --> 00:41:00,480  
other than the fact that it fits into

1054  
00:41:06,870 --> 00:41:03,440  
this larger body of near-death

1055  
00:41:09,910 --> 00:41:06,880  
experience science for which we have a

1056  
00:41:11,670 --> 00:41:09,920  
lot of solid evidence you know i just

1057  
00:41:14,069 --> 00:41:11,680  
interviewed a guy a philosopher from

1058  
00:41:15,990 --> 00:41:14,079  
british columbia who is well known as

1059  
00:41:18,550 --> 00:41:16,000  
written a book and has a whole book

1060  
00:41:20,069 --> 00:41:18,560  
dedicated to the near-death experience

1061  
00:41:22,470 --> 00:41:20,079  
science and why he doesn't think it

1062  
00:41:24,470 --> 00:41:22,480  
holds up to modern neuroscience and all

1063  
00:41:26,309 --> 00:41:24,480

those explanations we had a nice

1064

00:41:29,030 --> 00:41:26,319

conversation but they're also

1065

00:41:32,069 --> 00:41:29,040

hopelessly outdated i mean susan

1066

00:41:33,589 --> 00:41:32,079

blackmore is referenced and gm worley is

1067

00:41:35,910 --> 00:41:33,599

referenced and all these people that

1068

00:41:38,390 --> 00:41:35,920

have been completely i interviewed susan

1069

00:41:40,390 --> 00:41:38,400

blackmore she said flatly you know i

1070

00:41:41,990 --> 00:41:40,400

haven't looked at the research in 15

1071

00:41:43,349 --> 00:41:42,000

years i shouldn't be considered an

1072

00:41:46,069 --> 00:41:43,359

authority and i said well thanks for

1073

00:41:49,030 --> 00:41:46,079

being honest goodbye

1074

00:41:51,109 --> 00:41:49,040

his points have anesthesiologists

1075

00:41:53,030 --> 00:41:51,119

thoroughly disputed

1076  
00:41:55,910 --> 00:41:53,040  
the best research people at university

1077  
00:41:59,109 --> 00:41:55,920  
of virginia bruce grayson jan holden at

1078  
00:42:00,550 --> 00:41:59,119  
north texas jeff long is one of my

1079  
00:42:04,309 --> 00:42:00,560  
favorite researchers along with penn

1080  
00:42:06,630 --> 00:42:04,319  
vallamall completely swamps all that so

1081  
00:42:09,349 --> 00:42:06,640  
what evan alexander where his stuff is

1082  
00:42:11,750 --> 00:42:09,359  
really important is one is he's expanded

1083  
00:42:13,670 --> 00:42:11,760  
it beyond his experience to talk about

1084  
00:42:16,069 --> 00:42:13,680  
all spiritually transformative

1085  
00:42:19,109 --> 00:42:16,079  
experiences which would include the kind

1086  
00:42:21,030 --> 00:42:19,119  
of psychedelic experiences that you talk

1087  
00:42:23,270 --> 00:42:21,040  
bravely about i think you're very brave

1088  
00:42:25,670 --> 00:42:23,280

to talk about that but it's really a

1089

00:42:27,349 --> 00:42:25,680

game changer for that and we have to

1090

00:42:28,470 --> 00:42:27,359

recognize it as that and that's the

1091

00:42:32,230 --> 00:42:28,480

bedrock

1092

00:42:34,390 --> 00:42:32,240

eben alexander didn't have a functioning

1093

00:42:37,510 --> 00:42:34,400

brain and if you want to argue about

1094

00:42:39,430 --> 00:42:37,520

that you can because he had uh what e

1095

00:42:41,349 --> 00:42:39,440

coli spinal meningitis and you can say

1096

00:42:43,670 --> 00:42:41,359

well we don't really know the state of

1097

00:42:45,829 --> 00:42:43,680

his brain but you know what that's why

1098

00:42:47,910 --> 00:42:45,839

the near-death experience research was

1099

00:42:49,910 --> 00:42:47,920

moved to the cardiac arrest board

1100

00:42:52,309 --> 00:42:49,920

because we sure as do know what's

1101  
00:42:55,190 --> 00:42:52,319  
going on when someone has a heart attack

1102  
00:42:58,309 --> 00:42:55,200  
we have about 50 years or at least 25

1103  
00:43:00,470 --> 00:42:58,319  
good years of eeg and other data of what

1104  
00:43:02,790 --> 00:43:00,480  
happens to animals and human beings when

1105  
00:43:06,309 --> 00:43:02,800  
their heart stops and their brain stops

1106  
00:43:08,710 --> 00:43:06,319  
within 15 seconds so these people have

1107  
00:43:11,829 --> 00:43:08,720  
no brain and yet they're having a

1108  
00:43:13,829 --> 00:43:11,839  
conscious experience so it's game over

1109  
00:43:16,309 --> 00:43:13,839  
for all that for that model and we can

1110  
00:43:17,829 --> 00:43:16,319  
talk nicely about it and how it could

1111  
00:43:19,270 --> 00:43:17,839  
lead us to a new

1112  
00:43:21,270 --> 00:43:19,280  
thing and all the rest that well let's

1113  
00:43:23,349 --> 00:43:21,280

get busy with getting on to that new

1114

00:43:24,829 --> 00:43:23,359

paradigm because the old paradigm has

1115

00:43:27,829 --> 00:43:24,839

been

1116

00:43:29,670 --> 00:43:27,839

falsified okay

1117

00:43:31,750 --> 00:43:29,680

all right well uh you've got me at a

1118

00:43:34,710 --> 00:43:31,760

disadvantage because i'm not reading i'm

1119

00:43:36,470 --> 00:43:34,720

not uh familiar with uh the literature

1120

00:43:39,670 --> 00:43:36,480

that you're uh

1121

00:43:41,990 --> 00:43:39,680

you're describing i i do think that

1122

00:43:44,550 --> 00:43:42,000

there are and i see this in myself and

1123

00:43:45,589 --> 00:43:44,560

i've seen it uh in others

1124

00:43:48,309 --> 00:43:45,599

um

1125

00:43:50,069 --> 00:43:48,319

and it's something that that pops out of

1126

