



Lisa Smartt
Skeptiko #348

1
00:00:10,490 --> 00:00:09,049
on this episode of skeptical one of the

2
00:00:13,100 --> 00:00:10,500
things that surprise mean you've kind of

3
00:00:15,950 --> 00:00:13,110
touched on it is that the playfulness of

4
00:00:18,500 --> 00:00:15,960
it sometimes because you know the

5
00:00:19,790 --> 00:00:18,510
near-death experience again we kind of

6
00:00:22,370 --> 00:00:19,800
break it down and talk about it either

7
00:00:25,160 --> 00:00:22,380
medically or then people talk about it

8
00:00:28,220 --> 00:00:25,170
in this kind of hyped up spiritual sense

9
00:00:30,890 --> 00:00:28,230
you know of this great immense you know

10
00:00:33,170 --> 00:00:30,900
connection with spirit and love and hey

11
00:00:34,280 --> 00:00:33,180
that's in your accounts too but the

12
00:00:35,569 --> 00:00:34,290
other thing that comes through and your

13
00:00:38,060 --> 00:00:35,579

accounts is like you're saying just the

14

00:00:39,560 --> 00:00:38,070

playfulness hey I'm going to Las Vegas

15

00:00:42,290 --> 00:00:39,570

hey we need a fourth for the golf

16

00:00:44,240 --> 00:00:42,300

tournament what the heck is going on

17

00:00:47,840 --> 00:00:44,250

there what does that say about this

18

00:00:50,990 --> 00:00:47,850

other realm and how maybe we ought to

19

00:00:53,420 --> 00:00:51,000

feel about it mmm it's so true one of

20

00:00:55,459 --> 00:00:53,430

the stories I loved was from Carol and

21

00:00:57,500 --> 00:00:55,469

there's a account of her last words of

22

00:01:00,799 --> 00:00:57,510

her father who was a roofing contractor

23

00:01:03,080 --> 00:01:00,809

and she said he would awaken and look

24

00:01:05,719 --> 00:01:03,090

over at me and smile so big and he told

25

00:01:06,859 --> 00:01:05,729

me ah they have all these kitchen nets

26

00:01:09,560 --> 00:01:06,869

over there

27

00:01:12,740 --> 00:01:09,570

there were miles of miles of them and he

28

00:01:14,870 --> 00:01:12,750

would be helping build them all you know

29

00:01:18,020 --> 00:01:14,880

so the so it is there is a sense of

30

00:01:20,330 --> 00:01:18,030

almost joy and Wonder and awe and not

31

00:01:21,980 --> 00:01:20,340

always Mehta want to sugarcoat the

32

00:01:24,230 --> 00:01:21,990

experience of dying because there are

33

00:01:25,910 --> 00:01:24,240

people who also you know their last

34

00:01:33,010 --> 00:01:25,920

words are help me help me and that's

35

00:01:33,020 --> 00:01:39,920

[Music]

