



1  
00:00:11,600 --> 00:00:08,270  
would you today my Rice University

2  
00:00:13,580 --> 00:00:11,610  
professor of philosophy and religion dr.

3  
00:00:17,990 --> 00:00:13,590  
Jeffrey crackle jeff has a new book out

4  
00:00:21,340 --> 00:00:18,000  
titled secret body erotic and esoteric

5  
00:00:24,560 --> 00:00:21,350  
currents in the history of religions and

6  
00:00:27,490 --> 00:00:24,570  
he's here to talk to us today about bat

7  
00:00:31,009 --> 00:00:27,500  
and a bunch of other really cool stuff

8  
00:00:33,709 --> 00:00:31,019  
Jeff welcome welcome back thanks so much

9  
00:00:35,299 --> 00:00:33,719  
for joining me on skeptic oh yeah thanks

10  
00:00:39,170 --> 00:00:35,309  
for having me Alex it's good to be back

11  
00:00:41,690 --> 00:00:39,180  
it's been a while it has it has and

12  
00:00:45,200 --> 00:00:41,700  
you've done so much fantastic work

13  
00:00:46,580 --> 00:00:45,210

between then and now you know we were

14

00:00:48,440 --> 00:00:46,590

just chatting a little bit before the

15

00:00:50,450 --> 00:00:48,450

interview started and I was relating to

16

00:00:52,549 --> 00:00:50,460

you that you know when I think of you

17

00:00:55,430 --> 00:00:52,559

sometimes I'm reminded of the lesson I

18

00:00:59,479 --> 00:00:55,440

learned in my way back in my former life

19

00:01:03,650 --> 00:00:59,489

as a software entrepreneur and that the

20

00:01:05,780 --> 00:01:03,660

goal was not just to sell software but

21

00:01:09,200 --> 00:01:05,790

to reach the influencers and if you

22

00:01:11,179 --> 00:01:09,210

reach the influencers then the message

23

00:01:13,250 --> 00:01:11,189

would get out and you'd sell a bunch of

24

00:01:15,830 --> 00:01:13,260

stuff without a lot of advertising and I

25

00:01:18,920 --> 00:01:15,840

was telling you that's what I see in

26

00:01:21,679 --> 00:01:18,930

your work I see a guy who's had a huge

27

00:01:23,749 --> 00:01:21,689

influence way beyond I mean you've sold

28

00:01:25,700 --> 00:01:23,759

books I'm don't get me wrong but your

29

00:01:28,700 --> 00:01:25,710

influence is really big and I think

30

00:01:31,880 --> 00:01:28,710

you're going to have a similar kind of

31

00:01:33,560 --> 00:01:31,890

influence with this latest book secret

32

00:01:35,870 --> 00:01:33,570

body but it's it's just really cool to

33

00:01:37,640 --> 00:01:35,880

reconnect with you and talk with you so

34

00:01:40,370 --> 00:01:37,650

just thanks you're such a generous

35

00:01:44,420 --> 00:01:40,380

spirit with a with a great contribution

36

00:01:48,080 --> 00:01:44,430

thanks so much for joining me know I

37

00:01:50,870 --> 00:01:48,090

listen I'm happy and I'm always happy to

38

00:01:53,149 --> 00:01:50,880

hear that you think books are doing work

39

00:01:55,550 --> 00:01:53,159

in the world I mean it's it's a solo

40

00:01:58,429 --> 00:01:55,560

flight you know and it's very lonely and

41

00:02:01,160 --> 00:01:58,439

it's not always apparent and then

42

00:02:05,179 --> 00:02:01,170

suddenly it is apparent so that's always

43

00:02:08,180 --> 00:02:05,189

that's always hopeful so so Jeff just to

44

00:02:12,140 --> 00:02:08,190

recap for people you are a professor of

45

00:02:13,880 --> 00:02:12,150

religion you live and work in the buckle

46

00:02:16,460 --> 00:02:13,890

of the Bible Belt

47

00:02:21,500 --> 00:02:16,470

yeah in Texas and you've written a book

48

00:02:22,850 --> 00:02:21,510

of course on eroticism and religion of

49

00:02:25,370 --> 00:02:22,860

course just what we'd expect from

50

00:02:29,630 --> 00:02:25,380

somebody from Houston now that works

51  
00:02:31,970 --> 00:02:29,640  
right now I've been writing about well

52  
00:02:35,360 --> 00:02:31,980  
the erotic stuff is really just half of

53  
00:02:37,730 --> 00:02:35,370  
the corpus Alex you've read the book but

54  
00:02:39,850 --> 00:02:37,740  
that's the theme that really is gonna

55  
00:02:42,680 --> 00:02:39,860  
grab people and let's face it I mean

56  
00:02:45,800 --> 00:02:42,690  
what's really wonderful about this book

57  
00:02:48,260 --> 00:02:45,810  
is people are familiar with some of your

58  
00:02:49,640 --> 00:02:48,270  
other works and we're gonna talk real

59  
00:02:51,830 --> 00:02:49,650  
briefly about those just so in case

60  
00:02:55,520 --> 00:02:51,840  
people aren't authors are the impossible

61  
00:02:57,110 --> 00:02:55,530  
mutants and mystics the supernatural

62  
00:02:59,030 --> 00:02:57,120  
that you just wrote with whitley

63  
00:03:01,040 --> 00:02:59,040

strieber a couple years ago but but

64

00:03:04,040 --> 00:03:01,050

they're familiar with that yeah this

65

00:03:06,740 --> 00:03:04,050

book is going to do is and what it did

66

00:03:08,750 --> 00:03:06,750

for me is you've left bits and pieces of

67

00:03:11,180 --> 00:03:08,760

the trail for how you got there before

68

00:03:13,670 --> 00:03:11,190

but this really winds it together and

69

00:03:15,650 --> 00:03:13,680

let's face it this ironic component as

70

00:03:17,780 --> 00:03:15,660

controversial and jarring as it will be

71

00:03:21,620 --> 00:03:17,790

initially for people is really at the

72

00:03:23,990 --> 00:03:21,630

center of this spiritual journey that

73

00:03:26,120 --> 00:03:24,000

you've been on I mean right and that's

74

00:03:29,270 --> 00:03:26,130

what secret body really is it's really a

75

00:03:31,430 --> 00:03:29,280

kind of a spiritual memoir that kind of

76

00:03:33,979 --> 00:03:31,440

ties all the the six or seven books

77

00:03:36,259 --> 00:03:33,989

together and puts in between two covers

78

00:03:38,960 --> 00:03:36,269

and that was the that was the initial

79

00:03:41,449 --> 00:03:38,970

genesis of the book was I I travel a lot

80

00:03:43,490 --> 00:03:41,459

in I lecture a lot and everywhere I go

81

00:03:45,170 --> 00:03:43,500

someone thinks that I've written a

82

00:03:47,990 --> 00:03:45,180

different book because they've just read

83

00:03:49,370 --> 00:03:48,000

one book and they're always sort of

84

00:03:51,229 --> 00:03:49,380

partially right I did write that

85

00:03:53,750 --> 00:03:51,239

particular book but they don't see the

86

00:03:56,420 --> 00:03:53,760

bigger picture and so I wanted to give

87

00:03:58,310 --> 00:03:56,430

people that bigger picture and I knew I

88

00:04:00,259 --> 00:03:58,320

couldn't expect them to read all six or

89

00:04:02,960 --> 00:04:00,269

seven books but I thought maybe they

90

00:04:05,270 --> 00:04:02,970

might read one book and so here's here's

91

00:04:07,460 --> 00:04:05,280

that one book it's it's everything you

92

00:04:09,710 --> 00:04:07,470

ever wanted to know about what did

93

00:04:12,100 --> 00:04:09,720

whatever it is I think yeah again

94

00:04:15,140 --> 00:04:12,110

between two covers and it's very much

95

00:04:18,050 --> 00:04:15,150

dominated by the erotic certainly for

96

00:04:20,780 --> 00:04:18,060

the first half of the book which is the

97

00:04:23,420 --> 00:04:20,790

this kind of sets all the dials doesn't

98

00:04:24,830 --> 00:04:23,430

and then the second half of the book is

99

00:04:27,490 --> 00:04:24,840

probably what most of your listeners are

100

00:04:30,550 --> 00:04:27,500