00:43:53,750 --> 00:43:50,079

a lot of uh

1127

00:43:56,630 --> 00:43:53,760

modern psychology research that humans

1128

00:43:58,390 --> 00:43:56,640

have enormous capacities for

1129

00:44:01,589 --> 00:43:58,400

self-deception

1130

00:44:05,910 --> 00:44:01,599

and uh for believing in things that

1131

00:44:07,510 --> 00:44:05,920

ain't so and and so i probably err on

1132

00:44:10,790 --> 00:44:07,520

the side of

1133

00:44:12,309 --> 00:44:10,800

of skepticism and that's why i prefer to

1134

00:44:13,910 --> 00:44:12,319

see these kinds of experiences that

1135

00:44:17,589 --> 00:44:13,920

you're talking about

1136

00:44:19,589 --> 00:44:17,599

as as i just described them as uh not

1137

00:44:21,670 --> 00:44:19,599

proving anything god

1138

00:44:22,870 --> 00:44:21,680

god for i mean the abs quite the

1139

00:44:24,309 --> 00:44:22,880

opposite

1140

00:44:26,550 --> 00:44:24,319

but uh

1141

00:44:29,829 --> 00:44:26,560

but shaking things up

1142

00:44:32,790 --> 00:44:29,839

and saying that uh we can't prematurely

1143

00:44:35,349 --> 00:44:32,800

close our accounts of reality with uh

1144

00:44:38,069 --> 00:44:35,359

reality as william james uh

1145

00:44:40,230 --> 00:44:38,079

uh put it i mean i went through a period

1146

00:44:43,030 --> 00:44:40,240

after this trip that i described where i

1147

00:44:45,349 --> 00:44:43,040

became convinced that i had figured out

1148

00:44:47,910 --> 00:44:45,359

uh the secret of

1149

00:44:49,349 --> 00:44:47,920

of life that i had this very complex

1150

00:44:51,910 --> 00:44:49,359

theology

1151  
00:44:54,870 --> 00:44:51,920  
uh that explained everything and i could

1152  
00:44:56,470 --> 00:44:54,880  
even explain the the problem of evil

1153  
00:44:59,589 --> 00:44:56,480  
and

1154  
00:45:02,390 --> 00:44:59,599  
i just eventually concluded that

1155  
00:45:05,750 --> 00:45:02,400  
uh well i you know i was semi-psychotic

1156  
00:45:07,109 --> 00:45:05,760  
for one i actually was worried that the

1157  
00:45:08,950 --> 00:45:07,119  
that because i had figured out the

1158  
00:45:11,990 --> 00:45:08,960  
secret of the universe that the universe

1159  
00:45:14,470 --> 00:45:12,000  
might uh be unnecessary it might

1160  
00:45:17,670 --> 00:45:14,480  
and might end when i look back on that

1161  
00:45:20,390 --> 00:45:17,680  
period i realized that i was

1162  
00:45:23,510 --> 00:45:20,400  
i was deceiving myself and that in my

1163  
00:45:26,069 --> 00:45:23,520

desire to understand things i had

1164

00:45:29,910 --> 00:45:26,079

grasped at a straw

1165

00:45:30,950 --> 00:45:29,920

and um i have a kind of horror

1166

00:45:37,829 --> 00:45:30,960

of

1167

00:45:39,109 --> 00:45:37,839

uh prematurely and i actually get an

1168

00:45:40,230 --> 00:45:39,119

aesthetic

1169

00:45:41,430 --> 00:45:40,240

thrill

1170

00:45:44,390 --> 00:45:41,440

out of

1171

00:45:47,990 --> 00:45:44,400

being in a state of disbelief

1172

00:45:50,550 --> 00:45:48,000

or a suspension of uh belief not

1173

00:45:52,710 --> 00:45:50,560

skepticism and in the traditional sense

1174

00:45:54,630 --> 00:45:52,720

which is kind of knee dirt knee-jerk

1175

00:45:57,510 --> 00:45:54,640

aversion to uh

1176

00:45:59,670 --> 00:45:57,520

esp and religion and things like that

1177

00:46:01,109 --> 00:45:59,680

but just kind of an openness to whatever

1178

00:46:03,270 --> 00:46:01,119

is coming next

1179

00:46:06,309 --> 00:46:03,280

and part of that comes from realizing

1180

00:46:07,589 --> 00:46:06,319

that any theory or ideology or religion

1181

00:46:08,790 --> 00:46:07,599

that you have

1182

00:46:11,109 --> 00:46:08,800

is not

1183

00:46:13,190 --> 00:46:11,119

helping you see into the world usually

1184

00:46:15,670 --> 00:46:13,200

it's blocking your vision in some way

1185

00:46:17,510 --> 00:46:15,680

it's preventing you from seeing things

1186

00:46:18,550 --> 00:46:17,520

you're just seeing the ideology or the

1187

00:46:20,470 --> 00:46:18,560

theory

1188

00:46:23,589 --> 00:46:20,480

that's at least the way that i

1189

00:46:25,030 --> 00:46:23,599

justify my own world view to myself well

1190

00:46:28,309 --> 00:46:25,040

i think that's awesome and i think

1191

00:46:30,870 --> 00:46:28,319

that's why both you and i love science

1192

00:46:33,910 --> 00:46:30,880

the science of the promise of science is

1193

00:46:35,430 --> 00:46:33,920

that we can strip away our biases strip

1194

00:46:38,550 --> 00:46:35,440

away our

1195

00:46:41,430 --> 00:46:38,560

natural ability to form cultish kind of

1196

00:46:43,829 --> 00:46:41,440

belief systems of course those cultish

1197

00:46:46,309 --> 00:46:43,839

belief systems cut both ways right so if

1198

00:46:48,470 --> 00:46:46,319

we're going to believe that mind equals

1199

00:46:50,790 --> 00:46:48,480

brain or that we're a biological robot

1200

00:46:53,109 --> 00:46:50,800

in a meaningless universe that's just

1201  
00:46:55,430 --> 00:46:53,119  
another set of beliefs and metaphysical

1202  
00:46:57,750 --> 00:46:55,440  
assumptions and i'd say we do not have

1203  
00:46:59,829 --> 00:46:57,760  
we have not established that by

1204  
00:47:01,750 --> 00:46:59,839  