36

00:01:44,220 --> 00:01:42,330

welcome to skeptic aware we explore

37

00:01:46,290 --> 00:01:44,230

controversial science and spirituality

38

00:01:47,160 --> 00:01:46,300

with leading researchers thinkers and

39

00:01:49,320 --> 00:01:47,170

their critics

40

00:01:52,950 --> 00:01:49,330

I'm your host Alex Icarus and today

41

00:01:55,800 --> 00:01:52,960

really interesting interview Lisa smart

42

00:01:58,620 --> 00:01:55,810

who is a linguist from master's degree

43

00:02:01,170 --> 00:01:58,630

in Berkeley has written this book words

44

00:02:04,290 --> 00:02:01,180

at the threshold and for this book she

45

00:02:05,910 --> 00:02:04,300

collaborated with Raymond Moody famous

46

00:02:08,190 --> 00:02:05,920

Raymond Moody who kind of started the

47

00:02:11,850 --> 00:02:08,200

whole near-death experience thing way

48

00:02:15,870 --> 00:02:11,860

back and what they looked at was the

49

00:02:17,460 --> 00:02:15,880

words that people say when they're about

50

00:02:18,720 --> 00:02:17,470

to die in and around the time that

51
00:02:21,360 --> 00:02:18,730
they're dying so you've heard of like

52
00:02:23,790 --> 00:02:21,370
terminal lucidity and maybe you've heard

53
00:02:26,250 --> 00:02:23,800
of just some profound things that people

54
00:02:29,520 --> 00:02:26,260
say before they die others tons of these

55
00:02:32,850 --> 00:02:29,530
we almost all of us have family stories

56
00:02:36,360 --> 00:02:32,860
of this kind so she's taking a kind of

57
00:02:39,900 --> 00:02:36,370
discipline methodical look at what's

58
00:02:42,540 --> 00:02:39,910
being said and it's just fascinating it

59
00:02:45,510 --> 00:02:42,550
has huge implications for near-death

60
00:02:47,190 --> 00:02:45,520
experience but also obviously for

61
00:02:49,410 --> 00:02:47,200
science and this question of the

62
00:02:51,390 --> 00:02:49,420
afterlife and consciousness and

63
00:02:54,540 --> 00:02:51,400

particularly what I'm interested in you

64

00:02:57,000 --> 00:02:54,550

know what is the nature of these

65

00:03:00,150 --> 00:02:57,010

extended consciousness realms I think

66

00:03:03,560 --> 00:03:00,160

she raises some questions about that as

67

00:03:06,660 --> 00:03:03,570

well here's my interview with Lisa smart

68

00:03:09,660 --> 00:03:06,670

today we welcome Lisa smart - skeptic Oh

69

00:03:12,090 --> 00:03:09,670

Lisa's a linguist whose experiences with

70

00:03:15,120 --> 00:03:12,100

her dying father led her to this

71

00:03:18,210 --> 00:03:15,130

fascinating investigation into the

72

00:03:21,270 --> 00:03:18,220

unique communication that often happens

73

00:03:22,830 --> 00:03:21,280

when people are near-death she's just

74

00:03:26,670 --> 00:03:22,840

written a new book about this titled

75

00:03:28,020 --> 00:03:26,680

words at the threshold what we say when

76

00:03:30,870 --> 00:03:28,030

we're nearing death

77

00:03:32,040 --> 00:03:30,880

Lisa welcome - skeptic oh and thanks so

78

00:03:34,050 --> 00:03:32,050

much for joining me

79

00:03:36,780 --> 00:03:34,060

oh thanks for having me it's great to be

80

00:03:38,940 --> 00:03:36,790

here well this is exciting it's it's

81

00:03:40,680 --> 00:03:38,950

kind of new stuff it's going to be very

82

00:03:43,259 --> 00:03:40,690

much in the vein of other stuff we've

83

00:03:46,680 --> 00:03:43,269

talked about but you know the twist on

84

00:03:48,180 --> 00:03:46,690

it is that you're a linguist which I got

85

00:03:49,590 --> 00:03:48,190

to say when I first heard that I go yeah

86

00:03:52,890 --> 00:03:49,600

I know what a linguist is and I thought

87

00:03:57,180 --> 00:03:52,900

and I go no I don't I don't know is

88

00:03:59,670 --> 00:03:57,190

Oh what what is a linguist now I think a

89

00:04:02,880 --> 00:03:59,680

linguist is someone who's been trained

90

00:04:05,699 --> 00:04:02,890

in and is curious about the science of

91

00:04:07,440 --> 00:04:05,709

language so many of us go ahead and we

92

00:04:10,259 --> 00:04:07,450

speak and we come you know we speak with

93

00:04:13,770 --> 00:04:10,269

people but we don't think much about the

94

00:04:15,360 --> 00:04:13,780

patterns of language and oftentimes - we

95

00:04:18,569 --> 00:04:15,370

don't think about language that might

96

00:04:20,580 --> 00:04:18,579

frighten us or baffle us we just if we

97

00:04:21,780 --> 00:04:20,590

hear nonsense for example someone says

98

00:04:24,780 --> 00:04:21,790

something that makes no sense to us

99

00:04:27,270 --> 00:04:24,790

oftentimes we just disregard it but I

100

00:04:30,090 --> 00:04:27,280

was trained as a linguist that every bit

101
00:04:34,050 --> 00:04:30,100
of language is fascinating and worthy of

102
00:04:36,980 --> 00:04:34,060
study so part of how what I brought to

103
00:04:39,600 --> 00:04:36,990
this research is my training in

104
00:04:43,110 --> 00:04:39,610
analyzing language in terms of patterns

105
00:04:45,600 --> 00:04:43,120
and themes and approaching all language

106
00:04:47,939 --> 00:04:45,610
with a sense of curiosity and wonder as

107
00:04:50,909 --> 00:04:47,949
a scientist with would with any natural

108
00:04:52,860 --> 00:04:50,919
phenomena yeah it's it's really an

109
00:04:55,170 --> 00:04:52,870
interesting angle because when you think

110
00:04:57,360 --> 00:04:55,180
about it and you really talk about it in

111
00:05:00,089 --> 00:04:57,370
that way you kind of see where this

112
00:05:02,250 --> 00:05:00,099
language thing touches so many areas of

113
00:05:04,050 --> 00:05:02,260

science that we don't really think about

114

00:05:05,550 --> 00:05:04,060

but then when you think deeper you go oh

115

00:05:08,670 --> 00:05:05,560

yeah that is kind of curious I mean

116

00:05:10,980 --> 00:05:08,680

whether it's psychological or medical or

117

00:05:12,540 --> 00:05:10,990

I mean there's probably just educational

118

00:05:15,589 --> 00:05:12,550

there's so many different ways and then

119

00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:15,599

you've turned your lens to this

120

00:05:20,700 --> 00:05:18,010

near-death communication communication

121

00:05:23,310 --> 00:05:20,710

that happens right before death and it's

122

00:05:25,529 --> 00:05:23,320

a fascinating fascinating way to look at

123

00:05:28,529 --> 00:05:25,539

it so there's a ton of ways we could

124

00:05:31,200 --> 00:05:28,539

approach this you know we could look at

125

00:05:33,360 --> 00:05:31,210

it from and you hit all these in the

126

00:05:36,089 --> 00:05:33,370

book the book is quite comprehensive so

127

00:05:38,820 --> 00:05:36,099

we can look at it from the standpoint of

128

00:05:40,560 --> 00:05:38,830

evidence of an afterlife we can look at

129

00:05:43,020 --> 00:05:40,570

it from a grieving and what it means

130

00:05:46,110 --> 00:05:43,030

about the grief process how it ties into

131

00:05:47,700 --> 00:05:46,120

near-death experience or we can you know

132

00:05:50,219 --> 00:05:47,710

break down the details of this

133

00:05:53,820 --> 00:05:50,229

communication like you do in your book

134

00:05:56,100 --> 00:05:53,830

but there's also some great great little

135

00:05:58,469 --> 00:05:56,110

stories in the book but where I thought

136

00:06:01,050 --> 00:05:58,479

we might start is just with the story of

137

00:06:02,240 --> 00:06:01,060

your dad I mean he sounds like quite a

138

00:06:07,950 --> 00:06:02,250

character

139

00:06:11,250 --> 00:06:07,960

you had mentioned earlier about how this

140

00:06:14,250 --> 00:06:11,260

study of language overlaps and connects

141

00:06:16,980 --> 00:06:14,260

with so many other aspects of study and

142

00:06:19,620 --> 00:06:16,990

when I first heard changes in my

143

00:06:22,080 --> 00:06:19,630

father's language at the end of life I

144

00:06:24,150 --> 00:06:22,090

had never imagined that I would be

145

00:06:26,970 --> 00:06:24,160

someone who would then be talking about

146

00:06:29,040 --> 00:06:26,980

the afterlife I mean as a linguist it

147

00:06:31,850 --> 00:06:29,050

was something I never anticipated what

148

00:06:35,670 --> 00:06:31,860

happened with my father is he was a PhD

149

00:06:37,830 --> 00:06:35,680

psychologist very rationalist based you

150

00:06:40,920 --> 00:06:37,840

know someone who believed that this was

151
00:06:44,670 --> 00:06:40,930
it you know and he used to joke and call

152
00:06:47,010 --> 00:06:44,680
himself a gastronomical Jew which to him

153
00:06:49,290 --> 00:06:47,020
meant that his idea of God was you know

154
00:06:52,050 --> 00:06:49,300
corned beef sandwich and coleslaw on the

155
00:06:54,900 --> 00:06:52,060
side with a cream soda that he didn't

156
00:06:57,570 --> 00:06:54,910
believe anything anything beyond this so

157
00:06:59,850 --> 00:06:57,580
one of the things that happened as my

158
00:07:03,060 --> 00:06:59,860
father was dying the last three weeks he

159
00:07:06,330 --> 00:07:03,070
started talking about seeing angels and

160
00:07:08,130 --> 00:07:06,340
that just completely blew me away

161
00:07:11,010 --> 00:07:08,140
because he had never spoken that way

162
00:07:13,620 --> 00:07:11,020
before and I mean he didn't have any

163
00:07:16,380 --> 00:07:13,630

kind of quote supernatural or

164

00:07:18,990 --> 00:07:16,390

otherworldly belief so that was part of

165

00:07:21,090 --> 00:07:19,000

what began my interest in writing down

166

00:07:24,360 --> 00:07:21,100

everything he said listen let me ask you

167

00:07:27,240 --> 00:07:24,370

this question so at this point did y'all

168

00:07:29,760 --> 00:07:27,250

know your dad was gonna pass I mean was

169

00:07:31,380 --> 00:07:29,770

it in that kind of situation in what

170

00:07:33,360 --> 00:07:31,390

happened the last three weeks when I

171

00:07:36,810 --> 00:07:33,370

started hearing about the Angels for

172

00:07:38,610 --> 00:07:36,820

example we knew but the very first event

173

00:07:41,930 --> 00:07:38,620

that occurred where we didn't know that

174

00:07:46,080 --> 00:07:41,940

he was entering the dying phase was

175

00:07:49,800 --> 00:07:46,090

midnight on one night he walked out the

176

00:07:51,230 --> 00:07:49,810

front door in his underwear and January

177

00:07:54,719 --> 00:07:51,240

night believe me this was

178

00:07:56,100 --> 00:07:54,729

uncharacteristic of my father and he was

179

00:07:58,770 --> 00:07:56,110

getting treatment for prostate cancer

180

00:08:00,240 --> 00:07:58,780

but there was no indication that he was

181

00:08:03,540 --> 00:08:00,250

going to be dying if that's a pretty

182

00:08:05,820 --> 00:08:03,550

common procedure but there he started

183

00:08:08,460 --> 00:08:05,830

walking down the streets busy streets of

184

00:08:10,620 --> 00:08:08,470

Berkeley California and he started

185

00:08:13,170 --> 00:08:10,630

talking to the police about looking for

186

00:08:16,469 --> 00:08:13,180

the big art exhibition he had to bring

187

00:08:18,559 --> 00:08:16,479

boxes well of course the police were

188

00:08:21,260 --> 00:08:18,569

concerned and brought him home

189

00:08:23,059 --> 00:08:21,270

and we were baffled because my father

190

00:08:25,850 --> 00:08:23,069

his whole life helped my mother who was

191

00:08:27,709 --> 00:08:25,860

an artist bring boxes to our art

192

00:08:30,469 --> 00:08:27,719

exhibitions but obviously there was no

193

00:08:32,839 --> 00:08:30,479

art exhibition and there were no boxes

194

00:08:35,120 --> 00:08:32,849

in his hands had he been suffering from

195

00:08:38,269 --> 00:08:35,130

any kind of dementia before that or not

196

00:08:40,730 --> 00:08:38,279

at all not at all he was still actually

197

00:08:42,860 --> 00:08:40,740

working part time the week before he was

198

00:08:45,170 --> 00:08:42,870

getting treatment as I said and I think

199

00:08:46,639 --> 00:08:45,180

you know he had some mild medications

200

00:08:48,800 --> 00:08:46,649

and at first we thought oh my god it

201
00:08:50,720 --> 00:08:48,810
must be the medications but when I came

202
00:08:52,519 --> 00:08:50,730
to find out and I wrote down everything

203
00:08:55,670 --> 00:08:52,529
he said that night because my

204
00:08:58,100 --> 00:08:55,680
imagination was peaked as a daughter of

205
00:09:00,439 --> 00:08:58,110
course I was saddened as a linguist I

206
00:09:02,600 --> 00:09:00,449
was like wow what's going on here

207
00:09:05,059 --> 00:09:02,610
really really I mean at this point did

208
00:09:06,920 --> 00:09:05,069
that kind of linguist part of you kind

209
00:09:08,569 --> 00:09:06,930
of kick in that early and say what's

210
00:09:10,819 --> 00:09:08,579
going on which is great I mean I think

211
00:09:12,860 --> 00:09:10,829
that's really cool it's a that's a great

212
00:09:16,220 --> 00:09:12,870
question I think because of Who I am

213
00:09:18,889 --> 00:09:16,230

that when something scared me or baffled

214

00:09:21,139 --> 00:09:18,899

me my first place I would go was

215

00:09:24,079 --> 00:09:21,149

language that's just who I am right and

216

00:09:26,329 --> 00:09:24,089

and I don't think at that point I knew I

217

00:09:28,340 --> 00:09:26,339

was going to be studying final words per

218

00:09:30,800 --> 00:09:28,350

se but I wrote them down in my journal

219

00:09:33,319 --> 00:09:30,810

because I was curious about what was

220

00:09:35,629 --> 00:09:33,329

happening and also frightened right this

221

00:09:38,870 --> 00:09:35,639

was my father who was an intellectual

222

00:09:41,569 --> 00:09:38,880

and so articulate and lucid for all his

223

00:09:44,480 --> 00:09:41,579

life and even the week before but we

224

00:09:46,970 --> 00:09:44,490