more familiar with it's the stuff on

101  
00:04:32,380 --> 00:04:30,560  
to the paranormal so you know I'd love

102  
00:04:34,270 --> 00:04:32,390  
to talk about all that we'll talk about

103  
00:04:38,080 --> 00:04:34,280  
all that but what I found interesting is

104  
00:04:42,310 --> 00:04:38,090  
this connection you're making with your

105  
00:04:45,760 --> 00:04:42,320  
own deep personal spiritual experience

106  
00:04:46,690 --> 00:04:45,770  
and connection with the erotic and not

107  
00:04:50,710 --> 00:04:46,700  
in the way that people are going to

108  
00:04:54,010 --> 00:04:50,720  
think initially but and how that propels

109  
00:04:56,800 --> 00:04:54,020  
you really into this other journey that

110  
00:04:58,930 --> 00:04:56,810  
you're on and then almost the the

111  
00:05:01,060 --> 00:04:58,940  
surprise as I read the book the surprise

112  
00:05:02,860 --> 00:05:01,070  
that you found that like well you mean

113  
00:05:04,390 --> 00:05:02,870

that led me to this and this is what

114

00:05:07,780 --> 00:05:04,400

people are really interested in look

115

00:05:11,020 --> 00:05:07,790

okay I can talk about that but you know

116

00:05:13,810 --> 00:05:11,030

know where I'm coming from kind of thing

117

00:05:15,640 --> 00:05:13,820

I mean what ties these things to two

118

00:05:18,840 --> 00:05:15,650

subjects together the erotic and the

119

00:05:21,790 --> 00:05:18,850

esoteric is collapse of binaries and

120

00:05:24,490 --> 00:05:21,800

this idea that what we think of as

121

00:05:27,220 --> 00:05:24,500

separate whether it's sexuality and

122

00:05:31,320 --> 00:05:27,230

spirituality or mind and matter are

123

00:05:33,150 --> 00:05:31,330

really not stuff the the book being this

124

00:05:36,760 --> 00:05:33,160

autobiographical very brave

125

00:05:38,350 --> 00:05:36,770

autobiographical thing is a great

126

00:05:40,290 --> 00:05:38,360

introduction to these other books that

127

00:05:44,460 --> 00:05:40,300

you've written that people know about

128

00:05:46,810 --> 00:05:44,470

let's talk a little bit more about that

129

00:05:48,880 --> 00:05:46,820

connection and some of those things I

130

00:05:51,400 --> 00:05:48,890

mean let's get this clear I mean it's

131

00:05:54,640 --> 00:05:51,410

kind of we just got to say it I mean so

132

00:05:56,890 --> 00:05:54,650

you're a straight man you care about

133

00:06:03,640 --> 00:05:56,900

gender issues and you talk in the book

134

00:06:07,060 --> 00:06:03,650

about Palmer homoerotic themes and

135

00:06:10,360 --> 00:06:07,070

religion and your own experience as a

136

00:06:12,700 --> 00:06:10,370

kid who grows up in Nebraska and is very

137

00:06:14,920 --> 00:06:12,710

very spiritually inclined winds up going

138

00:06:18,340 --> 00:06:14,930

to seminary and is suddenly surrounded

139

00:06:21,670 --> 00:06:18,350

by all these closeted gay men and this

140

00:06:25,420 --> 00:06:21,680

kind of informs your worldview

141

00:06:28,180 --> 00:06:25,430

in a way that I think the book really

142

00:06:30,250 --> 00:06:28,190

captures wonderfully and that is it

143

00:06:31,840 --> 00:06:30,260

captures him in a couple of ways one you

144

00:06:35,610 --> 00:06:31,850

know was this whole thing about what's

145

00:06:38,500 --> 00:06:35,620

going on with this erotic nature of

146

00:06:41,330 --> 00:06:38,510

spirituality but the other thing I see

147

00:06:43,700 --> 00:06:41,340

you struggling with in the

148

00:06:46,780 --> 00:06:43,710

and it's something that I want to return

149

00:06:51,140 --> 00:06:46,790

to again and again in this interview is

150

00:06:56,200 --> 00:06:51,150

just your kind of contempt with the

151

00:06:58,490 --> 00:06:56,210

[h\_\_h] with just how ridiculous it is

152

00:07:01,520 --> 00:06:58,500

almost at the surface I mean you don't

153

00:07:04,220 --> 00:07:01,530

even have to dig more than a teaspoon to

154

00:07:10,340 --> 00:07:04,230

beep into the dirt and it's just full of

155

00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:10,350

[h\_\_h] so hit those two for me yeah so

156

00:07:16,340 --> 00:07:14,010

I mean I did I grew up in Nebraska in a

157

00:07:18,470 --> 00:07:16,350

farming community and when I hit

158

00:07:20,810 --> 00:07:18,480

adolescence I grew up I had a kind of

159

00:07:23,450 --> 00:07:20,820

idyllic childhood kind of my wife

160

00:07:28,370 --> 00:07:23,460

describes it as Mayberry and there's a

161

00:07:32,240 --> 00:07:28,380

lot of truth was today since pretty much

162

00:07:33,590 --> 00:07:32,250

everything collapsed I I became

163

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:33,600

extremely pious

164

00:07:40,730 --> 00:07:38,010

and that manifested as me fasting like

165

00:07:43,160 --> 00:07:40,740

if you would have asked 14 year old Jeff

166

00:07:45,460 --> 00:07:43,170

why he's not eating he would have said

167

00:07:48,590 --> 00:07:45,470

he was fasting to become a saint and

168

00:07:51,350 --> 00:07:48,600

that was true that was my those were my

169

00:07:55,730 --> 00:07:51,360

conscious motivations but it pretty much

170

00:07:57,860 --> 00:07:55,740

destroyed all of my social life had

171

00:08:03,020 --> 00:07:57,870

destroyed my athletic career it it

172

00:08:07,640 --> 00:08:03,030

created great stress and it eventually

173

00:08:09,740 --> 00:08:07,650

and the seminary where I was going to

174

00:08:12,530 --> 00:08:09,750

pursue becoming a monk you know I wanted

175

00:08:15,260 --> 00:08:12,540

to be a saint but I wasn't eating still

176

00:08:18,440 --> 00:08:15,270

even six or seven years later so I was I

177

00:08:21,340 --> 00:08:18,450

was essentially a walking skeleton by

178

00:08:25,210 --> 00:08:21,350

the time I was 19 or 20 years old and

179

00:08:27,530 --> 00:08:25,220

the monks were extremely wise and

180

00:08:30,080 --> 00:08:27,540

psychological savvy and so they put me

181

00:08:31,900 --> 00:08:30,090

into psychoanalysis with one of their

182

00:08:36,950 --> 00:08:31,910

own monks who was a trained

183

00:08:39,530 --> 00:08:36,960

psychoanalyst so it was astonishing I

184

00:08:43,210 --> 00:08:39,540

you know I began to have dreams almost

185

00:08:45,940 --> 00:08:43,220

immediately of things like these huge

186

00:08:48,100 --> 00:08:45,950

bosom hugely buzz

187

00:08:51,819 --> 00:08:48,110

the beautiful women offering me banana

188

00:08:53,440 --> 00:08:51,829

cream pies and milkshakes and I just

189

00:08:57,340 --> 00:08:53,450

felt horrible in the dream I couldn't

190

00:09:00,550 --> 00:08:57,350

take the milkshakes or the pies hey

191

00:09:02,410 --> 00:09:00,560

didn't know why and so the analyst would

192

00:09:03,790 --> 00:09:02,420

say well Jeff what do you what do you

193

00:09:05,410 --> 00:09:03,800

make of that dream and I was like I

194

00:09:08,259 --> 00:09:05,420

don't know it's really weird it's I

195

00:09:11,530 --> 00:09:08,269

don't I don't know but eventually of

196

00:09:14,110 --> 00:09:11,540

course when I landed on is that clearly

197

00:09:17,920 --> 00:09:14,120

my little psyche had connected food and

198

00:09:21,370 --> 00:09:17,930

sex and it also connected food sex and