experimentation or observation and in

1205  
00:47:03,430 --> 00:47:01,760  
fact we've done just the opposite so

1206  
00:47:06,790 --> 00:47:03,440  
when i'm talking about near-death

1207  
00:47:09,030 --> 00:47:06,800  
experience i'm talking about the science

1208  
00:47:11,829 --> 00:47:09,040  
you know i just referenced

1209  
00:47:13,910 --> 00:47:11,839  
dr jan holden who i really enjoy talking

1210  
00:47:15,990 --> 00:47:13,920  
with him she's going to be at the

1211  
00:47:18,390 --> 00:47:16,000  
international association of near-death

1212  
00:47:20,950 --> 00:47:18,400  
studies they publish a peer-reviewed

1213  
00:47:23,349 --> 00:47:20,960

journal they have skeptics on the

1214

00:47:25,670 --> 00:47:23,359

journal board i mean they are doing

1215

00:47:28,390 --> 00:47:25,680

science she wrote the handbook of

1216

00:47:30,630 --> 00:47:28,400

near-death experience with dr bruce

1217

00:47:32,950 --> 00:47:30,640

grayson from university of virginia

1218

00:47:34,950 --> 00:47:32,960

they're doing science they're publishing

1219

00:47:37,109 --> 00:47:34,960

in peer-reviewed journals carefully

1220

00:47:38,870 --> 00:47:37,119

controlled studies you know the the

1221

00:47:40,950 --> 00:47:38,880

study that she did that i always

1222

00:47:44,150 --> 00:47:40,960

reference and it was also replicated by

1223

00:47:46,309 --> 00:47:44,160

a researcher in the uk penny sartori a

1224

00:47:48,630 --> 00:47:46,319

pretty simple experiment they took a

1225

00:47:49,510 --> 00:47:48,640

group of people in a cardiac arrest

1226  
00:47:51,750 --> 00:47:49,520  
board

1227  
00:47:53,190 --> 00:47:51,760  
and they had a cardiac arrest and they

1228  
00:47:55,109 --> 00:47:53,200  
interviewed him afterwards and they

1229  
00:47:57,349 --> 00:47:55,119  
broke them into two groups

1230  
00:47:58,950 --> 00:47:57,359  
one group was the control group that had

1231  
00:48:01,670 --> 00:47:58,960  
a cardiac arrest

1232  
00:48:04,069 --> 00:48:01,680  
and didn't have a near-death experience

1233  
00:48:06,550 --> 00:48:04,079  
the other group had a cardiac arrest and

1234  
00:48:08,470 --> 00:48:06,560  
reported a near-death experience then

1235  
00:48:10,309 --> 00:48:08,480  
they did something very simple they

1236  
00:48:13,190 --> 00:48:10,319  
interviewed them in a structured

1237  
00:48:13,910 --> 00:48:13,200  
scientific way like good scientists can

1238  
00:48:16,790 --> 00:48:13,920

do

1239

00:48:18,550 --> 00:48:16,800

about the resuscitation process which

1240

00:48:20,710 --> 00:48:18,560

happens at a time when they have a

1241

00:48:21,910 --> 00:48:20,720

non-functioning brain and they found

1242

00:48:24,790 --> 00:48:21,920

that the people who had the near-death

1243

00:48:27,510 --> 00:48:24,800

experience were statistically off the

1244

00:48:30,309 --> 00:48:27,520

charts more able to recall their

1245

00:48:32,390 --> 00:48:30,319

resuscitation and the other group they

1246

00:48:34,150 --> 00:48:32,400

said i don't recall anything i can't

1247

00:48:37,190 --> 00:48:34,160

answer these questions i can make up

1248

00:48:40,230 --> 00:48:37,200

something and that's the difference so

1249

00:48:43,430 --> 00:48:40,240

the point being there's a body of real

1250

00:48:45,270 --> 00:48:43,440

science peer-reviewed science behind

1251

00:48:47,829 --> 00:48:45,280

this it's just ignored because it

1252

00:48:50,470 --> 00:48:47,839

doesn't fit into the paradigm well here

1253

00:48:53,829 --> 00:48:50,480

i i think you may have seen that

1254

00:48:55,670 --> 00:48:53,839

i had a q a with rupert sheldrake

1255

00:48:56,790 --> 00:48:55,680

last summer

1256

00:48:57,670 --> 00:48:56,800

so

1257

00:48:59,829 --> 00:48:57,680

um

1258

00:49:02,870 --> 00:48:59,839

rupert sheldrake

1259

00:49:04,390 --> 00:49:02,880

is certainly one of the most if not the

1260

00:49:05,670 --> 00:49:04,400

most

1261

00:49:08,870 --> 00:49:05,680

prominent

1262

00:49:11,270 --> 00:49:08,880

uh scientific

1263

00:49:13,829 --> 00:49:11,280

proponent of

1264

00:49:17,109 --> 00:49:13,839

the possibility of

1265

00:49:20,630 --> 00:49:17,119

esp and other psychic phenomena

1266

00:49:22,950 --> 00:49:20,640

and uh he also believes in god

1267

00:49:25,829 --> 00:49:22,960

i assume he believes in the afterlife

1268

00:49:27,109 --> 00:49:25,839

although i'm i'm uh not sure

1269

00:49:29,510 --> 00:49:27,119

and

1270

00:49:30,630 --> 00:49:29,520

i don't believe in any of those things

1271

00:49:33,829 --> 00:49:30,640

and

1272

00:49:37,030 --> 00:49:33,839

yet i met sheldrake at a conference in

1273

00:49:39,030 --> 00:49:37,040

england um last summer and i was

1274

00:49:40,309 --> 00:49:39,040

i just really liked the guy he's

1275

00:49:42,069 --> 00:49:40,319

brilliant

1276

00:49:43,589 --> 00:49:42,079

and extremely knowledgeable and

1277

00:49:45,109 --> 00:49:43,599

sophisticated

1278

00:49:47,270 --> 00:49:45,119

when it comes to science as he should be

1279

00:49:48,470 --> 00:49:47,280

because he was trained at cambridge

1280

00:49:50,309 --> 00:49:48,480

um you know one of the great

1281

00:49:54,790 --> 00:49:50,319

universities in the world

1282

00:49:58,309 --> 00:49:54,800