came to find out later on that actually

225

00:09:49,490 --> 00:09:46,980

the announcement of a big event like my

226

00:09:52,759 --> 00:09:49,500

father announcing the big art exhibition

227

00:09:55,670 --> 00:09:52,769

is actually a very common pattern in the

228

00:09:57,949 --> 00:09:55,680

language of the dying well there's a

229

00:10:00,949 --> 00:09:57,959

bunch of patterns in that story it

230

00:10:03,650 --> 00:10:00,959

turned out to be important I mean that

231

00:10:06,170 --> 00:10:03,660

the metaphor is something that happens

232

00:10:08,629 --> 00:10:06,180

over and over again and events in their

233

00:10:11,559 --> 00:10:08,639

life that are kind of taught brought in

234

00:10:16,550 --> 00:10:11,569

I mean yeah it must have been like

235

00:10:19,069 --> 00:10:16,560

unsolvable yeah absolutely and this is

236

00:10:22,600 --> 00:10:19,079

what's so remarkable of remarkable about

237

00:10:25,879 --> 00:10:22,610

when we approach something metaphysical

238

00:10:27,410 --> 00:10:25,889

in a scientific or relatively scientific

239

00:10:29,449 --> 00:10:27,420

way because when you start looking at

240

00:10:31,580 --> 00:10:29,459

the data and you start looking at

241

00:10:33,470 --> 00:10:31,590

patterns well we may not have

242

00:10:37,010 --> 00:10:33,480

all the answers for why things happen

243

00:10:40,250 --> 00:10:37,020

but we can't deny that they do and so

244

00:10:42,080 --> 00:10:40,260

for example one of the things you had

245

00:10:44,360 --> 00:10:42,090

mentioned is this idea of a signature

246

00:10:46,640 --> 00:10:44,370

metaphor that there are certain symbols

247

00:10:49,280 --> 00:10:46,650

and metaphors that come up in the

248

00:10:50,390 --> 00:10:49,290

language of those who are dying and in

249

00:10:52,160 --> 00:10:50,400

my father's case

250

00:10:54,320 --> 00:10:52,170

was the art exhibition which was

251
00:10:56,870 --> 00:10:54,330
important part of his life with my

252
00:11:00,410 --> 00:10:56,880
mother and Geoffrey holder who was a

253
00:11:02,420 --> 00:11:00,420
dancer and choreographer his very final

254
00:11:06,110 --> 00:11:02,430
words where before he took his very last

255
00:11:10,340 --> 00:11:06,120
breath were arms two three turn to the

256
00:11:13,010 --> 00:11:10,350
right so it's remarkable we do seem to

257
00:11:15,890 --> 00:11:13,020
die as we live that we bring those

258
00:11:19,220 --> 00:11:15,900
symbols and metaphors of our lives into

259
00:11:22,970 --> 00:11:19,230
our final words in very very many cases

260
00:11:25,010 --> 00:11:22,980
and those signature metaphors appear as

261
00:11:27,080 --> 00:11:25,020
we talk about a large event that's

262
00:11:29,240 --> 00:11:27,090
coming up some people will start talking

263
00:11:31,640 --> 00:11:29,250

about a dance or a big dinner

264

00:11:36,200 --> 00:11:31,650

there were several transcripts of the

265

00:11:38,210 --> 00:11:36,210

big golf game right and poker games so

266

00:11:40,670 --> 00:11:38,220

it's it's really fascinating so that's

267

00:11:43,070 --> 00:11:40,680

just one of many aspects of the language

268

00:11:44,930 --> 00:11:43,080

of end of life so and I'm sorry I kind

269

00:11:47,390 --> 00:11:44,940

of may be sidetracked it a little bit

270

00:11:49,790 --> 00:11:47,400

because the story gets more and more

271

00:11:54,170 --> 00:11:49,800

interesting your dad gets closer to

272

00:11:56,420 --> 00:11:54,180

passing and the communication changes a

273

00:11:58,580 --> 00:11:56,430

little bit or deepens I don't know how

274

00:12:00,800 --> 00:11:58,590

you want to say characterize it but it

275

00:12:04,540 --> 00:12:00,810

does fit into what the book is all about

276

00:12:08,030 --> 00:12:04,550

but then actually afterwards that whole

277

00:12:10,660 --> 00:12:08,040

series of events kind of spawns this

278

00:12:13,520 --> 00:12:10,670

whole project that you got into right

279

00:12:15,440 --> 00:12:13,530

absolutely you know that's exactly what

280

00:12:18,950 --> 00:12:15,450

happened he started speaking in nonsense

281

00:12:22,310 --> 00:12:18,960

and for example he said things my

282

00:12:25,820 --> 00:12:22,320

modality is broken or introductory

283

00:12:28,900 --> 00:12:25,830

offers store is closing for food and

284

00:12:31,880 --> 00:12:28,910

goods and I wrote that down and then

285

00:12:35,210 --> 00:12:31,890

notice he started repeating himself and

286

00:12:38,450 --> 00:12:35,220

one thing that really caught my ear was

287

00:12:41,510 --> 00:12:38,460

he said to a second his secretary on the

288

00:12:44,870 --> 00:12:41,520

phone Alice this is very interesting

289

00:12:45,290 --> 00:12:44,880

I've never done this before and this was

290

00:12:48,410 --> 00:12:45,300

too

291

00:12:51,470 --> 00:12:48,420

before he died and I thought what is

292

00:12:53,270 --> 00:12:51,480

this this what is this this daddy that

293

00:12:56,570 --> 00:12:53,280

you're talking about why didn't why

294

00:12:58,900 --> 00:12:56,580

didn't he say dying is very interesting

295

00:13:01,850 --> 00:12:58,910

right was it because he was afraid am

296

00:13:03,680 --> 00:13:01,860

afraid of to use the word or was it that

297

00:13:05,780 --> 00:13:03,690

there was something else going on that

298

00:13:10,280 --> 00:13:05,790

that didn't have a word for his

299

00:13:12,980 --> 00:13:10,290

experience so um and then the very a few

300

00:13:18,170 --> 00:13:12,990

days before he died he said enough

301
00:13:22,940 --> 00:13:18,180
enough the angel say enough and three

302
00:13:25,820 --> 00:13:22,950
days later he was gone that little twist

303
00:13:28,580 --> 00:13:25,830
there plays another important part into

304
00:13:31,100 --> 00:13:28,590
this larger story and pattern and this

305
00:13:33,500 --> 00:13:31,110
very confusing metaphysical part of this

306
00:13:35,570 --> 00:13:33,510
is precognition I mean here's a guy who

307
00:13:37,700 --> 00:13:35,580
not only now is talking to the angels

308
00:13:40,870 --> 00:13:37,710
and reporting back what the angels say

309
00:13:43,850 --> 00:13:40,880
which is an important part but he's

310
00:13:46,130 --> 00:13:43,860
predicting his death accurately he's

311
00:13:48,470 --> 00:13:46,140
having a precognitive event here and

312
00:13:51,200 --> 00:13:48,480
saying three days I'm going to go I know

313
00:13:53,810 --> 00:13:51,210

and it's just again those three weeks

314

00:13:56,720 --> 00:13:53,820

with my father on one hand I was a

315

00:13:59,510 --> 00:13:56,730

grieving daughter of course and on the

316

00:14:01,730 --> 00:13:59,520

other hand I felt like I was had to

317

00:14:04,430 --> 00:14:01,740

enter a completely new territory in

318

00:14:06,620 --> 00:14:04,440

world and I was even more startling just

319

00:14:11,330 --> 00:14:06,630

because of who my father was I mean he

320

00:14:13,760 --> 00:14:11,340

was someone who who rolled his eyes when

321

00:14:16,670 --> 00:14:13,770

he heard the word angel right so that

322

00:14:19,730 --> 00:14:16,680

was even more compelling when I heard

323

00:14:22,660 --> 00:14:19,740

those things from him okay so this

324

00:14:25,130 --> 00:14:22,670

happens your dad passes and you feel

325

00:14:29,470 --> 00:14:25,140

this is percolating in the back of your

326

00:14:31,970 --> 00:14:29,480

mind and then it's also kind of you know

327

00:14:33,650 --> 00:14:31,980

interesting synchronistic in a very

328

00:14:37,340 --> 00:14:33,660

small way I don't want to exaggerate it

329

00:14:39,110 --> 00:14:37,350

but you meet Raymond Moody and at the

330

00:14:41,750 --> 00:14:39,120

time you don't even realize but Moody is

331

00:14:44,270 --> 00:14:41,760

really really interested in exactly the

332

00:14:48,800 --> 00:14:44,280

stuff that you're looking into right

333

00:14:50,690 --> 00:14:48,810

that's exactly right and I had read

334

00:14:52,760 --> 00:14:50,700

Moody's book when I was 17 and I was

335

00:14:54,350 --> 00:14:52,770

very intrigued by it so he when I went

336

00:14:56,510 --> 00:14:54,360

to go to his workshop because I was

337

00:14:58,130 --> 00:14:56,520

trying to figure out what was I wanted

338

00:15:01,540 --> 00:14:58,140

to know more about final word

339

00:15:03,860 --> 00:15:01,550

he had spent 40 years researching

340

00:15:05,870 --> 00:15:03,870

unintelligible language and it was

341

00:15:08,540 --> 00:15:05,880

actually his first field of interest

342

00:15:10,400 --> 00:15:08,550

when he got his PhD in philosophy he was

343

00:15:12,230 --> 00:15:10,410

very interested like given non sense of

344

00:15:14,660 --> 00:15:12,240

Lewis and Carroll Alice in Wonderland

345

00:15:17,270 --> 00:15:14,670

for example so it was actually his

346

00:15:19,490 --> 00:15:17,280

interest in unintelligibility that

347

00:15:21,860 --> 00:15:19,500

brought him to the near-death experience

348

00:15:23,810 --> 00:15:21,870

and what happened is when he was a young

349

00:15:26,290 --> 00:15:23,820

medical student and he already had a PhD

350

00:15:29,330 --> 00:15:26,300

in philosophy where he specialized in

351
00:15:32,030 --> 00:15:29,340
nonsensical language he heard from his

352
00:15:35,180 --> 00:15:32,040
patients who died and returned this

353
00:15:37,100 --> 00:15:35,190
language that was almost like Alice in

354
00:15:39,710 --> 00:15:37,110
Wonderland they would say things like I

355
00:15:42,830 --> 00:15:39,720
never felt as alive as when I was dead

356
00:15:45,170 --> 00:15:42,840
or it felt like one minute but also a

357
00:15:48,350 --> 00:15:45,180
million years when I had my afterlife

358
00:15:51,980 --> 00:15:48,360
experience or people communicate but

359
00:15:54,620 --> 00:15:51,990
they don't talk well Raymond heard all

360
00:15:56,720 --> 00:15:54,630
these nonsensical descriptions and he

361
00:15:59,510 --> 00:15:56,730
started writing them down from these

362
00:16:03,500 --> 00:15:59,520
people who died and came back and from

363
00:16:05,270 --> 00:16:03,510

that evolved the characteristics and the

364

00:16:08,180 --> 00:16:05,280

qualities of the near-death experience

365

00:16:11,360 --> 00:16:08,190

and so when I heard that I was really

366

00:16:14,330 --> 00:16:11,370

really stunned to know that intersection

367

00:16:18,080 --> 00:16:14,340

between language and the transpersonal

368

00:16:20,240 --> 00:16:18,090

study of death and dying and so we just

369

00:16:22,880 --> 00:16:20,250

started speaking in a few months later I

370

00:16:25,460 --> 00:16:22,890

decided that I wanted to study with this

371

00:16:29,570 --> 00:16:25,470

man and work with this man and I left

372

00:16:31,820 --> 00:16:29,580

behind California I packed up my Mustang

373

00:16:34,100 --> 00:16:31,830

with my husband and all our kids were

374

00:16:38,300 --> 00:16:34,110

already out and off to colleges so we

375

00:16:40,190 --> 00:16:38,310

drove to Georgia and I studied and work

376

00:16:42,830 --> 00:16:40,200

with dr. Raymond Moody which is one of

377

00:16:46,100 --> 00:16:42,840

the biggest honors and privileges of my

378

00:16:48,020 --> 00:16:46,110

life again amazing I mean you're kind of

379

00:16:49,850 --> 00:16:48,030

condensing it down into a nice little

380

00:16:51,890 --> 00:16:49,860

story but when somebody breaks that down

381

00:16:54,650 --> 00:16:51,900

and think about what that must have been

382

00:16:56,000 --> 00:16:54,660

that's a huge you know life shift for

383

00:16:58,580 --> 00:16:56,010

you and also there's an interesting

384

00:17:00,440 --> 00:16:58,590

little synchronicity there I mean how

385

00:17:02,510 --> 00:17:00,450

you even come to you know you have a

386

00:17:04,280 --> 00:17:02,520

friend who says oh you're interested in

387

00:17:06,800 --> 00:17:04,290

that stuff you know I know Raymond Moody

388

00:17:08,470 --> 00:17:06,810

is teaching this class and you ought to

389

00:17:11,590 --> 00:17:08,480

go and you know and then

390

00:17:13,960 --> 00:17:11,600

you go and you just you get this book

391

00:17:15,699 --> 00:17:13,970

from him and you don't really say a lot

392

00:17:18,220 --> 00:17:15,709

I guess there but then you'll go back

393

00:17:20,350 --> 00:17:18,230

and you really you know dig into it and

394

00:17:23,350 --> 00:17:20,360

then you kind of I mean it's quite a

395

00:17:26,289 --> 00:17:23,360

story and you know I thank you so much

396

00:17:29,430 --> 00:17:26,299

for appreciating it it has been for a

397

00:17:31,870 --> 00:17:29,440

lack of a better word magical because in

398

00:17:34,090 --> 00:17:31,880

synchronicity after synchronicity

399

00:17:36,850 --> 00:17:34,100

occurred and when that happens in your

400

00:17:39,100 --> 00:17:36,860

life no matter what it is you do almost

401
00:17:40,870 --> 00:17:39,110
feel you've got to follow it you know

402
00:17:45,370 --> 00:17:40,880
it's almost like turning away from a

403
00:17:47,710 --> 00:17:45,380
blessing to not follow follow it so you

404
00:17:50,140 --> 00:17:47,720
know yes I left a really great secure

405
00:17:52,960 --> 00:17:50,150
job in Napa California one of the most

406
00:17:56,560 --> 00:17:52,970
beautiful places you know anywhere I had

407
00:17:59,650 --> 00:17:56,570
a great great job and but I just felt

408
00:18:01,330 --> 00:17:59,660
called to do this and and I'm very glad

409
00:18:03,280 --> 00:18:01,340
I did I have no regrets but you know

410
00:18:04,810 --> 00:18:03,290
I've through my savings because you know

411
00:18:07,480 --> 00:18:04,820
Raymond and I did not get any major

412
00:18:09,010 --> 00:18:07,490
grants or anything to do this work it

413