199

00:09:25,300 --> 00:09:21,380

mother because although all the food was

200

00:09:28,180 --> 00:09:25,310

milk based and so I I had repressed my

201  
00:09:31,480 --> 00:09:28,190  
sexuality you know a delay at puberty or

202  
00:09:33,670 --> 00:09:31,490  
adolescence and that that suppression

203  
00:09:36,160 --> 00:09:33,680  
had created this intense piety and this

204  
00:09:40,840 --> 00:09:36,170  
this desire to fast and to become a

205  
00:09:43,019 --> 00:09:40,850  
saint and but it also was killing me and

206  
00:09:44,949 --> 00:09:43,029  
so but once I realized what had happened

207  
00:09:47,560 --> 00:09:44,959  
psychologically on a kind of unconscious

208  
00:09:51,010 --> 00:09:47,570  
level it was just like you turned the

209  
00:09:55,450 --> 00:09:53,290  
anorexic I was like really really hungry

210  
00:09:58,420 --> 00:09:55,460  
I mean I hadn't eaten for the most part

211  
00:10:01,930 --> 00:09:58,430  
in six or seven years so I just ate

212  
00:10:03,790 --> 00:10:01,940  
everything inside I was so hungry and I

213  
00:10:05,020 --> 00:10:03,800

just you know my body came back and of

214

00:10:07,630 --> 00:10:05,030

course when the body comes back

215

00:10:11,020 --> 00:10:07,640

sexuality comes back and suddenly I was

216

00:10:17,800 --> 00:10:11,030

this you know twenty year old young man

217

00:10:20,620 --> 00:10:17,810

with a body but I was also straight and

218

00:10:22,590 --> 00:10:20,630

I was living in a community a religious

219

00:10:27,480 --> 00:10:22,600

community in which most of the young men

220

00:10:30,400 --> 00:10:27,490

were were gay not not in some kind of

221

00:10:31,810 --> 00:10:30,410

explicit way we weren't having sex with

222

00:10:33,700 --> 00:10:31,820

each other it was just they were trying

223

00:10:38,740 --> 00:10:33,710

to be celibate as well but pretty much

224

00:10:42,850 --> 00:10:38,750

everybody there was gay made that into a

225

00:10:47,230 --> 00:10:42,860

life of the priesthood or holiness and I

226

00:10:49,630 --> 00:10:47,240

wasn't I I didn't fit in and I was just

227

00:10:54,820 --> 00:10:49,640

so struck I was struck by two things in

228

00:10:58,450 --> 00:10:54,830

college I was struck by my own fasting

229

00:11:00,930 --> 00:10:58,460

behavior and how I was I couldn't stop

230

00:11:03,070 --> 00:11:00,940

that and how that was driven by

231

00:11:06,100 --> 00:11:03,080

psychosexual forces of which I was

232

00:11:09,070 --> 00:11:06,110

completely unaware so I realized through

233

00:11:10,960 --> 00:11:09,080

that psychoanalysis that people could be

234

00:11:13,390 --> 00:11:10,970

doing things for reasons that they

235

00:11:16,240 --> 00:11:13,400

weren't aware of that was just stunning

236

00:11:21,010 --> 00:11:16,250

to me I was so stunned by that and then

237

00:11:21,560 --> 00:11:21,020

I was stunned by the describe what the

238

00:11:25,010 --> 00:11:21,570

Catholic

239

00:11:27,680 --> 00:11:25,020

Church was teaching about homosexuality

240

00:11:31,160 --> 00:11:27,690

which was really bad in the 1980s and

241

00:11:33,470 --> 00:11:31,170

the internal life of the church or the

242

00:11:36,380 --> 00:11:33,480

community of which I was a part which

243

00:11:40,760 --> 00:11:36,390

was in a very healthy and playful way

244

00:11:42,530 --> 00:11:40,770

gay and so this this discrepancy between

245

00:11:49,350 --> 00:11:42,540

the inside and the outside of my own

246

00:11:55,079 --> 00:11:53,160

disturbed by homosexuality I was morally

247

00:11:57,720 --> 00:11:55,089

disturbed by the Church's teachings on

248

00:12:00,630 --> 00:11:57,730

homosexuality which I I could see we're

249

00:12:02,070 --> 00:12:00,640

really hurting people and one of my best

250

00:12:04,380 --> 00:12:02,080

friends actually tried to kill himself

251  
00:12:07,079 --> 00:12:04,390  
over this so that was very upsetting to

252  
00:12:09,900 --> 00:12:07,089  
me as well and so that became kind of

253  
00:12:12,480 --> 00:12:09,910  
the origin of my my intellectual career

254  
00:12:16,079 --> 00:12:12,490  
my intellectual vocation our calling was

255  
00:12:18,780 --> 00:12:16,089  
to try to tease out how sexual

256  
00:12:20,850 --> 00:12:18,790  
orientation plays into religious

257  
00:12:22,380 --> 00:12:20,860  
vocation and how that manifests

258  
00:12:24,870 --> 00:12:22,390  
particularly in mystical literature

259  
00:12:28,350 --> 00:12:24,880  
which so much of which is deeply erotic

260  
00:12:30,720 --> 00:12:28,360  
it's about the human being at least in

261  
00:12:33,389 --> 00:12:30,730  
the Christian tradition uniting with

262  
00:12:37,560 --> 00:12:33,399  
Christ often in an erotic or sexual way

263  
00:12:39,569 --> 00:12:37,570

and so obviously that means something

264

00:12:42,389 --> 00:12:39,579

different for a gay man that it does for

265

00:12:44,519 --> 00:12:42,399

a straight man and so that was the that

266

00:12:50,970 --> 00:12:44,529

was the genesis of all of this Alex it

267

00:12:52,440 --> 00:12:50,980

was this this struggle essentially you

268

00:12:54,600 --> 00:12:52,450

know but if I can add something there

269

00:12:58,350 --> 00:12:54,610

one thing that's really interesting

270

00:13:01,079 --> 00:12:58,360

about your journey and this turn that it

271

00:13:03,210 --> 00:13:01,089

takes is it isn't just about the

272

00:13:07,170 --> 00:13:03,220

Christian tradition right oh because you

273

00:13:10,550 --> 00:13:07,180

get in a whole heap of trouble you go

274

00:13:14,550 --> 00:13:10,560

over to India and you apply that same

275

00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:14,560

write-ins that same sensibility and that

276

00:13:22,199 --> 00:13:18,010

same bravery you know what I see in this

277

00:13:24,750 --> 00:13:22,209

book is someone who's been through hell

278

00:13:26,220 --> 00:13:24,760

has put himself through hell you know

279

00:13:27,600 --> 00:13:26,230

for whatever reason but they've been

280

00:13:30,060 --> 00:13:27,610

through it and they're on the other side

281

00:13:31,530 --> 00:13:30,070

and there's a certain bravery that you

282

00:13:34,079 --> 00:13:31,540

show and you've shown throughout your

283

00:13:36,030 --> 00:13:34,089

whole career that makes you just kind of

284

00:13:37,530 --> 00:13:36,040

walk into the fire and I probably don't

285

00:13:40,949 --> 00:13:37,540

even know what's coming at the other end

286

00:13:43,350 --> 00:13:40,959

but that's you go over to India and

287

00:13:46,230 --> 00:13:43,360

those people still those Hindus have not

288

00:13:48,030 --> 00:13:46,240

forgiven you by any means and you just

289

00:13:50,370 --> 00:13:48,040

walk into a whole shitstorm over there

290

00:13:53,730 --> 00:13:50,380

because you have that same sensibility

291

00:13:55,769 --> 00:13:53,740

tell people who don't know you know a

292

00:13:57,810 --> 00:13:55,779

high-level sketch of what that whole

293

00:14:00,180 --> 00:13:57,820

thing was about yeah so that came later

294

00:14:03,330 --> 00:14:00,190

that's why I didn't tell it yet I mean

295

00:14:05,700 --> 00:14:03,340

what happens is

296

00:14:09,690 --> 00:14:05,710