and has a phd in in biology

1283

00:50:00,549 --> 00:49:58,319

and so i did a q a with him uh for

1284

00:50:03,510 --> 00:50:00,559

scientific american which is

1285

00:50:05,109 --> 00:50:03,520

you know the scientific american uh to

1286

00:50:09,270 --> 00:50:05,119

the extent it has an ideology it's

1287

00:50:11,510 --> 00:50:09,280

extremely skeptical and anti-anti-esp

1288

00:50:13,190 --> 00:50:11,520

it's got michael schermer the prominent

1289

00:50:14,790 --> 00:50:13,200

skeptic as a

1290

00:50:15,990 --> 00:50:14,800

as a columnist

1291

00:50:17,670 --> 00:50:16,000

but i

1292

00:50:19,030 --> 00:50:17,680

you know i i meet somebody like

1293

00:50:22,230 --> 00:50:19,040

sheldrake and i

1294

00:50:23,910 --> 00:50:22,240

i realize i i can't i can't just dismiss

1295

00:50:25,349 --> 00:50:23,920

this out of hand i haven't seen enough

1296

00:50:29,910 --> 00:50:25,359

to convince me

1297

00:50:31,670 --> 00:50:29,920

uh that esp is is real um and in part

1298

00:50:33,589 --> 00:50:31,680

because of uh

1299

00:50:36,790 --> 00:50:33,599

encountering susan blackmore and

1300

00:50:38,309 --> 00:50:36,800

interviewing her whom you just mentioned

1301  
00:50:39,670 --> 00:50:38,319  
but um

1302  
00:50:41,829 --> 00:50:39,680  
i don't know

1303  
00:50:43,030 --> 00:50:41,839  
there's some this is a crazy world we

1304  
00:50:47,190 --> 00:50:43,040  
live in

1305  
00:50:49,030 --> 00:50:47,200  
and uh and i do think that uh i'm sorry

1306  
00:50:51,510 --> 00:50:49,040  
i have to fall back to the position that

1307  
00:50:53,109 --> 00:50:51,520  
uh that you that i know you're tired of

1308  
00:50:55,030 --> 00:50:53,119  
hearing but that

1309  
00:50:56,710 --> 00:50:55,040  
more research needs to be done and more

1310  
00:50:57,510 --> 00:50:56,720  
thinking needs to be done about these

1311  
00:50:59,910 --> 00:50:57,520  
things

1312  
00:51:02,230 --> 00:50:59,920  
more research needs to be done as we

1313  
00:51:04,150 --> 00:51:02,240

block that research at every turn you

1314

00:51:05,910 --> 00:51:04,160

know sheldrick's great i have great

1315

00:51:07,510 --> 00:51:05,920

admiration for him he's been on the show

1316

00:51:09,270 --> 00:51:07,520

probably a half dozen times and he wrote

1317

00:51:11,190 --> 00:51:09,280

the forward to my book why science is

1318

00:51:14,309 --> 00:51:11,200

wrong about almost everything

1319

00:51:15,190 --> 00:51:14,319

in in my book in in this show

1320

00:51:17,510 --> 00:51:15,200

we

1321

00:51:20,710 --> 00:51:17,520

dug extensively

1322

00:51:22,390 --> 00:51:20,720

into his esp research with dogs i know

1323

00:51:24,790 --> 00:51:22,400

you talked about it because i read

1324

00:51:26,230 --> 00:51:24,800

the article that you uh that you wrote

1325

00:51:28,710 --> 00:51:26,240

that you're the interview that you

1326

00:51:30,870 --> 00:51:28,720

published that you're referring to but

1327

00:51:33,589 --> 00:51:30,880

you probably didn't dig into it to the

1328

00:51:35,589 --> 00:51:33,599

extent that we did including his

1329

00:51:38,870 --> 00:51:35,599

debunker who come to completely

1330

00:51:40,790 --> 00:51:38,880

embarrasses himself dr richard wiseman

1331

00:51:42,150 --> 00:51:40,800

you know just the thumbnail sketch

1332

00:51:44,230 --> 00:51:42,160

sheldrick

1333

00:51:46,710 --> 00:51:44,240

has these reports from people that say

1334

00:51:48,630 --> 00:51:46,720

hey my dog seems to know

1335

00:51:50,470 --> 00:51:48,640

mysteriously when i'm coming home you

1336

00:51:53,430 --> 00:51:50,480

know i come home at odd hours my wife

1337

00:51:55,270 --> 00:51:53,440

says 15 minutes before you get there the

1338

00:51:57,190 --> 00:51:55,280

dog's at the door so he starts

1339

00:51:59,910 --> 00:51:57,200

collecting all these stories you know

1340

00:52:01,510 --> 00:51:59,920

just as a social as a biologist you know

1341

00:52:02,790 --> 00:52:01,520

he's interested in nature and how the

1342

00:52:04,309 --> 00:52:02,800

world works

1343

00:52:06,549 --> 00:52:04,319

and he gets enough of them and he says

1344

00:52:08,069 --> 00:52:06,559

okay i'm going to devise an experiment

1345

00:52:09,829 --> 00:52:08,079

the experiment's pretty easy right you

1346

00:52:11,750 --> 00:52:09,839

put a video camera on the dog you put a

1347

00:52:13,990 --> 00:52:11,760

video camera on the owner you send them

1348

00:52:17,349 --> 00:52:14,000

out you bring them back at random times

1349

00:52:19,589 --> 00:52:17,359

sheldrick did this experiment 200 times

1350

00:52:21,670 --> 00:52:19,599

got off the charts statistically

1351  
00:52:24,470 --> 00:52:21,680  
significant results anyone can go to his

1352  
00:52:26,950 --> 00:52:24,480  
website anyone can look at that

1353  
00:52:30,069 --> 00:52:26,960  
wiseman comes in does four trials

1354  
00:52:32,710 --> 00:52:30,079  
completely changes the protocol in a

1355  
00:52:34,870 --> 00:52:32,720  
really weird way and then

1356  
00:52:37,670 --> 00:52:34,880  
goes about this 10-year campaign of

1357  
00:52:39,589 --> 00:52:37,680  
debunking claiming he's the really

1358  
00:52:41,990 --> 00:52:39,599  
originator of this research it's