00:18:11,530 --> 00:18:09,020

was really a labor of love but I have

414

00:18:13,060 --> 00:18:11,540
absolutely no regrets it it was a

415

00:18:14,919 --> 00:18:13,070
wonderful experience

416

00:18:17,470 --> 00:18:14,929
and I'm very grateful I have a terrific

417

00:18:19,960 --> 00:18:17,480
husband who was willing to willing to

418

00:18:23,020 --> 00:18:19,970
you know take the take the leap with me

419

00:18:26,500 --> 00:18:23,030
and do it that's great and you know

420

00:18:28,870 --> 00:18:26,510
Raymond moody people know and recognize

421

00:18:30,610 --> 00:18:28,880
as being the person who really brought

422

00:18:33,669 --> 00:18:30,620
the whole whole term near-death

423

00:18:35,650 --> 00:18:33,679
experience into our collective

424

00:18:39,419 --> 00:18:35,660
consciousness and kind of coined it if

425

00:18:42,070 --> 00:18:39,429
you will but he's an interesting bird to

426

00:18:43,870 --> 00:18:42,080

I mean I've interviewed him a couple

427

00:18:47,110 --> 00:18:43,880

times and I'm always kind of torn

428

00:18:48,850 --> 00:18:47,120

between you know what's going on with

429

00:18:50,890 --> 00:18:48,860

this guy is he shooting straight with me

430

00:18:54,190 --> 00:18:50,900

I mean he talks in riddles a lot of

431

00:18:56,470 --> 00:18:54,200

times and then but but also I've left

432

00:18:57,909 --> 00:18:56,480

conversations with him and I've told

433

00:19:00,700 --> 00:18:57,919

people this and I've told it on the air

434

00:19:02,950 --> 00:19:00,710

that when I reflect back there like

435

00:19:04,900 --> 00:19:02,960

these nuggets of deep truth

436

00:19:06,760 --> 00:19:04,910

well it just kind of come through you

437

00:19:08,890 --> 00:19:06,770

know one is the nonsense thing I mean

438

00:19:10,390 --> 00:19:08,900

he's thought I can verify what you're

439

00:19:13,750 --> 00:19:10,400

saying he's been harping on that

440

00:19:15,789 --> 00:19:13,760

right years for years and the other is

441

00:19:18,220 --> 00:19:15,799

just saying you know I remember him

442

00:19:20,890 --> 00:19:18,230

saying well you know this whole study is

443

00:19:22,030 --> 00:19:20,900

pre-scientific yeah when I was like wait

444

00:19:23,500 --> 00:19:22,040

a minute wait a minute you

445

00:19:25,270 --> 00:19:23,510

no Raymond we're trying to bring

446

00:19:29,140 --> 00:19:25,280

credibility to this we're trying to say

447

00:19:31,810 --> 00:19:29,150

that science is it and how true is it to

448

00:19:34,570 --> 00:19:31,820

say you know we're looking at the whole

449

00:19:36,880 --> 00:19:34,580

frickin thing backwards you know and if

450

00:19:40,230 --> 00:19:36,890

we are looking at it backwards of course

451
00:19:42,880 --> 00:19:40,240
it's pre-scientific because science is

452
00:19:45,670 --> 00:19:42,890
backwards it's looking at the result and

453
00:19:47,920 --> 00:19:45,680
we're looking at the the larger reality

454
00:19:49,630 --> 00:19:47,930
perhaps and he never goes so far as to

455
00:19:51,580 --> 00:19:49,640
say those kind of things he just says

456
00:19:52,900 --> 00:19:51,590
it's pretty scientific and that you have

457
00:19:54,610 --> 00:19:52,910
to figure out their riddle and figure

458
00:19:57,100 --> 00:19:54,620
out that what that means or he says it's

459
00:19:58,630 --> 00:19:57,110
like you say it's nonsense and then you

460
00:20:01,150 --> 00:19:58,640
have to figure out the riddle and figure

461
00:20:04,860 --> 00:20:01,160
out well it's nonsense because maybe

462
00:20:07,600 --> 00:20:04,870
because this reality that we're in is

463
00:20:08,680 --> 00:20:07,610

nonsense you know in a way that we don't

464

00:20:10,630 --> 00:20:08,690

understand you know I mean there's so

465

00:20:12,550 --> 00:20:10,640

again it's just a riddle kind of paradox

466

00:20:12,990 --> 00:20:12,560

thing I think with Raymond a lot of

467

00:20:14,920 --> 00:20:13,000

times

468

00:20:16,890 --> 00:20:14,930

absolutely well one of the things he

469

00:20:18,820 --> 00:20:16,900

talks about is in traditional

470

00:20:22,780 --> 00:20:18,830

conversation this goes way back to

471

00:20:24,910 --> 00:20:22,790

Aristotle right everything has one on

472

00:20:27,130 --> 00:20:24,920

one meaning for example if I say this is

473

00:20:29,590 --> 00:20:27,140

a cup I'm holding in my hand a tea cup

474

00:20:32,110 --> 00:20:29,600

here we both know we agree that there's

475

00:20:34,600 --> 00:20:32,120

one meeting that corresponds with cup

476
00:20:37,450 --> 00:20:34,610
but when you get into nonsense

477
00:20:39,100 --> 00:20:37,460
so in even metaphor there are a multiple

478
00:20:41,560 --> 00:20:39,110
you start dealing in the realm of

479
00:20:43,870 --> 00:20:41,570
multiple meanings for things so let me

480
00:20:47,020 --> 00:20:43,880
be more specific you know a cup is a cup

481
00:20:50,320 --> 00:20:47,030
but if I were to say to you Alex your

482
00:20:52,090 --> 00:20:50,330
heart is like an overabundant cup well

483
00:20:53,860 --> 00:20:52,100
many people would interpret that in

484
00:20:57,310 --> 00:20:53,870
different ways some people might say oh

485
00:20:59,350 --> 00:20:57,320
he's so drippy right everybody cut the

486
00:21:02,530 --> 00:20:59,360
guy's just you know or they might say

487
00:21:04,540 --> 00:21:02,540
he's full of love and caring but when

488
00:21:07,710 --> 00:21:04,550

you have metaphor language that's not

489

00:21:11,140 --> 00:21:07,720

literal language or nonsensical language

490

00:21:12,610 --> 00:21:11,150

then when my dad said my modality is

491

00:21:15,280 --> 00:21:12,620

broken well you and I could sit around

492

00:21:16,360 --> 00:21:15,290

for years and try to figure out what the

493

00:21:20,050 --> 00:21:16,370

heck that means

494

00:21:21,730 --> 00:21:20,060

but you and I agree that cup is cup so

495

00:21:25,750 --> 00:21:21,740

one of the things that Raymond would say

496

00:21:28,420 --> 00:21:25,760

is that are this dimensional reality

497

00:21:30,850 --> 00:21:28,430

this literal you know this world we live

498

00:21:35,530 --> 00:21:30,860

in is based on one-to-one correspondence

499

00:21:36,190 --> 00:21:35,540

is right and but what if really there

500

00:21:38,590 --> 00:21:36,200

are

501
00:21:41,169 --> 00:21:38,600
realities or dimensions a way of singing

502
00:21:43,810 --> 00:21:41,179
things such as the dream world now you

503
00:21:45,310 --> 00:21:43,820
could have a dream that has symbols that

504
00:21:48,700 --> 00:21:45,320
might mean something different to me

505
00:21:50,979 --> 00:21:48,710
that it means to you so in the in dream

506
00:21:53,289 --> 00:21:50,989
time for example there are not those

507
00:21:55,779 --> 00:21:53,299
one-on-one correspondences right it's

508
00:21:58,119 --> 00:21:55,789
different so Raymond would maybe say

509
00:22:00,549 --> 00:21:58,129
well how do we know that this is a

510
00:22:04,509 --> 00:22:00,559
reality of one-to-one correspondence is

511
00:22:06,700 --> 00:22:04,519
well you know honestly X I mean that I'm

512
00:22:08,529 --> 00:22:06,710
a pretty grounded person so when Raymond

513
00:22:12,009 --> 00:22:08,539

starts talking that way I'm like you are

514

00:22:14,680 --> 00:22:12,019

a philosopher I hire you I admire you

515

00:22:16,599 --> 00:22:14,690

for that but you know really for me when

516

00:22:18,789 --> 00:22:16,609

I did the final words work what I loved

517

00:22:21,129 --> 00:22:18,799

about it was actually pretty grounded

518

00:22:23,710 --> 00:22:21,139

because when you have sentences and

519

00:22:25,799 --> 00:22:23,720

people say things that seems very and

520

00:22:28,769 --> 00:22:25,809

you write them down that's pretty real

521

00:22:31,479 --> 00:22:28,779

but Raymond's perspective on things is

522

00:22:33,999 --> 00:22:31,489

remarkable and one of the first things

523

00:22:38,200 --> 00:22:34,009

he is truly a mentor to me but one of

524

00:22:40,720 --> 00:22:38,210

the we had one disagreement early on and

525

00:22:42,970 --> 00:22:40,730

I came to see that he was right but our

526

00:22:44,950 --> 00:22:42,980

disagreement was this when I first

527

00:22:47,289 --> 00:22:44,960

started doing the final words research I

528

00:22:50,200 --> 00:22:47,299

said don't we need to control four

529

00:22:52,149 --> 00:22:50,210

medications right I mean maybe people

530

00:22:53,979 --> 00:22:52,159

saying goofy things and we have to

531

00:22:57,220 --> 00:22:53,989

figure out what medication they're on

532

00:22:59,080 --> 00:22:57,230

because maybe certain meds make people

533

00:23:02,379 --> 00:22:59,090

say goofy things right

534

00:23:04,419 --> 00:23:02,389

he said no don't no we're not going to

535

00:23:07,659 --> 00:23:04,429

do that because what we want to do is

536

00:23:11,499 --> 00:23:07,669

see what patterns emerge across all

537

00:23:13,779 --> 00:23:11,509

medications and diagnosis and he was

538

00:23:16,899 --> 00:23:13,789

right because we didn't control for meds

539

00:23:20,259 --> 00:23:16,909

and yet the patterns organically emerged

540

00:23:23,680 --> 00:23:20,269

no matter the medications or what the

541

00:23:26,680 --> 00:23:23,690

illnesses were so I learned to trust

542

00:23:28,960 --> 00:23:26,690

Raymond I learned to think whenever I

543

00:23:30,970 --> 00:23:28,970

thought oh no no no Raymond I really

544

00:23:33,310 --> 00:23:30,980

learned to trust his instincts over time

545

00:23:35,799 --> 00:23:33,320

and and he's been a great a great mentor

546

00:23:38,769 --> 00:23:35,809

and guide awesome and that's it's

547

00:23:39,849 --> 00:23:38,779

brilliant and you made a brilliant point

548

00:23:42,399 --> 00:23:39,859

there that I want to make sure we

549

00:23:44,529 --> 00:23:42,409

highlight you say in the book the

550

00:23:46,149 --> 00:23:44,539

investigation is not formal or rigorous

551
00:23:48,310 --> 00:23:46,159
that is it doesn't control for

552
00:23:49,690 --> 00:23:48,320
medications or illness I offer a

553
00:23:51,159 --> 00:23:49,700
detailed explanation

554
00:23:54,310 --> 00:23:51,169
formed by hospice professionals blah

555
00:23:56,110 --> 00:23:54,320
blah blah you know back to the thing

556
00:23:58,480 --> 00:23:56,120
about Raymond it's funny you tell that

557
00:24:00,970 --> 00:23:58,490
story because it does fit in with my

558
00:24:04,149 --> 00:24:00,980
experiences when you reflect on it there

559
00:24:05,500 --> 00:24:04,159
is a deep wisdom that he has there I've

560
00:24:08,529 --> 00:24:05,510
been looking at this near-death

561
00:24:13,590 --> 00:24:08,539
experience thing for a long time and one

562
00:24:15,940 --> 00:24:13,600
of the common knocks on it from the

563
00:24:17,080 --> 00:24:15,950

medical community who just really

564

00:24:19,600 --> 00:24:17,090

doesn't want to deal with any of this

565

00:24:22,180 --> 00:24:19,610

stuff at all is they say oh well look

566

00:24:24,610 --> 00:24:22,190

you can't rely on that I mean this

567

00:24:25,840 --> 00:24:24,620

person was drowning I mean this person

568

00:24:28,360 --> 00:24:25,850

had a completely different experience

569

00:24:30,340 --> 00:24:28,370

they were under they're in a coma

570

00:24:33,250 --> 00:24:30,350

this person did cardiac arrest this

571

00:24:36,220 --> 00:24:33,260

person had anesthesia then you say yeah

572

00:24:38,740 --> 00:24:36,230

that's the point why they all have the

573

00:24:41,080 --> 00:24:38,750

same experience if they had completely

574

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:41,090

different physiological medical

575

00:24:44,649 --> 00:24:43,010

conditions and that's what I think

576

00:24:46,389 --> 00:24:44,659

you've done here when you say the

577

00:24:49,240 --> 00:24:46,399

investigation is not formal or rigorous

578

00:24:50,830 --> 00:24:49,250

well in one way maybe that's true and

579

00:24:54,250 --> 00:24:50,840

the way that you said but in another way

580

00:24:57,340 --> 00:24:54,260

it because the way you did it it again

581

00:25:00,039 --> 00:24:57,350

brings to the to the front this question

582

00:25:01,930 --> 00:25:00,049

of well then how would you explain that

583

00:25:04,389 --> 00:25:01,940

this person like you said you're

584

00:25:05,649 --> 00:25:04,399

grounded in and this comes through in

585

00:25:07,360 --> 00:25:05,659

the book we're going to talk a little

586

00:25:09,430 --> 00:25:07,370

bit in a minute about the methodology

587

00:25:11,259 --> 00:25:09,440

went for compiling all these accounts

588

00:25:14,830 --> 00:25:11,269

which is pretty amazing and there's like

589

00:25:16,840 --> 00:25:14,840

1500 of them in the book but then they

590

00:25:20,529 --> 00:25:16,850

speak in terms of the patterns you found

591

00:25:23,769 --> 00:25:20,539

speak then transcending illness

592

00:25:25,810 --> 00:25:23,779

transcending age transcending all these

593

00:25:27,460 --> 00:25:25,820

variables that someone could throw at it

594

00:25:29,560 --> 00:25:27,470

and say oh well yeah that's just

595

00:25:31,090 --> 00:25:29,570

dementia oh really well in this case

596

00:25:32,649 --> 00:25:31,100

there's a completely different medical

597

00:25:34,029 --> 00:25:32,659

background oh well that's probably

598

00:25:36,310 --> 00:25:34,039

medications oh really

599

00:25:39,430 --> 00:25:36,320

here's a younger person that you don't I

600

00:25:41,740 --> 00:25:39,440

mean it really does that yes and that

601
00:25:43,899 --> 00:25:41,750
was an and again I was surprised because

602
00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:43,909
when I first began I looked at Raymond