find anywhere in the Christian mystical

297

00:14:13,140 --> 00:14:09,700

tradition a an erotic mystical life that

298

00:14:15,210 --> 00:14:13,150

a straight man can participate in you're

299

00:14:17,490 --> 00:14:15,220

always in love with a male deity and

300

00:14:20,700 --> 00:14:17,500

you're always uniting with a male deity

301  
00:14:22,800 --> 00:14:20,710  
and Christian mysticism so I I thought I

302  
00:14:25,730 --> 00:14:22,810  
needed to go outside of the Christian

303  
00:14:27,510 --> 00:14:25,740  
tradition so Hinduism looked really

304  
00:14:29,610 --> 00:14:27,520  
fascinating to me because there's all

305  
00:14:32,490 --> 00:14:29,620  
these goddesses there's all these ways

306  
00:14:36,330 --> 00:14:32,500  
of being heterosexual that don't exist

307  
00:14:38,100 --> 00:14:36,340  
in the Christian tradition and so I went

308  
00:14:41,400 --> 00:14:38,110  
to graduate school and I studied Indian

309  
00:14:43,950 --> 00:14:41,410  
languages for almost 12 15 years

310  
00:14:46,200 --> 00:14:43,960  
actually and I end up writing my

311  
00:14:50,130 --> 00:14:46,210  
dissertation on a famous hindu saint

312  
00:14:51,120 --> 00:14:50,140  
named ramakrishna who died in 1886 in

313  
00:14:55,530 --> 00:14:51,130

calcutta

314

00:14:57,360 --> 00:14:55,540

and i was looking at the bengali texts

315

00:14:59,490 --> 00:14:57,370

about his life and teachings and the

316

00:15:01,800 --> 00:14:59,500

english translations when they existed

317

00:15:05,070 --> 00:15:01,810

of those texts and I was just showing

318

00:15:07,260 --> 00:15:05,080

how they were censored or Balduur eyes

319

00:15:10,260 --> 00:15:07,270

when they moved from the original

320

00:15:12,060 --> 00:15:10,270

Bengali to the English and my book or my

321

00:15:14,910 --> 00:15:12,070

dissertation Colley's Child was very

322

00:15:17,490 --> 00:15:14,920

much about that in that censorship and

323

00:15:19,380 --> 00:15:17,500

how they censored out all of the sexual

324

00:15:21,900 --> 00:15:19,390

material particularly what we called the

325

00:15:25,350 --> 00:15:21,910

tantric material and it turned out that

326

00:15:28,380 --> 00:15:25,360

Ramakrishna himself was homoerotic Lee

327

00:15:30,420 --> 00:15:28,390

inclined very much like my experience in

328

00:15:32,640 --> 00:15:30,430

the seminary and down through the

329

00:15:35,490 --> 00:15:32,650

centuries and so I just wrote about that

330

00:15:37,350 --> 00:15:35,500

because it seemed to me obvious and it

331

00:15:40,260 --> 00:15:37,360

seemed to me to be an important thing to

332

00:15:43,950 --> 00:15:40,270

try to understand so that book came out

333

00:15:47,850 --> 00:15:43,960

in 1995 and it was almost immediately

334

00:15:51,990 --> 00:15:47,860

hailed in in the Academy as this amazing

335

00:15:54,510 --> 00:15:52,000

new book but within about a year it had

336

00:15:55,860 --> 00:15:54,520

been targeted by the Hindu nationalists

337

00:15:58,440 --> 00:15:55,870

what we would think of as

338

00:16:03,530 --> 00:15:58,450

fundamentalists in the u.s. who had just

339

00:16:07,080 --> 00:16:03,540

come into power in in New Delhi and they

340

00:16:09,540 --> 00:16:07,090

targeted the book as a kind of way to

341

00:16:11,700 --> 00:16:09,550

increase their own political power and

342

00:16:14,610 --> 00:16:11,710

there were two major banned movements on

343

00:16:16,830 --> 00:16:14,620

it it was debated in Parliament there

344

00:16:19,310 --> 00:16:16,840

was a file created on me and there

345

00:16:23,340 --> 00:16:19,320

equivalent of the Indian CIA I

346

00:16:27,270 --> 00:16:23,350

essentially became this harassed and

347

00:16:31,110 --> 00:16:27,280

targeted American scholar that went on

348

00:16:35,160 --> 00:16:31,120

for about seven years until I had enough

349

00:16:36,990 --> 00:16:35,170

and just left the field entirely it

350

00:16:39,780 --> 00:16:37,000

still goes on to this day though other

351  
00:16:43,650 --> 00:16:39,790  
scholars saying similar things are

352  
00:16:46,410 --> 00:16:43,660  
targeted to this day there's been about

353  
00:16:49,260 --> 00:16:46,420  
a couple dozen American scholars and

354  
00:16:51,960 --> 00:16:49,270  
many many more Indian scholars in

355  
00:16:53,700 --> 00:16:51,970  
journalists who are now being harassed

356  
00:16:57,810 --> 00:16:53,710  
and threatened in some cases even killed

357  
00:17:00,840 --> 00:16:57,820  
so this this this targeting of

358  
00:17:02,900 --> 00:17:00,850  
intellectuals it in some ways started in

359  
00:17:06,540 --> 00:17:02,910  
the mid 90s but it continues to this day

360  
00:17:09,900 --> 00:17:06,550  
and that was my dissertation Alex that

361  
00:17:13,110 --> 00:17:09,910  
was my first book coming out of the

362  
00:17:15,330 --> 00:17:13,120  
block that received all of this praise

363  
00:17:18,480 --> 00:17:15,340

within all of this right but at the same

364

00:17:22,290 --> 00:17:18,490

time you're aware of of the larger

365

00:17:26,850 --> 00:17:22,300

context that that's fits in in terms of

366

00:17:28,950 --> 00:17:26,860

our culture in terms of politics in

367

00:17:31,680 --> 00:17:28,960

terms of power in terms of all these

368

00:17:33,630 --> 00:17:31,690

other things so it's like yeah they were

369

00:17:35,840 --> 00:17:33,640

picking on you and yeah they were

370

00:17:38,700 --> 00:17:35,850

defending their religion but it's a lot

371

00:17:41,640 --> 00:17:38,710

it's it's trickier than that and and

372

00:17:42,930 --> 00:17:41,650

there's this whole thing of that I hope

373

00:17:46,560 --> 00:17:42,940

to talk about next

374

00:17:48,480 --> 00:17:46,570

in terms of some aspects of culture and

375

00:17:49,890 --> 00:17:48,490

spirituality and how it doesn't fit

376

00:17:51,780 --> 00:17:49,900

together no matter how you do it so you

377

00:17:52,620 --> 00:17:51,790

know you want to however you play it

378

00:17:54,810 --> 00:17:52,630

it's not gonna work

379

00:17:57,900 --> 00:17:54,820

so here's what I want to do with this

380

00:17:59,790 --> 00:17:57,910

interview one of the things I want to

381

00:18:02,460 --> 00:17:59,800

try and do is chunk things down because

382

00:18:03,930 --> 00:18:02,470

I think sometimes I love you know I

383

00:18:05,310 --> 00:18:03,940

could sit here and talk to Jeff [h\_\_\h]

384

00:18:08,250 --> 00:18:05,320

for two hours we're only gonna talk an

385

00:18:10,170 --> 00:18:08,260

hour I promise you but you know inside

386

00:18:12,870 --> 00:18:10,180

baseball a lot of this stuff and it

387

00:18:15,270 --> 00:18:12,880

won't have a chance to reach people

388

00:18:17,880 --> 00:18:15,280

because it's all kind of glom together

389

00:18:20,540 --> 00:18:17,890

so I'm gonna probably break this up into

390

00:18:24,870 --> 00:18:20,550

separate sections and I have another

391

00:18:27,420 --> 00:18:24,880

another section another provocative kind

392

00:18:28,760 --> 00:18:27,430

of little title that I'm gonna kind of

393

00:18:31,010 --> 00:18:28,770

hit you with

394

00:18:33,680 --> 00:18:31,020

let's talk about that for a minute in

395

00:18:36,410 --> 00:18:33,690

I'm again talking with dr. Jeff [h\_\_h]