1359  
00:52:45,190 --> 00:52:42,000  
shameful so do we need more research

1360  
00:52:47,349 --> 00:52:45,200  
into it john sure i'm all for that do we

1361  
00:52:49,910 --> 00:52:47,359  
need a man on the moon effort to see

1362  
00:52:51,030 --> 00:52:49,920  
whether a near-death experience is what

1363  
00:52:54,069 --> 00:52:51,040

it is

1364

00:52:56,950 --> 00:52:54,079

sure uh are we ever going to see that is

1365

00:52:59,030 --> 00:52:56,960

the system ingrained and devised in a

1366

00:53:00,470 --> 00:52:59,040

way to prevent that from happening you

1367

00:53:03,190 --> 00:53:00,480

betcha

1368

00:53:05,270 --> 00:53:03,200

i you know alex i i feel like this might

1369

00:53:06,870 --> 00:53:05,280

be dodging the issue a little bit it's

1370

00:53:08,309 --> 00:53:06,880

definitely dodging the issue but i'll

1371

00:53:10,230 --> 00:53:08,319

just try to

1372

00:53:11,910 --> 00:53:10,240

respond to that i

1373

00:53:13,589 --> 00:53:11,920

there's so many things that i care

1374

00:53:15,670 --> 00:53:13,599

passionately about

1375

00:53:17,109 --> 00:53:15,680

and one of the problems

1376

00:53:22,390 --> 00:53:17,119

as a

1377

00:53:23,190 --> 00:53:22,400

just i'm trying to finish my first novel

1378

00:53:25,510 --> 00:53:23,200

uh

1379

00:53:27,270 --> 00:53:25,520

this summer um because when i was a

1380

00:53:28,549 --> 00:53:27,280

little kid i wanted to write fiction and

1381

00:53:30,390 --> 00:53:28,559

i figured

1382

00:53:32,069 --> 00:53:30,400

you know i better get to it if i'm going

1383

00:53:32,950 --> 00:53:32,079

to do that

1384

00:53:34,630 --> 00:53:32,960

but

1385

00:53:38,230 --> 00:53:34,640

i have to

1386

00:53:40,470 --> 00:53:38,240

figure out what do i care about

1387

00:53:41,670 --> 00:53:40,480

most because i have to choose among all

1388

00:53:42,870 --> 00:53:41,680

the different things that i want to

1389

00:53:46,309 --> 00:53:42,880

write about

1390

00:53:47,910 --> 00:53:46,319

and um i you know i really

1391

00:53:49,349 --> 00:53:47,920

plunged into

1392

00:53:51,109 --> 00:53:49,359

a lot of the things that we're talking

1393

00:53:52,069 --> 00:53:51,119

about on this show

1394

00:53:53,910 --> 00:53:52,079

for

1395

00:53:56,549 --> 00:53:53,920

rational mysticism

1396

00:53:59,589 --> 00:53:56,559

and um and i got

1397

00:54:00,950 --> 00:53:59,599

uh i really got immersed in that and i

1398

00:54:02,950 --> 00:54:00,960

got

1399

00:54:04,470 --> 00:54:02,960

burned out on it to in a certain extent

1400

00:54:06,309 --> 00:54:04,480

just because

1401

00:54:08,309 --> 00:54:06,319

it's so

1402

00:54:11,270 --> 00:54:08,319

yeah i felt like i was shadow boxing

1403

00:54:13,190 --> 00:54:11,280

after a while uh that you know the

1404

00:54:16,069 --> 00:54:13,200

uh i think i understood something and

1405

00:54:17,270 --> 00:54:16,079

then it would start dissolving uh under

1406

00:54:18,950 --> 00:54:17,280

my uh

1407

00:54:21,750 --> 00:54:18,960

under my grasp

1408

00:54:25,349 --> 00:54:21,760

and what i've become more concerned with

1409

00:54:27,829 --> 00:54:25,359

over time recently is

1410

00:54:29,030 --> 00:54:27,839

real world problems like war

1411

00:54:33,990 --> 00:54:29,040

and

1412

00:54:35,670 --> 00:54:34,000

some major sources of human suffering

1413

00:54:38,390 --> 00:54:35,680

and especially war just because our

1414

00:54:41,589 --> 00:54:38,400

country is by far the most warlike

1415

00:54:44,630 --> 00:54:41,599

in the world and because i am

1416

00:54:47,109 --> 00:54:44,640

shocked every single day by the things

1417

00:54:49,910 --> 00:54:47,119

that i read about my country and its

1418

00:54:51,670 --> 00:54:49,920

conduct in in the world we're killing

1419

00:54:53,910 --> 00:54:51,680

babies

1420

00:54:55,829 --> 00:54:53,920

and nobody really gives a damn i mean if

1421

00:54:57,510 --> 00:54:55,839

you if you can't

1422

00:54:59,510 --> 00:54:57,520

i just don't understand the moral

1423

00:55:01,990 --> 00:54:59,520

mindset of our country now i think we're

1424

00:55:03,750 --> 00:55:02,000

more hawkish than we were almost at any

1425

00:55:06,390 --> 00:55:03,760

time in my life and i lived through the

1426

00:55:08,390 --> 00:55:06,400

cold war and the vietnam war

1427

00:55:11,030 --> 00:55:08,400

uh you know where people are flocking to

1428

00:55:12,790 --> 00:55:11,040

a movie like american sniper about a

1429

00:55:13,910 --> 00:55:12,800

psychopathic killer of women and

1430

00:55:15,109 --> 00:55:13,920

children

1431

00:55:17,349 --> 00:55:15,119

and so

1432

00:55:19,750 --> 00:55:17,359

but john where is the link the link is

1433

00:55:21,589 --> 00:55:19,760

right there it's obvious

1434

00:55:22,829 --> 00:55:21,599

materialism

1435

00:55:25,990 --> 00:55:22,839

leads to

1436

00:55:29,109 --> 00:55:26,000

materialism they're linked when we have

1437

00:55:31,990 --> 00:55:29,119

a paradigm that tells us we have no free

1438

00:55:35,589 --> 00:55:32,000

will that we are biological robots that

1439

00:55:36,790 --> 00:55:35,599

we live in a meaningless universe we are

1440

00:55:39,510 --> 00:55:36,800

set up

1441

00:55:41,990 --> 00:55:39,520