603
00:25:49,960 --> 00:25:46,010
sort of from the corner of my eye like

604
00:25:51,639 --> 00:25:49,970
really really doc and he was like let's

605
00:25:54,759 --> 00:25:51,649
just give it a try and see what happens

606
00:25:56,740 --> 00:25:54,769
and he you know as you said he was he

607
00:25:59,019 --> 00:25:56,750
was right and it was from his experience

608
00:26:01,539 --> 00:25:59,029
with near-death experiences that that

609
00:26:02,830 --> 00:26:01,549
led him to encourage me to move in that

610
00:26:04,270 --> 00:26:02,840
way so

611
00:26:07,750 --> 00:26:04,280
Lisa tell folks a little bit how you

612
00:26:11,500 --> 00:26:07,760
went about compiling all these accounts

613
00:26:13,870 --> 00:26:11,510

um you know I first approached hospice

614

00:26:15,730 --> 00:26:13,880

and they were very protective the

615

00:26:17,590 --> 00:26:15,740

scientist in me I first had this image

616

00:26:20,740 --> 00:26:17,600

of like I'm gonna go bedside with

617

00:26:22,510 --> 00:26:20,750

digital recorders and get the words of

618

00:26:24,730 --> 00:26:22,520

the dying well I learned very very

619

00:26:27,390 --> 00:26:24,740

quickly that first that's such a sacred

620

00:26:29,440 --> 00:26:27,400

in private time and Hospice

621

00:26:31,930 --> 00:26:29,450

understandably really did not want

622

00:26:34,420 --> 00:26:31,940

someone a stranger not being affiliated

623

00:26:36,670 --> 00:26:34,430

with the University and being under the

624

00:26:40,510 --> 00:26:36,680

guidance of what's called a IRB that

625

00:26:41,980 --> 00:26:40,520

controls ethical scientific research you

626
00:26:44,710 --> 00:26:41,990
know they didn't just want some person

627
00:26:47,770 --> 00:26:44,720
coming in and doing that and I got to

628
00:26:49,630 --> 00:26:47,780
fully understand how inappropriate that

629
00:26:51,820 --> 00:26:49,640
would have been for so many reasons and

630
00:26:55,720 --> 00:26:51,830
I'll say more about that later but what

631
00:26:57,790 --> 00:26:55,730
I did do is I spoke to families and

632
00:27:00,520 --> 00:26:57,800
loved ones and asked if they'd be

633
00:27:02,050 --> 00:27:00,530
willing to transcribe their loved ones

634
00:27:03,970 --> 00:27:02,060
words and they could pick and choose

635
00:27:05,770 --> 00:27:03,980
which ones I would get because for those

636
00:27:09,300 --> 00:27:05,780
very private conversations of course

637
00:27:13,420 --> 00:27:09,310
people want to keep those private right

638
00:27:16,480 --> 00:27:13,430

but so people did share those and then I

639

00:27:20,830 --> 00:27:16,490

I was bedside it's up for some of them I

640

00:27:24,010 --> 00:27:20,840

had chaplains and hospice workers and

641

00:27:26,020 --> 00:27:24,020

nurses I share things with me I switch

642

00:27:29,350 --> 00:27:26,030

to professionals other professionals in

643

00:27:33,700 --> 00:27:29,360

the field of linguistics and psychology

644

00:27:36,670 --> 00:27:33,710

and neuroscience so I really did a range

645

00:27:38,920 --> 00:27:36,680

of types of information gathering and

646

00:27:41,230 --> 00:27:38,930

then I have the final words project and

647

00:27:43,120 --> 00:27:41,240

we have a submission form where people

648

00:27:44,410 --> 00:27:43,130

can go ahead and submit their accounts

649

00:27:46,780 --> 00:27:44,420

and then I followed it up with phone

650

00:27:49,360 --> 00:27:46,790

calls just to make sure that people were

651
00:27:51,100 --> 00:27:49,370
credible and I just want to make sure

652
00:27:53,620 --> 00:27:51,110
the data I was getting was from coming

653
00:27:55,450 --> 00:27:53,630
from credible sources tell folks a

654
00:27:57,850 --> 00:27:55,460
little bit more about the online

655
00:28:00,190 --> 00:27:57,860
submission and how that played into it

656
00:28:02,500 --> 00:28:00,200
because that's still up and going right

657
00:28:06,490 --> 00:28:02,510
yes absolutely and I want to keep

658
00:28:08,980 --> 00:28:06,500
collecting data for as long as I can it

659
00:28:11,380 --> 00:28:08,990
just basically it's a form where you

660
00:28:14,299 --> 00:28:11,390
give your consent and you'll do what we

661
00:28:16,919 --> 00:28:14,309
do ask questions about meds and

662
00:28:18,600 --> 00:28:16,929
just as simple you share what you want

663
00:28:21,750 --> 00:28:18,610

to share and we feel comfortable sharing

664

00:28:22,950 --> 00:28:21,760

and I don't share it with anybody you

665

00:28:25,350 --> 00:28:22,960

make a choice whether you want to put

666

00:28:29,159 --> 00:28:25,360

your name or not and I just have

667

00:28:31,470 --> 00:28:29,169

gathered some wonderful stories last

668

00:28:33,870 --> 00:28:31,480

week I got a story from someone who

669

00:28:35,340 --> 00:28:33,880

talked about her loved one who is right

670

00:28:37,880 --> 00:28:35,350

at the edge of dying and was going

671

00:28:40,500 --> 00:28:37,890

through a difficult period right before

672

00:28:42,960 --> 00:28:40,510

passing and she started talking about

673

00:28:46,200 --> 00:28:42,970

the mama train she wanted to get on the

674

00:28:48,629 --> 00:28:46,210

mama train and this woman started

675

00:28:50,610 --> 00:28:48,639

started sharing with her let's let's

676

00:28:52,409 --> 00:28:50,620

let's go on the mama train let's go on

677

00:28:54,480 --> 00:28:52,419

the mama train and just entered into our

678

00:28:56,310 --> 00:28:54,490

loved ones world anyway I get it that's

679

00:28:59,610 --> 00:28:56,320

a sort of an example of an account I got

680

00:29:02,909 --> 00:28:59,620

last week and I I get it several

681

00:29:04,649 --> 00:29:02,919

accounts every week now and it's I'm

682

00:29:06,659 --> 00:29:04,659

honored to get them some people when I

683

00:29:09,750 --> 00:29:06,669

do and we really appreciate them of

684

00:29:12,899 --> 00:29:09,760

course so let's pick up on the mama

685

00:29:16,259 --> 00:29:12,909

train kind of thing because this gets

686

00:29:19,159 --> 00:29:16,269

into the bulk of your research and the

687

00:29:22,110 --> 00:29:19,169

thing that people will stop find I think

688

00:29:25,049 --> 00:29:22,120

challenging and fascinating but at the

689

00:29:26,879 --> 00:29:25,059

same time I mean they all we all know

690

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:26,889

this stuff is real because we all have

691

00:29:31,680 --> 00:29:30,010

either direct experience or you know at

692

00:29:34,440 --> 00:29:31,690

least somebody in our family has been

693

00:29:38,220 --> 00:29:34,450

around somebody who's died and has said

694

00:29:39,960 --> 00:29:38,230

things that seem profound and may they

695

00:29:41,700 --> 00:29:39,970

may be metaphorical or they may seem

696

00:29:44,879 --> 00:29:41,710

nonsensical but at some point they seem

697

00:29:47,310 --> 00:29:44,889

profound I mean give us a sense for the

698

00:29:50,310 --> 00:29:47,320

kind of communication that people are

699

00:29:52,590 --> 00:29:50,320

having great well just to wrap up a

700

00:29:55,320 --> 00:29:52,600

little bit about my dad as I mentioned

701
00:29:57,539 --> 00:29:55,330
before you hear a lot of talking about a

702
00:29:59,460 --> 00:29:57,549
journey you know the yellow bus the

703
00:30:02,009 --> 00:29:59,470
yellow bus the yellow bus is full of

704
00:30:05,399 --> 00:30:02,019
angels the yellow bus or talking about

705
00:30:07,889 --> 00:30:05,409
the train coming or needing a passport

706
00:30:10,580 --> 00:30:07,899
to go to another country so a lot of

707
00:30:14,370 --> 00:30:10,590
metaphors around travel my father would

708
00:30:15,570 --> 00:30:14,380
said let's get the oxygen tank I have to

709
00:30:17,789 --> 00:30:15,580
get to Las Vegas

710
00:30:20,789 --> 00:30:17,799
he loved to gamble so that was his

711
00:30:24,510 --> 00:30:20,799
travel metaphor but you see metaphors

712
00:30:27,690 --> 00:30:24,520
you also see a lot of repetition that

713
00:30:30,090 --> 00:30:27,700

occurs beautiful so beautiful

714

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:30,100

it's all in one piece it's all in one

715

00:30:35,370 --> 00:30:33,010

piece it's all in one piece what you see

716

00:30:38,659 --> 00:30:35,380

in different pieces it's all in one

717

00:30:41,519 --> 00:30:38,669

piece so you see a lot of repetitive

718

00:30:45,389 --> 00:30:41,529

language you also see something that I

719

00:30:47,759 --> 00:30:45,399

call sustained narratives where someone

720

00:30:51,060 --> 00:30:47,769

will start a story let's say two weeks

721

00:30:54,330 --> 00:30:51,070

out they begin talking about the train

722

00:30:56,940 --> 00:30:54,340

is breaking down or there's that boxing

723

00:30:59,820 --> 00:30:56,950

champ is walking into my room or there's

724

00:31:03,899 --> 00:30:59,830

a woman in blue who just came by they'll

725

00:31:06,149 --> 00:31:03,909

start a story but it evolves over the

726

00:31:08,789 --> 00:31:06,159

days or weeks that they're dying and

727

00:31:11,129 --> 00:31:08,799

it's remarkable to me that someone might

728

00:31:12,899 --> 00:31:11,139

start a story about the train that's

729

00:31:15,690 --> 00:31:12,909

having trouble leaving the station

730

00:31:18,210 --> 00:31:15,700

maybe December first and then December

731

00:31:20,610 --> 00:31:18,220

15th well now the train is pulling up to

732

00:31:22,500 --> 00:31:20,620

the station and then December 20th

733

00:31:24,299 --> 00:31:22,510

they're talking about coming up to the

734

00:31:27,629 --> 00:31:24,309

platform and the people waiting for them

735

00:31:30,299 --> 00:31:27,639

so you'll hear these remarkable stories

736

00:31:33,779 --> 00:31:30,309

evolve even though someone's brain is

737

00:31:36,600 --> 00:31:33,789

technically dying it's remarkable that a

738

00:31:39,480 --> 00:31:36,610

story can be sustained over time so you

739

00:31:41,190 --> 00:31:39,490

see that you see non referential

740

00:31:42,960 --> 00:31:41,200

language which I mentioned to you a

741

00:31:45,570 --> 00:31:42,970

little bit when my father said I've

742

00:31:47,519 --> 00:31:45,580

never done this before it's when it's

743

00:31:49,620 --> 00:31:47,529

not clear what the reference is so

744

00:31:50,879 --> 00:31:49,630

you'll hear there here things like it's

745

00:31:54,810 --> 00:31:50,889

not what you think

746

00:31:56,100 --> 00:31:54,820

or it's lovely or it's all a hoax which

747

00:31:58,799 --> 00:31:56,110

was Roger Ebert's

748

00:32:02,340 --> 00:31:58,809

yeah yeah it's all an elaborate hoax I'm

749

00:32:05,850 --> 00:32:02,350

a amazing final I'm too bad too bad I

750

00:32:07,440 --> 00:32:05,860

can't tell you of this you also hear

751

00:32:10,019 --> 00:32:07,450

something called that I call

752

00:32:12,810 --> 00:32:10,029

prepositional shift where people talk

753

00:32:16,409 --> 00:32:12,820

about their place in space and time in

754

00:32:19,649 --> 00:32:16,419

unusual ways I got to go down there I

755

00:32:23,180 --> 00:32:19,659

have to go down or I'm on top now moving

756

00:32:26,310 --> 00:32:23,190

on top I'm crossing up I'm crossing up

757

00:32:29,190 --> 00:32:26,320

you also see something I call hybrid

758

00:32:31,799 --> 00:32:29,200

nonsense where one part of the sentence

759

00:32:34,560 --> 00:32:31,809

refers to something going on in this

760

00:32:37,409 --> 00:32:34,570

world you know in this reality but then

761

00:32:41,039 --> 00:32:37,419

something refers to something we don't

762

00:32:41,580 --> 00:32:41,049

see for example please massage my feet

763

00:32:44,760 --> 00:32:41,590

honey

764

00:32:46,740 --> 00:32:44,770

I can get down into the rabbit hole so

765

00:32:50,310 --> 00:32:46,750

there's no real rabbit hole but there

766

00:32:53,040 --> 00:32:50,320

are real feet right get my camera I need

767

00:32:55,470 --> 00:32:53,050

to take a picture of this

768

00:32:57,930 --> 00:32:55,480

they left the ladders but the ladders

769

00:33:00,540 --> 00:32:57,940

are too short to go up there so someone

770

00:33:02,820 --> 00:33:00,550

was referring to the ladders outside

771

00:33:04,440 --> 00:33:02,830

their window but they needed the ladders

772

00:33:08,790 --> 00:33:04,450

the quote get up there

773

00:33:11,070 --> 00:33:08,800

it really is literally like they are in

774

00:33:12,930 --> 00:33:11,080

two worlds I mean they're stepping into

775

00:33:15,600 --> 00:33:12,940

one world that it would appear and

776

00:33:17,610 --> 00:33:15,610

they're reporting on that and the best

777

00:33:20,430 --> 00:33:17,620

they can and then they're stepping back

778

00:33:22,200 --> 00:33:20,440

in this world I mean that's one of the

779

00:33:25,590 --> 00:33:22,210

ways to Gus interpret it right

780