396

00:18:37,760 --> 00:18:36,420

from Rice University author of this new

397

00:18:39,890 --> 00:18:37,770

very interesting book we're talking

398

00:18:42,260 --> 00:18:39,900

about secret body which you can see

399

00:18:46,480 --> 00:18:42,270

there on the screen and we just had a

400

00:18:49,790 --> 00:18:46,490

really interesting chat about really how

401

00:18:51,920 --> 00:18:49,800

bravely autobiographical this book is

402

00:18:54,860 --> 00:18:51,930

and some of the things that he covers in

403

00:18:56,810 --> 00:18:54,870

it so definitely check that out but next

404

00:18:59,120 --> 00:18:56,820

Jeff what I want to talk about you know

405

00:19:03,320 --> 00:18:59,130

again but I say brave I mean people get

406

00:19:05,690 --> 00:19:03,330

a sense for what I mean when you know

407

00:19:09,440 --> 00:19:05,700

the book is just says hey here's the

408

00:19:13,400 --> 00:19:09,450

problems with non self reflective

409

00:19:17,540 --> 00:19:13,410

Christians and again you know pretty

410

00:19:20,870 --> 00:19:17,550

much got this right out of your book so

411

00:19:22,850 --> 00:19:20,880

if you would if you feel up to it it's

412

00:19:25,340 --> 00:19:22,860

kind of throwing you right into the fire

413

00:19:28,460 --> 00:19:25,350

here but again let's let's talk about

414

00:19:31,370 --> 00:19:28,470

some of the tough stuff and if you

415

00:19:33,350 --> 00:19:31,380

wouldn't mind maybe reading this excerpt

416

00:19:35,420 --> 00:19:33,360

from the book and then we can talk a

417

00:19:38,360 --> 00:19:35,430

little bit about that is that okay yeah

418

00:19:40,040 --> 00:19:38,370

sure yes so this this is the from a

419

00:19:42,020 --> 00:19:40,050

chapter in the book in which I'm

420

00:19:45,080 --> 00:19:42,030

struggling with essentially being an

421

00:19:47,260 --> 00:19:45,090

intellectual in our modern or

422

00:19:51,440 --> 00:19:47,270

contemporary American culture a

423

00:19:54,110 --> 00:19:51,450

university culture and rural America it

424

00:19:57,290 --> 00:19:54,120

goes like this I go home to rural

425

00:19:59,930 --> 00:19:57,300

Nebraska every year for decades now I've

426

00:20:02,690 --> 00:19:59,940

been deeply struck if not emotionally

427

00:20:05,510 --> 00:20:02,700

wounded by the immense moral abyss that

428

00:20:07,760 --> 00:20:05,520

separates my university community from

429

00:20:10,850 --> 00:20:07,770

the general culture of rural America I

430

00:20:13,910 --> 00:20:10,860

am thinking of practices and ideals like

431

00:20:17,540 --> 00:20:13,920

self reflexivity historical

432

00:20:21,400 --> 00:20:17,550

consciousness religious pluralism gender

433

00:20:24,230 --> 00:20:21,410

equity racial and sexual diversity

434

00:20:26,360 --> 00:20:24,240

environmental sustainability the

435

00:20:28,910 --> 00:20:26,370

importance of privileged empirical data

436

00:20:32,600 --> 00:20:28,920

and thoughtful debate over received

437

00:20:34,520 --> 00:20:32,610

opinion and blind propaganda and above

438

00:20:37,280 --> 00:20:34,530

all the secular public space that

439

00:20:39,800 --> 00:20:37,290

guarantees both freedom of and from

440

00:20:42,760 --> 00:20:39,810

religion okay you're punching pretty

441

00:20:46,490 --> 00:20:42,770

hard there do you want to

442

00:20:47,990 --> 00:20:46,500

elaborated all on that well I mean

443

00:20:50,270 --> 00:20:48,000

there's so much there we could elaborate

444

00:20:54,049 --> 00:20:50,280

on Alex those things I just read off

445

00:20:56,240 --> 00:20:54,059

those are in any basic mission statement

446

00:20:58,460 --> 00:20:56,250

or value statement of any university or

447

00:21:00,470 --> 00:20:58,470

College in the country for the most part

448

00:21:02,690 --> 00:21:00,480

certainly not all of them but I would

449

00:21:06,289 --> 00:21:02,700

say most of them share all of those

450

00:21:09,919 --> 00:21:06,299

values and yet those are the same dozen

451  
00:21:13,010 --> 00:21:09,929  
they profess to share those values I am

452  
00:21:16,430 --> 00:21:13,020  
highly highly doubtful that they really

453  
00:21:18,850 --> 00:21:16,440  
do but okay I'm with you the tuitions

454  
00:21:23,570 --> 00:21:18,860  
I've worked in half I mean those we've

455  
00:21:27,770 --> 00:21:23,580  
nurture and defend those values but

456  
00:21:30,799 --> 00:21:27,780  
those are those same values are demeaned

457  
00:21:34,149 --> 00:21:30,809  
as as liberal I mean liberal has become

458  
00:21:36,680 --> 00:21:34,159  
a bad word in in our public culture I

459  
00:21:39,049 --> 00:21:36,690  
even though it was a perfectly fine word

460  
00:21:41,210 --> 00:21:39,059  
20 or 30 years ago you know I mean we

461  
00:21:43,880 --> 00:21:41,220  
still speak of a liberal arts education

462  
00:21:46,760 --> 00:21:43,890  
none of us and higher education think

463  
00:21:50,149 --> 00:21:46,770

that's a bad thing but that is a bad

464

00:21:52,850 --> 00:21:50,159

thing to huge swathes of rural America

465

00:21:58,039 --> 00:21:52,860

and so I'm trying to put my finger on

466

00:22:01,430 --> 00:21:58,049

that problem on that that that rip right

467

00:22:05,390 --> 00:22:01,440

through American culture and in I'm not

468

00:22:07,460 --> 00:22:05,400

sure I'm not sure the rip is is is where

469

00:22:09,500 --> 00:22:07,470

you're putting it I mean it certainly is

470

00:22:11,570 --> 00:22:09,510

I don't want to kind of get to you know

471

00:22:13,580 --> 00:22:11,580

just provocative for the sake of being

472

00:22:16,220 --> 00:22:13,590

provocative because we get it you know

473

00:22:18,320 --> 00:22:16,230

we get what you're saying in terms of

474

00:22:20,029 --> 00:22:18,330

the funding Christians right and Dyke

475

00:22:24,080 --> 00:22:20,039

the crazy Christians and get all that

476

00:22:26,060 --> 00:22:24,090

but we get that there's a lot of crazy

477

00:22:28,789 --> 00:22:26,070

atheists out there and there's a lot of

478

00:22:31,310 --> 00:22:28,799

crazy liberals out there in any side can

479

00:22:33,890 --> 00:22:31,320

go and get a little video of the