to be numbed by the kind of atrocities

1442

00:55:45,430 --> 00:55:42,000

and absurdities you're talking about

1443

00:55:47,349 --> 00:55:45,440

they go hand in hand we can't address

1444

00:55:50,069 --> 00:55:47,359

one without addressing the other that's

1445

00:55:53,990 --> 00:55:50,079

my position you know i disagree with

1446

00:55:56,470 --> 00:55:54,000

that i think that there are all too many

1447

00:55:59,589 --> 00:55:56,480

religious fanatics with supernatural

1448

00:56:01,510 --> 00:55:59,599

views of the world and the good battling

1449

00:56:02,470 --> 00:56:01,520

well we need to transcend that too of

1450

00:56:05,750 --> 00:56:02,480

course

1451  
00:56:07,750 --> 00:56:05,760  
yeah um as far as the hard the the the

1452  
00:56:10,150 --> 00:56:07,760  
atheists the hardcore materialists some

1453  
00:56:11,910 --> 00:56:10,160  
of them are nasty and might support

1454  
00:56:13,190 --> 00:56:11,920  
hawkish foreign policies but most of the

1455  
00:56:17,430 --> 00:56:13,200  
ones i know

1456  
00:56:20,390 --> 00:56:17,440  
are liberal progressive peacenik green

1457  
00:56:23,270 --> 00:56:20,400  
type so i'm not sure i can blame

1458  
00:56:24,390 --> 00:56:23,280  
the ills of the world on

1459  
00:56:28,789 --> 00:56:24,400  
material

1460  
00:56:32,309 --> 00:56:28,799  
maybe capitalism yes but capitalism is

1461  
00:56:34,549 --> 00:56:32,319  
not uh identical to uh materialism i

1462  
00:56:38,710 --> 00:56:34,559  
think capitalism in this country is

1463  
00:56:41,990 --> 00:56:38,720

is also just grotesquely out of control

1464

00:56:44,870 --> 00:56:42,000

uh more so than at any time in my life

1465

00:56:46,470 --> 00:56:44,880

uh as well and that is linked to the uh

1466

00:56:48,630 --> 00:56:46,480

the militarism

1467

00:56:51,430 --> 00:56:48,640

um and the you know the

1468

00:56:53,990 --> 00:56:51,440

division of the world into uh us

1469

00:56:56,710 --> 00:56:54,000

us and them i'm just trying to i'm just

1470

00:56:59,190 --> 00:56:56,720

trying to explain why i you know i

1471

00:57:01,349 --> 00:56:59,200

interviewed rupert sheldrake but i

1472

00:57:02,390 --> 00:57:01,359

didn't set aside

1473

00:57:04,630 --> 00:57:02,400

long

1474

00:57:07,190 --> 00:57:04,640

a lots of time to

1475

00:57:09,510 --> 00:57:07,200

get into his research myself

1476

00:57:12,710 --> 00:57:09,520

and figure out what's really going on

1477

00:57:14,950 --> 00:57:12,720

and uh and defend it defend his views if

1478

00:57:18,150 --> 00:57:14,960

i think that they are really

1479

00:57:19,109 --> 00:57:18,160

substantive to do that properly

1480

00:57:21,430 --> 00:57:19,119

um

1481

00:57:23,510 --> 00:57:21,440

would have really required more of a

1482

00:57:25,430 --> 00:57:23,520

commitment that i was willing to make

1483

00:57:27,750 --> 00:57:25,440

just because there's so much other stuff

1484

00:57:29,510 --> 00:57:27,760

i have to that i want to do i feel like

1485

00:57:30,870 --> 00:57:29,520

i need to write another book about war

1486

00:57:32,230 --> 00:57:30,880

tell us about that in the time we have

1487

00:57:34,309 --> 00:57:32,240

you've been so generous with your time

1488

00:57:36,470 --> 00:57:34,319

and you've been so open to this kind of

1489

00:57:37,990 --> 00:57:36,480

grilling that i i think is really

1490

00:57:39,990 --> 00:57:38,000

helpful i mean i'd love to be able to

1491

00:57:42,069 --> 00:57:40,000

have this kind of open dialogue but tell

1492

00:57:45,030 --> 00:57:42,079

us about you you've touched a little bit

1493

00:57:46,630 --> 00:57:45,040

about the on the end of war and tell us

1494

00:57:48,309 --> 00:57:46,640

about the novel you're writing too uh

1495

00:57:50,950 --> 00:57:48,319

what a what an interesting kind of

1496

00:57:53,190 --> 00:57:50,960

project for you huh sure um okay well

1497

00:57:55,829 --> 00:57:53,200

first the end of war i you know i

1498

00:57:57,190 --> 00:57:55,839

i'm 61 years old i

1499

00:57:58,309 --> 00:57:57,200

um i

1500

00:58:00,710 --> 00:57:58,319

was

1501  
00:58:02,710 --> 00:58:00,720  
i had a draft card uh yeah i could have

1502  
00:58:03,990 --> 00:58:02,720  
ended up going to vietnam but i got a

1503  
00:58:06,390 --> 00:58:04,000  
high number

1504  
00:58:09,750 --> 00:58:06,400  
in the lottery but i grew up during the

1505  
00:58:12,230 --> 00:58:09,760  
cold war terrified that nuclear war was

1506  
00:58:15,190 --> 00:58:12,240  
going to uh end

1507  
00:58:16,710 --> 00:58:15,200  
everything at any moment

1508  
00:58:19,030 --> 00:58:16,720  
i've written a lot about war and

1509  
00:58:22,390 --> 00:58:19,040  
national security issues throughout my

1510  
00:58:24,789 --> 00:58:22,400  
uh career i naively hoped that when the

1511  
00:58:28,069 --> 00:58:24,799  
cold war ended that that maybe we would

1512  
00:58:30,630 --> 00:58:28,079  
enter a period of global peace

1513  
00:58:33,190 --> 00:58:30,640

and uh i

1514

00:58:35,750 --> 00:58:33,200

i i i obviously things have gone in the

1515

00:58:37,349 --> 00:58:35,760

opposite direction especially since 9 11

1516

00:58:40,789 --> 00:58:37,359

i happened to

1517

00:58:43,349 --> 00:58:40,799