00:33:28,680 --> 00:33:25,600

absolutely and and many hospice nurses

781

00:33:30,530 --> 00:33:28,690

who must spoke with spoke of it that way

782

00:33:32,460 --> 00:33:30,540

and they said the difference between

783

00:33:34,560 --> 00:33:32,470

hallucinations when people are taking

784

00:33:36,960 --> 00:33:34,570

drugs is that they don't have that

785

00:33:39,510 --> 00:33:36,970

ability to move in and out between the

786

00:33:42,990 --> 00:33:39,520

two worlds so one of the things I heard

787

00:33:46,890 --> 00:33:43,000

reported a lot is people would be having

788

00:33:48,900 --> 00:33:46,900

conversations with the unseen relatives

789

00:33:51,720 --> 00:33:48,910

that may have died before for example

790

00:33:55,230 --> 00:33:51,730

one woman described how her father was

791

00:33:57,540 --> 00:33:55,240

saying oh it's Earl Earl and that was

792

00:33:59,190 --> 00:33:57,550

the father had passed on and then the

793

00:34:02,970 --> 00:33:59,200

mother was going back talking to this

794

00:34:04,470 --> 00:34:02,980

unseen father and yet that she would say

795

00:34:05,040 --> 00:34:04,480

to the daughter oh I'm feeling much

796

00:34:07,890 --> 00:34:05,050

better

797

00:34:09,240 --> 00:34:07,900

Earl is with me so she had consciousness

798

00:34:11,820 --> 00:34:09,250

and awareness that her daughter was

799

00:34:16,320 --> 00:34:11,830

there however in cases where people have

800

00:34:18,870 --> 00:34:16,330

hallucinations related to drugs

801
00:34:21,120 --> 00:34:18,880
the hospice nurses told me there wasn't

802
00:34:23,280 --> 00:34:21,130
that same sense of being able to move in

803
00:34:24,930 --> 00:34:23,290
and out you know that that's kind of

804
00:34:27,690 --> 00:34:24,940
interesting because you kind of hit us

805
00:34:30,120 --> 00:34:27,700
with a lot of different bits and pieces

806
00:34:32,400 --> 00:34:30,130
of this communication but what you do in

807
00:34:34,860 --> 00:34:32,410
the book and again this is the linguist

808
00:34:37,700 --> 00:34:34,870
part of it that's really intriguing is

809
00:34:40,920 --> 00:34:37,710
you've really structured it

810
00:34:43,050 --> 00:34:40,930
deconstructed it broken it down in ways

811
00:34:44,910 --> 00:34:43,060
that makes it hard to kind of dismiss

812
00:34:47,910 --> 00:34:44,920
one way or another like you said about

813
00:34:50,220 --> 00:34:47,920

the meeting of beings you know which is

814

00:34:52,410 --> 00:34:50,230

another kind of common aspect to this or

815

00:34:53,629 --> 00:34:52,420

the journey is another aspect of it

816

00:34:55,730 --> 00:34:53,639

friends is another

817

00:34:58,009 --> 00:34:55,740

aspect of it and then metaphor you know

818

00:35:00,529 --> 00:34:58,019

so each chapter in the book kind of

819

00:35:03,259 --> 00:35:00,539

looks at looks through a different lens

820

00:35:06,200 --> 00:35:03,269

as a linguist in terms of what were to

821

00:35:08,329 --> 00:35:06,210

make of this communication how did that

822

00:35:12,430 --> 00:35:08,339

all shake out for you in terms of

823

00:35:16,250 --> 00:35:12,440

figuring out how to deconstruct all this

824

00:35:19,099 --> 00:35:16,260

language yeah well the first part of it

825

00:35:21,650 --> 00:35:19,109

was it was remarkable to me you know in

826

00:35:25,190 --> 00:35:21,660

the old school when people would do

827

00:35:26,569 --> 00:35:25,200

photographs in the photo lab and they do

828

00:35:28,549 --> 00:35:26,579

think these chemicals and they would put

829

00:35:31,430 --> 00:35:28,559

something in and then suddenly the

830

00:35:32,630 --> 00:35:31,440

pattern would emerge of the photograph

831

00:35:34,640 --> 00:35:32,640

and I had that feeling with this

832

00:35:38,299 --> 00:35:34,650

language because I collected it and

833

00:35:41,799 --> 00:35:38,309

suddenly these categories to me merged

834

00:35:44,509 --> 00:35:41,809

very organically I mean it just just

835

00:35:46,460 --> 00:35:44,519

they just made so much sense and then

836

00:35:49,160 --> 00:35:46,470

when I started interviewing people and

837

00:35:51,710 --> 00:35:49,170

the connection so for example I

838

00:35:54,230 --> 00:35:51,720

interviewed Madeline Lawrence who did

839

00:35:59,960 --> 00:35:54,240

research with coma victims or survivors

840

00:36:03,109 --> 00:35:59,970

excuse me and and 70% of them reported

841

00:36:05,839 --> 00:36:03,119

that while they were in a coma they they

842

00:36:08,450 --> 00:36:05,849

could remember something that there was

843

00:36:10,130 --> 00:36:08,460

some consciousness for them during the

844

00:36:12,069 --> 00:36:10,140

experience when it seemed they were

845

00:36:14,509 --> 00:36:12,079

completely unresponsive and not

846

00:36:16,609 --> 00:36:14,519

connected in any way to themselves or

847

00:36:18,589 --> 00:36:16,619

the external world so I when I started

848

00:36:22,910 --> 00:36:18,599

interviewing people and hearing these

849

00:36:24,559 --> 00:36:22,920

stories and many of them were related to

850

00:36:26,720 --> 00:36:24,569

the medical profession I mean they

851
00:36:28,640 --> 00:36:26,730
weren't what I would think of as woowoo

852
00:36:32,710 --> 00:36:28,650
you know just they were medically

853
00:36:35,990 --> 00:36:32,720
trained and scientifically trained I

854
00:36:38,440 --> 00:36:36,000
just started making connections that

855
00:36:42,589 --> 00:36:38,450
seem very natural to me so for example

856
00:36:44,539 --> 00:36:42,599
there there's a psychologist team they

857
00:36:47,569 --> 00:36:44,549
did research on the communication of

858
00:36:48,740 --> 00:36:47,579
infants and and parents and they found

859
00:36:49,940 --> 00:36:48,750
that there were these kinds of

860
00:36:52,670 --> 00:36:49,950
connections that seemed to almost

861
00:36:54,950 --> 00:36:52,680
telepathic like how parents knew what

862
00:36:57,799 --> 00:36:54,960
the needs of their of their infants were

863
00:36:58,579 --> 00:36:57,809

so I began to just ask questions out of

864

00:37:00,339 --> 00:36:58,589

curiosity

865

00:37:02,480 --> 00:37:00,349

could it be that we start out

866

00:37:04,779 --> 00:37:02,490

telepathically because when I

867

00:37:06,500 --> 00:37:04,789

interviewed near-death experiencers they

868

00:37:09,140 --> 00:37:06,510

described a language

869

00:37:12,410 --> 00:37:09,150

age of the afterlife that's telepathic

870

00:37:14,540 --> 00:37:12,420

so you start seeing patterns and all I

871

00:37:17,300 --> 00:37:14,550

do in a lot of the book is ask questions

872

00:37:19,250 --> 00:37:17,310

and pose questions as I look at possible

873

00:37:21,770 --> 00:37:19,260

connections between things but the

874

00:37:24,400 --> 00:37:21,780

language and the data you can't that

875

00:37:26,510 --> 00:37:24,410

that just exists right that just exists

876

00:37:29,180 --> 00:37:26,520

you know you mentioned the near-death

877

00:37:31,850 --> 00:37:29,190

experience and I kept reading it and

878

00:37:34,520 --> 00:37:31,860

going wow you know this is a whole area

879

00:37:36,530 --> 00:37:34,530

that opens up a lot of new research

880

00:37:39,710 --> 00:37:36,540

topics for near-death experience

881

00:37:41,630 --> 00:37:39,720

researchers that the one being that a

882

00:37:44,810 --> 00:37:41,640

lot of these are near-death experiences

883

00:37:46,820 --> 00:37:44,820

right a lot of these are you cannot

884

00:37:48,230 --> 00:37:46,830

escape that from what we know of

885

00:37:49,970 --> 00:37:48,240

near-death experiences and we've

886

00:37:52,490 --> 00:37:49,980

compiled a lot of them at this point

887

00:37:54,410 --> 00:37:52,500

we've done a lot of analysis of it and a

888

00:37:56,990 --> 00:37:54,420

lot of it stops in this kind of medical

889

00:37:58,670 --> 00:37:57,000

realm of is the brain what state is the

890

00:38:01,490 --> 00:37:58,680

brain in and I you know did that were

891

00:38:03,380 --> 00:38:01,500

they able to perceive the sock on the

892

00:38:06,500 --> 00:38:03,390

doctor but all those near-death

893

00:38:09,980 --> 00:38:06,510

experiences a good percentage of them

894

00:38:11,960 --> 00:38:09,990

also transcend into this other realm and

895

00:38:13,580 --> 00:38:11,970

then they bring back these accounts well

896

00:38:14,960 --> 00:38:13,590

that's exactly what's going on here and

897

00:38:17,870 --> 00:38:14,970

it took me a while to catch on to that

898

00:38:20,630 --> 00:38:17,880

but hey these people are saying but some

899

00:38:24,080 --> 00:38:20,640

of them are saying I went to the other

900

00:38:26,780 --> 00:38:24,090

side and I brought back this I love this

901
00:38:28,700 --> 00:38:26,790
poke one person says and of course our

902
00:38:30,710 --> 00:38:28,710
world the one we're living in now is

903
00:38:32,930 --> 00:38:30,720
three-dimensional but then next one

904
00:38:34,910 --> 00:38:32,940
definitely isn't I mean this is a

905
00:38:36,650 --> 00:38:34,920
near-death experience right they've gone

906
00:38:37,940 --> 00:38:36,660
over to the other side they've gotten

907
00:38:40,250 --> 00:38:37,950
some knowledge they brought it back and

908
00:38:42,230 --> 00:38:40,260
they're communicating it what does that

909
00:38:45,080 --> 00:38:42,240
say for near-death experience research

910
00:38:47,300 --> 00:38:45,090
exactly you know one of the things that

911
00:38:49,670 --> 00:38:47,310
I noticed when I part

912
00:38:53,060 --> 00:38:49,680
I interviewed near-death experiencers as

913
00:38:56,240 --> 00:38:53,070

to get to get a bigger picture of final

914

00:38:59,300 --> 00:38:56,250

words and Raymond talks about this as

915

00:39:02,570 --> 00:38:59,310

well with near-death experiencers they

916

00:39:05,300 --> 00:39:02,580

all say that their experiences ineffable

917

00:39:08,330 --> 00:39:05,310

this is universal that there are no

918

00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:08,340

words for what they went through and so

919

00:39:13,130 --> 00:39:11,010

what they need to do often is lean on

920

00:39:14,990 --> 00:39:13,140

metaphors to try to explain what

921

00:39:17,570 --> 00:39:15,000

happened to them I need them we're

922

00:39:19,430 --> 00:39:17,580

joining her book she spoke about how

923

00:39:20,480 --> 00:39:19,440

metaphor is the only way that she could

924

00:39:21,650 --> 00:39:20,490

explain

925

00:39:23,930 --> 00:39:21,660

it was like to have an afterlife

926

00:39:25,910 --> 00:39:23,940

experience and she talked about a

927

00:39:28,460 --> 00:39:25,920

complicated warehouse it was like going

928

00:39:31,130 --> 00:39:28,470

to a warehouse with a searchlight and so

929

00:39:33,140 --> 00:39:31,140

forth and so we hear that a lot of

930

00:39:37,040 --> 00:39:33,150

near-death experiencers have to turn to

931

00:39:38,780 --> 00:39:37,050

metaphor to try to describe their

932

00:39:41,450 --> 00:39:38,790

experience so there we are we've got

933

00:39:43,820 --> 00:39:41,460

metaphor we've got the ineffable like

934

00:39:46,790 --> 00:39:43,830

this we hear in the language of the

935

00:39:49,760 --> 00:39:46,800

dying that non referential that or they

936

00:39:52,310 --> 00:39:49,770

it is and then we hear from near-death

937

00:39:54,950 --> 00:39:52,320

experiencers as I mentioned earlier that

938

00:39:56,930 --> 00:39:54,960

the language is often paradoxical like I

939

00:40:01,250 --> 00:39:56,940

never felt as alive as when I was dead

940

00:40:03,050 --> 00:40:01,260

for example and we hear that from people

941

00:40:05,780 --> 00:40:03,060

that near-death experiences that it's

942

00:40:08,030 --> 00:40:05,790

telepathic that their communication is

943

00:40:10,640 --> 00:40:08,040

like heart to heart or mind to mind but

944

00:40:12,650 --> 00:40:10,650

there's no spoken language and you see

945

00:40:14,780 --> 00:40:12,660

traces that that might be happening as

946

00:40:16,190 --> 00:40:14,790

people are approaching the threshold so

947

00:40:19,700 --> 00:40:16,200

I think there's a tremendous amount of

948

00:40:21,590 --> 00:40:19,710

overlap between the two indeed you know

949

00:40:23,750 --> 00:40:21,600

one thing that just keeps popping up for

950

00:40:27,050 --> 00:40:23,760

me again and again and I don't know how

951
00:40:29,480 --> 00:40:27,060
you wrestle with this but it's what I

952
00:40:33,380 --> 00:40:29,490
like to call how can this be questioned

953
00:40:36,410 --> 00:40:33,390
because obviously your research in the

954
00:40:39,160 --> 00:40:36,420
book awesome inspiring for a lot of

955
00:40:41,570 --> 00:40:39,170
people it's going to be extremely

956
00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:41,580
healing you know four people have gone