480

00:22:35,450 --> 00:22:33,900

craziness of the other side and show it

481

00:22:38,570 --> 00:22:35,460

out there and all of a sudden you know

482

00:22:40,820 --> 00:22:38,580

it's just this kind of division let me

483

00:22:43,100 --> 00:22:40,830

tell you a little story from my life you

484

00:22:46,279 --> 00:22:43,110

know just just last weekend I attended

485

00:22:48,289 --> 00:22:46,289

this funeral ceremony for kind of this

486

00:22:50,510 --> 00:22:48,299

soccer friend so my daughter plays

487

00:22:52,490 --> 00:22:50,520

soccer and a soccer dad you know but I

488

00:22:55,190 --> 00:22:52,500

know pretty well and really nice guy

489

00:22:57,950 --> 00:22:55,200

we liked him I go to this guy's funeral

490

00:23:01,010 --> 00:22:57,960

ceremony celebration of life ceremony at

491

00:23:02,990 --> 00:23:01,020

this Evangelical Church in Southern

492

00:23:03,770 --> 00:23:03,000

California so you live in the buckle of

493

00:23:07,340 --> 00:23:03,780

the Bible Belt

494

00:23:11,150 --> 00:23:07,350

I live in liberal liberal Southern

495

00:23:14,530 --> 00:23:11,160

California and I'm a evangelical church

496

00:23:17,150 --> 00:23:14,540

and it is full first of all I mean

497

00:23:18,950 --> 00:23:17,160

you're stunned by the fact that they can

498

00:23:20,600 --> 00:23:18,960

fill up a church with 400 people for

499

00:23:22,280 --> 00:23:20,610

somebody these days you know that

500

00:23:24,410 --> 00:23:22,290

doesn't happen on a Saturday afternoon

501  
00:23:27,050 --> 00:23:24,420  
and they go through this guy's let's so

502  
00:23:29,570 --> 00:23:27,060  
it's an amazing life it's a quietly

503  
00:23:33,200 --> 00:23:29,580  
amazing life of little things that he's

504  
00:23:37,310 --> 00:23:33,210  
done and helped people and the the the

505  
00:23:39,530 --> 00:23:37,320  
two gay soccer moms who he initially

506  
00:23:42,050 --> 00:23:39,540  
meets by writing this letter saying hey

507  
00:23:43,520 --> 00:23:42,060  
you know Proposition 9 is coming out for

508  
00:23:45,620 --> 00:23:43,530  
gay marriage and we should we should

509  
00:23:48,080 --> 00:23:45,630  
really rally against this you know and

510  
00:23:51,310 --> 00:23:48,090  
it's terrible and they kind of gently

511  
00:23:54,620 --> 00:23:51,320  
take offense and this guy completely

512  
00:23:56,780 --> 00:23:54,630  
goes in Sciences you know what I'm wrong

513  
00:23:59,390 --> 00:23:56,790

I'm wrong about that you are really

514

00:24:01,790 --> 00:23:59,400

great people and I need to re-examine

515

00:24:04,130 --> 00:24:01,800

what I believe and he turns out to be

516

00:24:06,290 --> 00:24:04,140

this tremendous friend like he was to so

517

00:24:07,850 --> 00:24:06,300

many people and he helps these people

518

00:24:11,270 --> 00:24:07,860

out constantly but he's like they're

519

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:11,280

number one handy man like perfect uncle

520

00:24:17,150 --> 00:24:13,010

that just does everything for him

521

00:24:19,400 --> 00:24:17,160

the guy lived an amazing life and I'm

522

00:24:22,340 --> 00:24:19,410

sitting in this church listening to a

523

00:24:25,430 --> 00:24:22,350

lot of evangelical [h\_\_h] that I can

524

00:24:27,470 --> 00:24:25,440

barely get through about empty tomb and

525

00:24:29,900 --> 00:24:27,480

about your we better come over to our

526

00:24:33,550 --> 00:24:29,910

side and all the rest is o'clock crap

527

00:24:38,860 --> 00:24:33,560

but I'm struck by the fact that this guy

528

00:24:42,590 --> 00:24:38,870

through all that found a way to live and

529

00:24:45,560 --> 00:24:42,600

grow his spirituality in a way that we

530

00:24:50,570 --> 00:24:45,570

all would look at go that's a beautiful

531

00:24:52,940 --> 00:24:50,580

thing so I don't know you know I get the

532

00:24:57,010 --> 00:24:52,950

the anger at the crazy Christians and

533

00:24:59,380 --> 00:24:57,020

the non self reflective thing

534

00:25:01,540 --> 00:24:59,390

but I just think the other side of that

535

00:25:05,550 --> 00:25:01,550

that liberal side the community that

536

00:25:09,460 --> 00:25:05,560

you're at is so filled with ridiculous

537

00:25:11,410 --> 00:25:09,470

atheists I am a biological robot in a

538

00:25:13,990 --> 00:25:11,420

meaningless universe kind of non

539

00:25:16,780 --> 00:25:14,000

thinkers non self-reflective people as

540

00:25:19,030 --> 00:25:16,790

well and I wonder which is worse because

541

00:25:21,520 --> 00:25:19,040

my buddy in the evangelical church he

542

00:25:24,040 --> 00:25:21,530

got it and he got something out of that

543

00:25:27,010 --> 00:25:24,050

experience that even though I don't know

544

00:25:28,810 --> 00:25:27,020

how he did it and I couldn't there's

545

00:25:32,140 --> 00:25:28,820

something there that I don't think he

546

00:25:34,630 --> 00:25:32,150

could have gotten in the Academy yeah

547

00:25:37,480 --> 00:25:34,640

well you're using a lot of words I would

548

00:25:40,090 --> 00:25:37,490

never use Alex you know I don't talk

549

00:25:42,520 --> 00:25:40,100

about crazy Christians anywhere in the

550

00:25:44,920 --> 00:25:42,530

ball no no I do that's me and I get I

551  
00:25:46,390 --> 00:25:44,930  
get called on for Christian bashing but

552  
00:25:50,020 --> 00:25:46,400  
to me it's just you got to look for the

553  
00:25:51,940 --> 00:25:50,030  
truth you know so but it is Jesus isn't

554  
00:25:53,710 --> 00:25:51,950  
historical Jesus real how much of that

555  
00:25:56,470 --> 00:25:53,720  
is a cold thing all that but I'm sorry

556  
00:25:58,960 --> 00:25:56,480  
please continue yeah I think you're drew

557  
00:26:01,480 --> 00:25:58,970  
I think what you just articulated is is

558  
00:26:04,030 --> 00:26:01,490  
frankly part of the problem it's it's a

559  
00:26:06,430 --> 00:26:04,040  
false equivalency you can always find

560  
00:26:09,820 --> 00:26:06,440  
examples on any side that are extreme

561  
00:26:14,050 --> 00:26:09,830  
and easy to make fun of but I think it's

562  
00:26:18,820 --> 00:26:14,060  