give a sermon in a church in my hometown

1518

00:58:45,270 --> 00:58:43,359

right after the u.s invasion of iraq and

1519

00:58:46,950 --> 00:58:45,280

in the discussion after my sermon which

1520

00:58:47,829 --> 00:58:46,960

is on the roots of

1521

00:58:51,190 --> 00:58:47,839

war

1522

00:58:53,670 --> 00:58:51,200

i realized that almost everybody

1523

00:58:55,829 --> 00:58:53,680

was extremely pessimistic about the

1524

00:58:58,230 --> 00:58:55,839

possibility of ending war once and for

1525

00:59:00,630 --> 00:58:58,240

all virtually no one thinks that that's

1526

00:59:02,870 --> 00:59:00,640

possible and i'm talking these were

1527

00:59:05,109 --> 00:59:02,880

liberal democrats

1528

00:59:07,349 --> 00:59:05,119

these weren't republican hawks in the

1529

00:59:09,750 --> 00:59:07,359

audience and now i've i've interviewed

1530

00:59:11,910 --> 00:59:09,760

people all over the world and uh the

1531

00:59:13,829 --> 00:59:11,920

vast majority of people think that war

1532

00:59:15,030 --> 00:59:13,839

is part of the human condition

1533

00:59:16,950 --> 00:59:15,040

which is

1534

00:59:19,510 --> 00:59:16,960

a horrible

1535

00:59:20,309 --> 00:59:19,520

fatalistic belief that can become that

1536

00:59:22,549 --> 00:59:20,319

is

1537

00:59:24,549 --> 00:59:22,559

self-fulfilling if you think the world

1538

00:59:25,910 --> 00:59:24,559

will always be dangerous and warlike

1539

00:59:28,870 --> 00:59:25,920

then of course you're what you're going

1540

00:59:32,390 --> 00:59:28,880

to want a strong military to make sure

1541

00:59:33,910 --> 00:59:32,400

you win the wars when they break out and

1542

00:59:37,589 --> 00:59:33,920

as a result

1543

00:59:39,990 --> 00:59:37,599

uh we've got this extreme militarism in

1544

00:59:42,950 --> 00:59:40,000

this country that is

1545

00:59:45,510 --> 00:59:42,960

is justified to a certain extent by

1546

00:59:47,109 --> 00:59:45,520

crappy scientific theories about war

1547

00:59:50,309 --> 00:59:47,119

being an innate

1548

00:59:52,710 --> 00:59:50,319

uh human impulse and especially in males

1549

00:59:53,589 --> 00:59:52,720

so i wrote the end of war basically to

1550

00:59:56,870 --> 00:59:53,599

show

1551  
00:59:59,990 --> 00:59:56,880  
that war is not inevitable when you look

1552  
01:00:02,870 --> 01:00:00,000  
at the the various theories of war what

1553  
01:00:04,309 --> 01:00:02,880  
they primarily show is that war

1554  
01:00:07,270 --> 01:00:04,319  
begets war

1555  
01:00:08,549 --> 01:00:07,280  
the war uh the fear of war

1556  
01:00:09,829 --> 01:00:08,559  
makes people

1557  
01:00:13,270 --> 01:00:09,839  
warlike

1558  
01:00:16,630 --> 01:00:13,280  
uh and makes them carry out preemptive

1559  
01:00:18,870 --> 01:00:16,640  
strikes like we did in uh in iraq

1560  
01:00:20,470 --> 01:00:18,880  
that perpetuate war they don't end the

1561  
01:00:22,230 --> 01:00:20,480  
violence out there they make more

1562  
01:00:24,150 --> 01:00:22,240  
violence

1563  
01:00:25,589 --> 01:00:24,160

so i wrote this book came out a couple

1564

01:00:28,870 --> 01:00:25,599

of years ago

1565

01:00:31,349 --> 01:00:28,880

and i i still write about war constantly

1566

01:00:33,829 --> 01:00:31,359

on my scientific blog

1567

01:00:36,230 --> 01:00:33,839

just trying to get people to wake up and

1568

01:00:38,549 --> 01:00:36,240

realize how extraordinarily violent and

1569

01:00:41,589 --> 01:00:38,559

hawkish we've become here in the united

1570

01:00:43,430 --> 01:00:41,599

states i haven't really had

1571

01:00:45,270 --> 01:00:43,440

much of an impact

1572

01:00:47,270 --> 01:00:45,280

yet but i'm going to keep

1573

01:00:48,390 --> 01:00:47,280

hammering away at it and hope for the

1574

01:00:49,670 --> 01:00:48,400

best

1575

01:00:51,829 --> 01:00:49,680

what are you doing with the novel are

1576

01:00:54,069 --> 01:00:51,839

you doing something different the novel

1577

01:00:55,990 --> 01:00:54,079

actually is going back to a lot of the

1578

01:00:57,190 --> 01:00:56,000

issues that we're talking about it's

1579

01:01:01,030 --> 01:00:57,200

about a

1580

01:01:03,510 --> 01:01:01,040

a science writer who has all kinds of uh

1581

01:01:05,910 --> 01:01:03,520

psychological problems extreme anxiety

1582

01:01:08,630 --> 01:01:05,920

and depression he gets a brain implant

1583

01:01:10,789 --> 01:01:08,640

that turns him into buddha

1584

01:01:13,030 --> 01:01:10,799

i'll just leave it at that well that's a

1585

01:01:14,710 --> 01:01:13,040

great great lead-in sounds like what's

1586

01:01:16,470 --> 01:01:14,720

that going to be out

1587

01:01:17,750 --> 01:01:16,480

oh i'm just finishing i don't even know

1588

01:01:19,910 --> 01:01:17,760

if it's going to be published i don't

1589

01:01:21,190 --> 01:01:19,920

have a publisher yet this is uh you know

1590

01:01:22,470 --> 01:01:21,200

this is a

1591

01:01:23,270 --> 01:01:22,480

my first

1592

01:01:25,430 --> 01:01:23,280

time

1593

01:01:27,510 --> 01:01:25,440

writing um

1594

01:01:31,589 --> 01:01:27,520

uh fiction at length

1595

01:01:34,230 --> 01:01:31,599

and uh i if all goes well i'm hoping

1596

01:01:35,030 --> 01:01:34,240

within the next year or two um it'll be