957
00:40:45,320 --> 00:40:44,010
through a grieving process and like I

958
00:40:47,150 --> 00:40:45,330
said I think it also is is

959
00:40:50,090 --> 00:40:47,160
groundbreaking opens up a lot of new

960
00:40:53,030 --> 00:40:50,100
areas of research Oakland but the thing

961
00:40:55,880 --> 00:40:53,040
that that keeps coming back to me is it

962
00:40:58,609 --> 00:40:55,890
really isn't surprising in a sense I

963
00:41:01,790 --> 00:40:58,619

mean we have all heard these stories the

964

00:41:05,210 --> 00:41:01,800

big rub comes between when we then look

965

00:41:07,820 --> 00:41:05,220

to our medical establishment they're not

966

00:41:09,980 --> 00:41:07,830

interested in this we look to science

967

00:41:12,080 --> 00:41:09,990

and academia they're not only not

968

00:41:15,380 --> 00:41:12,090

interested in it but they seem to be

969

00:41:17,030 --> 00:41:15,390

aggressively hostile to it I mean I

970

00:41:19,640 --> 00:41:17,040

can't imagine what would happen to you

971

00:41:21,590 --> 00:41:19,650

if you went back to your UC Berkeley

972

00:41:22,820 --> 00:41:21,600

friends and told them oh by the way all

973

00:41:24,740 --> 00:41:22,830

that stuff we learned about the

974

00:41:26,510 --> 00:41:24,750

relationship between the brain and

975

00:41:29,090 --> 00:41:26,520

language all that stuff well it's really

976
00:41:31,730 --> 00:41:29,100
really incomplete because we all have

977
00:41:33,210 --> 00:41:31,740
this telepathic limp link and talking to

978
00:41:37,230 --> 00:41:33,220
spirits you know

979
00:41:40,620 --> 00:41:37,240
there is this big divide that we kind of

980
00:41:42,180 --> 00:41:40,630
manage but it is problematic too for

981
00:41:45,390 --> 00:41:42,190
people who want to approach it from a

982
00:41:47,790 --> 00:41:45,400
more logical rational kind of way isn't

983
00:41:51,480 --> 00:41:47,800
it yeah it's really and it's said to me

984
00:41:53,819 --> 00:41:51,490
it seems so unnecessary I mean I don't

985
00:41:56,220 --> 00:41:53,829
understand why this divide exists

986
00:41:58,020 --> 00:41:56,230
because I had thought about possibly

987
00:42:00,660 --> 00:41:58,030
going back for my doctorate to do this

988
00:42:03,960 --> 00:42:00,670

research and as I researched possible

989

00:42:07,470 --> 00:42:03,970

schools I couldn't find a place that

990

00:42:09,089 --> 00:42:07,480

really received my curiosity but I but

991

00:42:12,630 --> 00:42:09,099

I'm stunned because I don't think of

992

00:42:14,510 --> 00:42:12,640

myself as being a particularly uh I

993

00:42:18,420 --> 00:42:14,520

don't know I think of myself as being

994

00:42:21,210 --> 00:42:18,430

relatively grounded and this doesn't

995

00:42:23,460 --> 00:42:21,220

seem like that I don't know these are

996

00:42:24,900 --> 00:42:23,470

questions that just seem to open doors

997

00:42:28,170 --> 00:42:24,910

and one of the things I love that

998

00:42:30,030 --> 00:42:28,180

Raymond talks about is skepticism which

999

00:42:32,400 --> 00:42:30,040

goes back to the ancient Greeks

1000

00:42:35,099 --> 00:42:32,410

was really more about the ability to

1001
00:42:38,520 --> 00:42:35,109
keep reformulating your questions as you

1002
00:42:40,740 --> 00:42:38,530
get more information and it's really a

1003
00:42:42,210 --> 00:42:40,750
shame because you know I I know that

1004
00:42:44,309 --> 00:42:42,220
there'll be other people or I imagine

1005
00:42:47,040 --> 00:42:44,319
there'll be other people who will do

1006
00:42:49,170 --> 00:42:47,050
research after my research here which is

1007
00:42:51,120 --> 00:42:49,180
just a first step that might contradict

1008
00:42:53,490 --> 00:42:51,130
things that I say might expand upon

1009
00:42:55,650 --> 00:42:53,500
things that I say but that excites me

1010
00:42:59,280 --> 00:42:55,660
because that's in the spirit of true

1011
00:43:01,859 --> 00:42:59,290
inquiry right and it's really a shame to

1012
00:43:04,380 --> 00:43:01,869
me that there is so much dogmatism on

1013
00:43:08,550 --> 00:43:04,390

both sides you know in spirituality

1014

00:43:10,170 --> 00:43:08,560

everyone has an element of it and it's

1015

00:43:13,349 --> 00:43:10,180

just a shame because because there's

1016

00:43:15,750 --> 00:43:13,359

nothing more exciting to than true

1017

00:43:17,339 --> 00:43:15,760

inquiry there's for me and that's what

1018

00:43:19,470 --> 00:43:17,349

brought me to the final words project

1019

00:43:21,990 --> 00:43:19,480

and doing what I'm doing and having this

1020

00:43:24,710 --> 00:43:22,000

conversation with you right now you know

1021

00:43:27,900 --> 00:43:24,720

Lisa what do you think was the most

1022

00:43:30,569 --> 00:43:27,910

surprising part of the communication

1023

00:43:31,770 --> 00:43:30,579

what what really kind of surprised you

1024

00:43:33,329 --> 00:43:31,780

and I'll tell you what it was for me in

1025

00:43:36,359 --> 00:43:33,339

a minute but I want to hear yours I

1026

00:43:38,819 --> 00:43:36,369

think the most startling there were a

1027

00:43:40,680 --> 00:43:38,829

couple one was the terminal lucidity

1028

00:43:43,740 --> 00:43:40,690

where someone could be completely

1029

00:43:46,830 --> 00:43:43,750

unresponsive and then a few days before

1030

00:43:50,340 --> 00:43:46,840

dying come out of the coma or

1031

00:43:53,910 --> 00:43:50,350

lead unresponsiveness and say words of

1032

00:43:56,040 --> 00:43:53,920

reconciliation or love or guidance and I

1033

00:43:58,860 --> 00:43:56,050

think the most dramatic case was his

1034

00:44:01,800 --> 00:43:58,870

gentleman who I knew is very credible

1035

00:44:03,510 --> 00:44:01,810

told me his mother had Alzheimer's they

1036

00:44:06,450 --> 00:44:03,520

had you know he couldn't communicate for

1037

00:44:08,880 --> 00:44:06,460

her for several years and then she went

1038

00:44:09,480 --> 00:44:08,890

into a coma and a few days before she

1039

00:44:12,720 --> 00:44:09,490

died

1040

00:44:15,660 --> 00:44:12,730

she emerged out of the coma are being

1041

00:44:19,020 --> 00:44:15,670

and turned to him and said all the files

1042

00:44:20,820 --> 00:44:19,030

you need to make sense of my financial

1043

00:44:24,660 --> 00:44:20,830

situation are in the third drawer down

1044

00:44:27,060 --> 00:44:24,670

in the study drawer talk about lucidity

1045

00:44:28,980 --> 00:44:27,070

you talk about vicinity and then soon

1046

00:44:32,460 --> 00:44:28,990

after passed on it's something like that

1047

00:44:34,890 --> 00:44:32,470

I just I mean where'd you how does one

1048

00:44:37,110 --> 00:44:34,900

put that in the scheme of things I don't

1049

00:44:39,450 --> 00:44:37,120

know I you know but it was out that was

1050

00:44:41,490 --> 00:44:39,460

one of several surprising things but

1051

00:44:43,410 --> 00:44:41,500

that was one definitely that's a great

1052

00:44:46,380 --> 00:44:43,420

one what about you I'm yeah I'm curious

1053

00:44:47,790 --> 00:44:46,390

to hear what surprised you one of the

1054

00:44:50,430 --> 00:44:47,800

things that surprise mean you've kind of

1055

00:44:53,280 --> 00:44:50,440

touched on it is that the playfulness of

1056

00:44:55,830 --> 00:44:53,290

it sometimes warm because you know the

1057

00:44:57,120 --> 00:44:55,840

near-death experience again we kind of

1058

00:44:59,700 --> 00:44:57,130

break it down and talk about it either

1059

00:45:02,490 --> 00:44:59,710

medically or then people talk about it

1060

00:45:05,520 --> 00:45:02,500

in this kind of hyped up spiritual sense

1061

00:45:08,190 --> 00:45:05,530

you know of this great immense you know

1062

00:45:10,470 --> 00:45:08,200

connection with spirit and love and hey

1063

00:45:11,610 --> 00:45:10,480

that's in your accounts too but the

1064

00:45:12,870 --> 00:45:11,620

other thing that comes through and your

1065

00:45:14,940 --> 00:45:12,880

accounts is like your scientists the

1066

00:45:16,860 --> 00:45:14,950

playfulness hey I'm going to Las Vegas

1067

00:45:19,560 --> 00:45:16,870

hey we need a fourth for the golf

1068

00:45:22,200 --> 00:45:19,570

tournament you know or the the magician

1069

00:45:24,270 --> 00:45:22,210

you know all my I mean what the heck is

1070

00:45:28,350 --> 00:45:24,280

going on there what does that say about

1071

00:45:29,580 --> 00:45:28,360

this other realm and how maybe we ought

1072

00:45:32,160 --> 00:45:29,590

to feel about it

1073

00:45:34,980 --> 00:45:32,170

mmm it's so true one of the stories I

1074

00:45:36,570 --> 00:45:34,990

loved was from Carole and was a account

1075

00:45:39,780 --> 00:45:36,580

of her last words of her father who was

1076

00:45:41,880 --> 00:45:39,790

a roofing contractor and she said he

1077

00:45:44,430 --> 00:45:41,890

would awaken and look over at me and

1078

00:45:47,250 --> 00:45:44,440

smile so big and he told me ah they have

1079

00:45:49,950 --> 00:45:47,260

all these kitchen Nets over there

1080

00:45:52,980 --> 00:45:49,960

there were miles of miles of them and he

1081

00:45:55,800 --> 00:45:52,990

would be helping build them all you know

1082

00:45:58,890 --> 00:45:55,810

so so it is there is a sense of almost

1083

00:46:00,610 --> 00:45:58,900

joy and Wonder and awe and not always

1084

00:46:02,290 --> 00:46:00,620

Mehta want to sugarcoat

1085

00:46:04,600 --> 00:46:02,300

the experience of dying because there

1086

00:46:06,280 --> 00:46:04,610

are people who also you know their last

1087

00:46:09,280 --> 00:46:06,290

words are help me help me and that's

1088

00:46:12,040 --> 00:46:09,290

real right so I'm not mean I don't want

1089

00:46:15,310 --> 00:46:12,050

to make this sound sugar-coated or but

1090

00:46:19,450 --> 00:46:15,320

it there really is a movement towards

1091

00:46:23,410 --> 00:46:19,460

awe and wonder and end a sense of humor

1092

00:46:25,150 --> 00:46:23,420