an equivalency to point to the kind of

563  
00:26:20,410 --> 00:26:18,830

far right-wing propaganda that really

564

00:26:23,760 --> 00:26:20,420

controls so much of our public

565

00:26:26,500 --> 00:26:23,770

conversation today and higher education

566

00:26:30,610 --> 00:26:26,510

which is really about having

567

00:26:32,320 --> 00:26:30,620

conversations and yes there are excess

568

00:26:34,930 --> 00:26:32,330

excessive moments in higher education

569

00:26:39,520 --> 00:26:34,940

but it's really not the same thing at

570

00:26:42,660 --> 00:26:39,530

all so I I don't see that frankly from

571

00:26:45,580 --> 00:26:42,670

where I see I think we need a lot more

572

00:26:47,410 --> 00:26:45,590

calmness and and and and we need to talk

573

00:26:49,510 --> 00:26:47,420

about these things and that's what I'm

574

00:26:53,200 --> 00:26:49,520

trying to do in the book I'm trying to

575

00:26:55,960 --> 00:26:53,210

call out where I think the the split is

576

00:26:59,380 --> 00:26:55,970

and I'm calling on intellectuals like

577

00:27:01,300 --> 00:26:59,390

myself to not just talk to each other

578

00:27:03,790 --> 00:27:01,310

but to go out into the public culture

579

00:27:06,430 --> 00:27:03,800

and talk to their families talk to the

580

00:27:09,280 --> 00:27:06,440

public culture about what it is we do in

581

00:27:10,960 --> 00:27:09,290

in the higher education which i think is

582

00:27:13,450 --> 00:27:10,970

really still the answer

583

00:27:16,930 --> 00:27:13,460

and I think this lack of civil discourse

584

00:27:20,349 --> 00:27:16,940

and this this constant demonizing of the

585

00:27:23,049 --> 00:27:20,359

other is is precisely what we don't do

586

00:27:26,409 --> 00:27:23,059

and in in higher education in our best

587

00:27:28,330 --> 00:27:26,419

moments okay with that another point

588

00:27:31,960 --> 00:27:28,340

from the book that you might want to

589

00:27:36,219 --> 00:27:31,970

talk about nothing positive in the

590

00:27:38,019 --> 00:27:36,229

humanities boring that's clipped right

591

00:27:41,560 --> 00:27:38,029

out of a book you need to give it some

592

00:27:46,810 --> 00:27:41,570

context so please give it the context

593

00:27:48,700 --> 00:27:46,820

because that's really my my Robin and

594

00:27:50,169 --> 00:27:48,710

another one as well but please tell me

595

00:27:52,899 --> 00:27:50,179

what you're thinking with that so that's

596

00:27:55,629 --> 00:27:52,909

actually a great thing to follow up on

597

00:27:57,999 --> 00:27:55,639

our previous conversation because your

598

00:28:01,060 --> 00:27:58,009

listeners might think that I'm just

599

00:28:03,989 --> 00:28:01,070

roaring for higher education and I'm and

600

00:28:08,379 --> 00:28:03,999

I'm not I mean much of the book is a

601  
00:28:09,460 --> 00:28:08,389  
pretty robust criticism of my own people

602  
00:28:11,469 --> 00:28:09,470  
you know

603  
00:28:13,779 --> 00:28:11,479  
the humanities the people who work in

604  
00:28:16,229 --> 00:28:13,789  
the humanities and the argument there

605  
00:28:18,609 --> 00:28:16,239  
that you reference very briefly is I

606  
00:28:20,440 --> 00:28:18,619  
basically make this argument that if you

607  
00:28:23,200 --> 00:28:20,450  
want to be taken seriously in the

608  
00:28:24,909 --> 00:28:23,210  
humanities today it has to be depressing

609  
00:28:27,339 --> 00:28:24,919  
in other words it has to be

610  
00:28:29,889 --> 00:28:27,349  
deconstructive in some ways you can't

611  
00:28:32,889 --> 00:28:29,899  
really say anything positive or

612  
00:28:35,680 --> 00:28:32,899  
constructive I like how you say then if

613  
00:28:38,710 --> 00:28:35,690

you think I'm wrong try it yeah say

614

00:28:41,200 --> 00:28:38,720

something yeah yeah and you know the

615

00:28:43,359 --> 00:28:41,210

argument in the book is that the

616

00:28:46,659 --> 00:28:43,369

humanities could be very much about our

617

00:28:48,639 --> 00:28:46,669

own cosmic nature I'm really pushing for

618

00:28:50,589 --> 00:28:48,649

a kind of cosmic vision of the

619

00:28:53,139 --> 00:28:50,599

humanities with the human being as this

620

00:28:56,619 --> 00:28:53,149

highly evolved expression of the whole

621

00:28:59,049 --> 00:28:56,629

universe but I'm also struggling with

622

00:29:00,999 --> 00:28:59,059

what I know to be the case that you

623

00:29:03,060 --> 00:29:01,009

can't really say that in our president

624

00:29:06,249 --> 00:29:03,070

intellectual climate without getting

625

00:29:10,029 --> 00:29:06,259

essentially cut down your nice cut out

626  
00:29:14,019 --> 00:29:10,039  
from under you so I'm not I'm certainly

627  
00:29:16,299 --> 00:29:14,029  
not romanticizing the higher education

628  
00:29:19,690 --> 00:29:16,309  
I'm actually deeply critical of it and

629  
00:29:21,249 --> 00:29:19,700  
I'm trying to address what I see is the

630  
00:29:23,560 --> 00:29:21,259  
faults there as well as the faults of

631  
00:29:24,220 --> 00:29:23,570  
the public culture I'm not sure you're

632  
00:29:31,510 --> 00:29:24,230  
critical

633  
00:29:33,760 --> 00:29:31,520  
you know Gloria Steinem and her

634  
00:29:36,460 --> 00:29:33,770  
connection to the CIA which has been

635  
00:29:38,789 --> 00:29:36,470  
outed she outed herself I think is a

636  
00:29:42,010 --> 00:29:38,799  
classic example of how we can easily

637  
00:29:45,400 --> 00:29:42,020  
kind of be misdirected here look at the

638  
00:29:48,430 --> 00:29:45,410

dialogue that that created most of it

639

00:29:50,710 --> 00:29:48,440

from people in your camp if you will was

640

00:29:53,169 --> 00:29:50,720

Oh Gloria you know she shouldn't have

641

00:29:55,690 --> 00:29:53,179

partnered with the CIA but I guess she

642

00:29:59,260 --> 00:29:55,700

had to because feminism was so important

643

00:30:02,409 --> 00:29:59,270

and I say [h\_\_h] that I ask the question

644

00:30:04,750 --> 00:30:02,419

what the hell is the CIA doing shaping

645

00:30:08,320 --> 00:30:04,760

culture and why would you so blindly

646

00:30:10,570 --> 00:30:08,330

follow because you think it fits with