1597

01:01:36,630 --> 01:01:35,040

out

1598

01:01:39,750 --> 01:01:36,640

that's gonna be awesome and folks who

1599

01:01:42,710 --> 01:01:39,760

want to stay up on your writing the best

1600

01:01:45,190 --> 01:01:42,720

place is john horgan.com

1601  
01:01:47,510 --> 01:01:45,200  
yeah uh yeah or my my scientific

1602  
01:01:49,510 --> 01:01:47,520  
american uh blog which is called

1603  
01:01:51,829 --> 01:01:49,520  
crosscheck so just

1604  
01:01:53,829 --> 01:01:51,839  
google horgan and crosscheck and you'll

1605  
01:01:56,390 --> 01:01:53,839  
find it and i wrote about all the stuff

1606  
01:01:58,470 --> 01:01:56,400  
that we're talking about and war and

1607  
01:01:59,910 --> 01:01:58,480  
and buddhism and all sorts of things on

1608  
01:02:01,829 --> 01:01:59,920  
that yeah we didn't have a chance to

1609  
01:02:04,069 --> 01:02:01,839  
talk about buddhism but we talked about

1610  
01:02:06,789 --> 01:02:04,079  
quite a bit and i really do appreciate

1611  
01:02:08,870 --> 01:02:06,799  
your openness in your time and i'm a fan

1612  
01:02:11,589 --> 01:02:08,880  
so even though i'm part of the loyal

1613  
01:02:14,150 --> 01:02:11,599

opposition as i described it i'm gonna

1614

01:02:15,829 --> 01:02:14,160

continue staying and staying on top of

1615

01:02:18,069 --> 01:02:15,839

what you're doing thanks so much for

1616

01:02:20,870 --> 01:02:18,079

joining me today john thank you alex i

1617

01:02:22,950 --> 01:02:20,880

really enjoyed it thanks again to john

1618

01:02:25,190 --> 01:02:22,960

horgan for joining me today on skeptico

1619

01:02:27,870 --> 01:02:25,200

one question to tee up for you from this

1620

01:02:30,390 --> 01:02:27,880

interview what do you think about

1621

01:02:33,589 --> 01:02:30,400

quasi-materialism his idea that he is by

1622

01:02:36,069 --> 01:02:33,599

default a materialist because anything

1623

01:02:39,030 --> 01:02:36,079

we would ever know about consciousness

1624

01:02:41,589 --> 01:02:39,040

or the mind is going to come through

1625

01:02:44,630 --> 01:02:41,599

our brain and therefore we're brain

1626  
01:02:47,670 --> 01:02:44,640  
based so it is ultimately a materialist

1627  
01:02:50,630 --> 01:02:47,680  
position i hope i teed that up fairly if

1628  
01:02:52,150 --> 01:02:50,640  
not maybe someone can rework it for me

1629  
01:02:54,870 --> 01:02:52,160  
the place to give me some feedback on

1630  
01:02:57,510 --> 01:02:54,880  
that of course is at [skeptico.com](http://skeptico.com)

1631  
01:02:58,789 --> 01:02:57,520  
s-k-e-p-t-i-k-o

1632  
01:03:01,829 --> 01:02:58,799  
i don't know if i'll have the new

1633  
01:03:03,990 --> 01:03:01,839  
skeptico site up by the time this comes

1634  
01:03:05,910 --> 01:03:04,000  
out but i do have a new website in

1635  
01:03:08,630 --> 01:03:05,920  
somewhat of a new direction that we're

1636  
01:03:10,630 --> 01:03:08,640  
going with getting this information out

1637  
01:03:12,789 --> 01:03:10,640  
but i'm tipping my hand more on that to

1638  
01:03:15,510 --> 01:03:12,799

come in the meantime go check out

1639

01:03:18,309 --> 01:03:15,520

skeptico.com in order to comment on this

1640

01:03:21,109 --> 01:03:18,319

show or connect with me on facebook or

1641

01:03:24,470 --> 01:03:21,119

to jump on over to the forum and start a

1642

01:03:26,789 --> 01:03:24,480

dialogue over there i do have a number

1643

01:03:29,270 --> 01:03:26,799

of really good shows coming up many of

1644

01:03:31,510 --> 01:03:29,280

which you listeners have helped me

1645

01:03:33,670 --> 01:03:31,520

tremendously in either booking the

1646

01:03:35,670 --> 01:03:33,680

guests or even in formulating some of

1647

01:03:38,230 --> 01:03:35,680

the questions that we're doing

1648

01:03:40,870 --> 01:03:38,240

so i welcome anyone who wants to get

1649

01:03:43,190 --> 01:03:40,880

involved in the show in that way many of

1650

01:03:45,510 --> 01:03:43,200

you have done that um just shoot me an

1651  
01:03:46,390 --> 01:03:45,520  
email tell me who you'd like to see on

1652  
01:03:48,549 --> 01:03:46,400  
and then

1653  
01:03:51,190 --> 01:03:48,559  
be ready because invariably i'll say

1654  
01:03:53,510 --> 01:03:51,200  
okay why don't you go about helping me

1655  
01:03:55,270 --> 01:03:53,520  
book that guest and framing up the

1656  
01:03:57,430 --> 01:03:55,280  
interview a little bit and if you have

1657  
01:03:59,750 --> 01:03:57,440  
the follow-through to do that then we

1658  
01:04:01,910 --> 01:03:59,760  
will most likely find a way to get that

1659  
01:04:04,870 --> 01:04:01,920  
person on and you'll become a part of

1660  
01:04:07,349 --> 01:04:04,880  
the show which is something i absolutely

1661  
01:04:10,150 --> 01:04:07,359  
love is that engagement with

1662  
01:04:12,950 --> 01:04:10,160  
you guys at that level of

1663  
01:04:14,710 --> 01:04:12,960

really forming what we do here so that's

1664

01:04:17,750 --> 01:04:14,720

great fun for me and if you enjoy that

1665

01:04:21,510 --> 01:04:17,760

kind of stuff please join me so i guess

1666

01:04:23,990 --> 01:04:21,520

that's about it for this episode i'll be

1667

01:04:24,870 --> 01:04:24,000

back with you in a couple of weeks until