and light heartedness so it is true and

1093

00:46:26,920 --> 00:46:25,160

it's something that personally has

1094

00:46:28,300 --> 00:46:26,930

touched me because you know I was one of

1095

00:46:30,490 --> 00:46:28,310

those people that before I got in the

1096

00:46:32,740 --> 00:46:30,500

airplane I would be you know spray 'king

1097

00:46:34,150 --> 00:46:32,750

out and sweat and I was terrified and I

1098

00:46:36,520 --> 00:46:34,160

don't feel that way anymore I mean I

1099

00:46:38,920 --> 00:46:36,530

don't feel afraid of of dying the way I

1100

00:46:40,900 --> 00:46:38,930

used to feel afraid and that was one of

1101

00:46:44,170 --> 00:46:40,910

the biggest gifts of my father's passing

1102

00:46:46,840 --> 00:46:44,180

in and doing this research Wow and and

1103

00:46:48,640 --> 00:46:46,850

perhaps I mean it's not a leap to say

1104

00:46:51,760 --> 00:46:48,650

that that seems to be one of the

1105

00:46:54,610 --> 00:46:51,770

messages of this communication is to

1106

00:46:56,170 --> 00:46:54,620

comfort us comfort the people that

1107

00:46:59,620 --> 00:46:56,180

they're closest to a lot of times that's

1108

00:47:03,160 --> 00:46:59,630

pretty direct absolutely yet people say

1109

00:47:05,290 --> 00:47:03,170

things you know Televi this is another

1110

00:47:07,240 --> 00:47:05,300

case of someone coming out of a coma and

1111

00:47:11,260 --> 00:47:07,250

turning to their loved one say tell

1112

00:47:13,990 --> 00:47:11,270

everyone I'm okay and I love them Wow

1113

00:47:16,510 --> 00:47:14,000

I know um so there are remarkable

1114

00:47:20,410 --> 00:47:16,520

stories and I think you know obviously

1115

00:47:22,720 --> 00:47:20,420

my small collection here of data is jut

1116

00:47:24,460 --> 00:47:22,730

I really feels really just just the

1117

00:47:27,760 --> 00:47:24,470

beginning there's so much more fuss to

1118

00:47:31,060 --> 00:47:27,770

find out there is you know final topic

1119

00:47:34,900 --> 00:47:31,070

that you also bring up which is a huge

1120

00:47:37,660 --> 00:47:34,910

area in and of itself but is after death

1121

00:47:40,000 --> 00:47:37,670

communication rough because again every

1122

00:47:42,010 --> 00:47:40,010

time you want to pin this down and again

1123

00:47:44,380 --> 00:47:42,020

you've taken it from it as a linguist

1124

00:47:46,720 --> 00:47:44,390

and broken down the communication and

1125

00:47:48,400 --> 00:47:46,730

then throw all that health home though

1126
00:47:50,260 --> 00:47:48,410
because the bottom dies and the

1127
00:47:52,600 --> 00:47:50,270
communication goes on so now you know

1128
00:47:54,610 --> 00:47:52,610
you could take the brain now completely

1129
00:47:57,640 --> 00:47:54,620
out of it you can take all the physical

1130
00:48:00,550 --> 00:47:57,650
aspects the sensory input take all that

1131
00:48:02,350 --> 00:48:00,560
out of it and you have some just amazing

1132
00:48:04,110 --> 00:48:02,360
numbers which I guess I knew but you

1133
00:48:07,300 --> 00:48:04,120
kind of put them together there in a way

1134
00:48:09,670 --> 00:48:07,310
amazing numbers on after death

1135
00:48:13,120 --> 00:48:09,680
communication I mean this is to say it's

1136
00:48:15,700 --> 00:48:13,130
common is like a gross understatement

1137
00:48:20,140 --> 00:48:15,710
right um just actually comes from Julia

1138
00:48:22,539 --> 00:48:20,150

Santes work but 42 to 72 percent of

1139

00:48:24,730 --> 00:48:22,549

people describe having communication of

1140

00:48:27,249 --> 00:48:24,740

some kind with the dead and then it's

1141

00:48:30,640 --> 00:48:27,259

higher even even into the I think high

1142

00:48:32,380 --> 00:48:30,650

80 percents for widows or widowers and

1143

00:48:36,069 --> 00:48:32,390

also the parents of deceased children

1144

00:48:39,279 --> 00:48:36,079

often have very strong by you know bonds

1145

00:48:41,289 --> 00:48:39,289

with those who who have passed and we're

1146

00:48:43,420 --> 00:48:41,299

hearing more and more stories for

1147

00:48:46,059 --> 00:48:43,430

example Matthew McKay who did this book

1148

00:48:48,460 --> 00:48:46,069

seeking Jordan about his murdered son

1149

00:48:51,670 --> 00:48:48,470

and this gentleman also was a psych you

1150

00:48:54,160 --> 00:48:51,680

know psychologist PhD very rationally

1151
00:48:57,579 --> 00:48:54,170
based and had an experience that changed

1152
00:49:00,069 --> 00:48:57,589
his whole ideas about the afterlife in

1153
00:49:01,930 --> 00:49:00,079
communication and you know I did not

1154
00:49:04,210 --> 00:49:01,940
think I was going to go into the after

1155
00:49:07,569 --> 00:49:04,220
death communication but there were so

1156
00:49:09,579 --> 00:49:07,579
many people who after they attract final

1157
00:49:12,009 --> 00:49:09,589
words or shared their final word story

1158
00:49:16,269 --> 00:49:12,019
we also say oh my goodness I got to tell

1159
00:49:18,370 --> 00:49:16,279
you after my loved one died I had I you

1160
00:49:19,990 --> 00:49:18,380
know my doorbell started ringing I you

1161
00:49:23,079 --> 00:49:20,000
know the night that that person died and

1162
00:49:25,089 --> 00:49:23,089
went stop ringing or alarm started going

1163
00:49:27,190 --> 00:49:25,099

off for light bulbs exploded

1164

00:49:28,569 --> 00:49:27,200

I had several accounts of people getting

1165

00:49:31,660 --> 00:49:28,579

text messages

1166

00:49:33,910 --> 00:49:31,670

one gentleman described to me that the

1167

00:49:39,339 --> 00:49:33,920

taxi company that his wife would often

1168

00:49:41,890 --> 00:49:39,349

take to his his place of work texted him

1169

00:49:46,120 --> 00:49:41,900

just as she was dying that they had just

1170

00:49:47,109 --> 00:49:46,130

sent a taxi out of to his his place of

1171

00:49:49,990 --> 00:49:47,119

employment

1172

00:49:51,180 --> 00:49:50,000

so people have synchronicities with

1173

00:49:56,200 --> 00:49:51,190

nature

1174

00:49:59,289 --> 00:49:56,210

rainbows appearing it just it completely

1175

00:50:02,859 --> 00:49:59,299

surprised me to hear how many of these

1176
00:50:05,940 --> 00:50:02,869
stories exist and from people that again

1177
00:50:11,799 --> 00:50:09,700
skeptical you know very grounded folks

1178
00:50:13,210 --> 00:50:11,809
having these kinds of experiences so I

1179
00:50:18,069 --> 00:50:13,220
thought thought they were really

1180
00:50:20,230 --> 00:50:18,079
remarkable right so again the book words

1181
00:50:22,720 --> 00:50:20,240
at the threshold what we say when we're

1182
00:50:25,150 --> 00:50:22,730
nearing death it's out right now right

1183
00:50:26,990 --> 00:50:25,160
people can get it Amazon they can also

1184
00:50:29,510 --> 00:50:27,000
and then your webs

1185
00:50:32,840 --> 00:50:29,520
is still up and going if someone has a

1186
00:50:35,720 --> 00:50:32,850
really compelling account that they want

1187
00:50:37,670 --> 00:50:35,730
to share with the world absolutely final

1188
00:50:39,800 --> 00:50:37,680

words project out Oregon it will be up

1189

00:50:42,080 --> 00:50:39,810

for many years and there's also lots of

1190

00:50:43,940 --> 00:50:42,090

information too if people want to just

1191

00:50:46,640 --> 00:50:43,950

take a look and get to know more about

1192

00:50:49,460 --> 00:50:46,650

the material well again our guest has

1193

00:50:51,980 --> 00:50:49,470

been Lisa smart this is fantastic work

1194

00:50:54,620 --> 00:50:51,990

groundbreaking work Thank You Alan

1195

00:50:58,640 --> 00:50:54,630

just to be congratulated I congratulate

1196

00:51:00,920 --> 00:50:58,650

you thank you thanks again to Lisa for

1197

00:51:02,840 --> 00:51:00,930

joining me today on skeptic oh I guess

1198

00:51:04,730 --> 00:51:02,850

the one question I'd T up from this

1199

00:51:07,670 --> 00:51:04,740

interview when I can it add it at the

1200

00:51:10,700 --> 00:51:07,680

beginning and that is what does Lisa's

1201
00:51:13,940 --> 00:51:10,710
work regarding these final words tell us

1202
00:51:16,040 --> 00:51:13,950
about the nature of the afterlife I

1203
00:51:17,570 --> 00:51:16,050
think it raises some really interesting

1204
00:51:19,550 --> 00:51:17,580
questions I'd like to hear what you

1205
00:51:21,530 --> 00:51:19,560
think of course the place to do it

1206
00:51:23,840 --> 00:51:21,540
my favorite place for you to do it is

1207
00:51:25,640 --> 00:51:23,850
through the skeptical forum which you

1208
00:51:30,290 --> 00:51:25,650
can get through through the sceptical

1209
00:51:33,440 --> 00:51:30,300
website at ske P tik Oh calm while

1210
00:51:36,560 --> 00:51:33,450
you're there you can of course download

1211
00:51:39,140 --> 00:51:36,570
any of the 350 previous episodes of

1212
00:51:41,390 --> 00:51:39,150
skeptical as you please just pick up the

1213
00:51:44,090 --> 00:51:41,400

ones you like download them past show

1214

00:51:46,310 --> 00:51:44,100

section there and then you can also

1215

00:51:48,350 --> 00:51:46,320

connect over the forum and connect with

1216

00:51:50,480 --> 00:51:48,360

some of us who will be talking after the

1217

00:51:52,250 --> 00:51:50,490

show and I certainly hopefully so will

1218

00:51:55,610 --> 00:51:52,260

join us there as well

1219

00:51:58,310 --> 00:51:55,620

so if that's at all interesting to you

1220

00:51:59,950 --> 00:51:58,320

please do it I love when people connect

1221

00:52:02,540 --> 00:51:59,960

with me and connect with the show

1222

00:52:03,590 --> 00:52:02,550

through the forum if you don't if you

1223

00:52:06,110 --> 00:52:03,600

just want to send me an email or

1224

00:52:07,910 --> 00:52:06,120

whatever that's fine as well so I have a

1225

00:52:11,300 --> 00:52:07,920

number of shows coming up a lot of

1226

00:52:14,000 --> 00:52:11,310

things going on who knows what could be

1227

00:52:16,250 --> 00:52:14,010

next I do hope you stay with me for all