647

00:30:13,510 --> 00:30:10,580

what your agenda is can you really be

648

00:30:15,700 --> 00:30:13,520

that easily manipulated I'm not talking

649

00:30:17,799 --> 00:30:15,710

about you directly here but as a group

650

00:30:21,250 --> 00:30:17,809

can but really be that easily won over

651  
00:30:23,830 --> 00:30:21,260  
and say oh but we had to win feminism so

652  
00:30:26,440 --> 00:30:23,840  
it's okay that we partnered with the CIA

653  
00:30:27,880 --> 00:30:26,450  
to do it it's okay you know it's like I

654  
00:30:29,590 --> 00:30:27,890  
say the whole intellectual thing you

655  
00:30:31,570 --> 00:30:29,600  
know curbed your [\h\_\_\h] indignation

656  
00:30:34,960 --> 00:30:31,580  
where were you

657  
00:30:38,020 --> 00:30:34,970  
when Obama became the drone strike

658  
00:30:41,110 --> 00:30:38,030  
president that killed more people

659  
00:30:44,200 --> 00:30:41,120  
innocent people at funerals and weddings

660  
00:30:48,430 --> 00:30:44,210  
than anyone in history where were you

661  
00:30:50,860 --> 00:30:48,440  
you know where were you when 9/11 where

662  
00:30:53,320 --> 00:30:50,870  
were you folks with all the rest of that

663  
00:30:56,530 --> 00:30:53,330

but all of a sudden there's all this

664

00:30:59,350 --> 00:30:56,540

indignation at the social injustice is

665

00:31:01,600 --> 00:30:59,360

the social injustice new is this somehow

666

00:31:04,140 --> 00:31:01,610

a new phenomena that we have to

667

00:31:08,650 --> 00:31:04,150

phenomenon that we have to worry about

668

00:31:12,159 --> 00:31:08,660

Ill really I wonder about that and I

669

00:31:16,630 --> 00:31:12,169

wonder about how much they've bought

670

00:31:18,390 --> 00:31:16,640

into this blind materialism that we

671

00:31:20,289 --> 00:31:18,400

talked about that I talked about

672

00:31:23,049 --> 00:31:20,299

biological robots in a meaningless

673

00:31:26,049 --> 00:31:23,059

universe and how much that is never

674

00:31:28,120 --> 00:31:26,059

fully brought up in examined you're

675

00:31:30,070 --> 00:31:28,130

certainly examining it you're certainly

676

00:31:32,680 --> 00:31:30,080

coming at it from a completely different

677

00:31:37,060 --> 00:31:32,690

angle but I wonder if your audience

678

00:31:39,310 --> 00:31:37,070

inside the Academy is really up to speed

679

00:31:41,950 --> 00:31:39,320

or if they're just going you hadda yada

680

00:31:43,629 --> 00:31:41,960

yada now let me get on with mine again

681

00:31:45,820 --> 00:31:43,639

Alex you put a lot of things on the

682

00:31:48,549 --> 00:31:45,830

table there right of course I didn't

683

00:31:50,499 --> 00:31:48,559

address Gloria Steinem in any way in the

684

00:31:54,610 --> 00:31:50,509

books right again you can pull out these

685

00:31:58,960 --> 00:31:54,620

examples from any address it address it

686

00:32:02,470 --> 00:31:58,970

now Gloria Steinem was a lifetime CIA

687

00:32:05,440 --> 00:32:02,480

operative and the feminist movement was

688

00:32:07,659 --> 00:32:05,450

highly influenced by what the CIA wanted

689

00:32:10,180 --> 00:32:07,669

to do isn't that relevant to what we're

690

00:32:11,619 --> 00:32:10,190

just talking about yeah but I just I

691

00:32:14,369 --> 00:32:11,629

don't know anything about it

692

00:32:17,860 --> 00:32:14,379

so I don't I mean the first rule of

693

00:32:19,360 --> 00:32:17,870

trying to say something intelligent is

694

00:32:20,980 --> 00:32:19,370

that you don't say things about

695

00:32:23,169 --> 00:32:20,990

something you don't know anything about

696

00:32:26,499 --> 00:32:23,179

so I just I just don't know anything

697

00:32:29,169 --> 00:32:26,509

about that case but I'm sure there are

698

00:32:31,049 --> 00:32:29,179

lots of instances in which you know the

699

00:32:34,930 --> 00:32:31,059

intelligence service is influenced

700

00:32:37,509 --> 00:32:34,940

intellectuals I mean much of science of

701  
00:32:40,029 --> 00:32:37,519  
course is wedded to the military complex

702  
00:32:43,360 --> 00:32:40,039  
as well there's all kinds of things we

703  
00:32:45,779 --> 00:32:43,370  
could talk about there but none of them

704  
00:32:48,970 --> 00:32:45,789  
are addressed in this particular book

705  
00:32:50,740 --> 00:32:48,980  
and I don't know a lot about all of that

706  
00:32:53,169 --> 00:32:50,750  
stuff but I mean you're certainly right

707  
00:32:55,060 --> 00:32:53,179  
that that I I'm not

708  
00:32:56,649 --> 00:32:55,070  
again I'm not whitewashing all

709  
00:32:58,210 --> 00:32:56,659  
intellectuals are all of higher

710  
00:33:02,409 --> 00:32:58,220  
education that's not what the book is

711  
00:33:06,369 --> 00:33:02,419  
about it's it's it's an it's a plea to

712  
00:33:09,580 --> 00:33:06,379  
look at religion and look at human

713  
00:33:13,149 --> 00:33:09,590

nature in a way that is not simply

714

00:33:15,399 --> 00:33:13,159

reductive but it's also not bound to our

715

00:33:17,619 --> 00:33:15,409

religious categories that we inherited

716

00:33:20,409 --> 00:33:17,629

from the past now that's really what the

717

00:33:22,529 --> 00:33:20,419

book is about so you know I I share your

718

00:33:25,180 --> 00:33:22,539

critique of materialism you know that

719

00:33:26,710 --> 00:33:25,190

you know the book engages in the same

720

00:33:33,039 --> 00:33:26,720

critique of materialism that you just

721

00:33:34,360 --> 00:33:33,049

articulated but um I don't I don't speak

722

00:33:37,960 --> 00:33:34,370

of things I don't know anything about

723

00:33:39,700 --> 00:33:37,970

that's that seems foolish okay let me

724

00:33:43,360 --> 00:33:39,710

ask you do you think we should talk

725

00:33:46,299 --> 00:33:43,370

about morality you have an interesting

726

00:33:49,299 --> 00:33:46,309

little just one line in the book that I

727

00:33:51,340 --> 00:33:49,309

think is we could talk a lot about and

728

00:33:55,840 --> 00:33:51,350

that is

729

00:33:57,640 --> 00:33:55,850

you say you're reluctant to link the

730

00:34:01,210 --> 00:33:57,650

mystical and the Murrah and the moral

731

00:34:02,680 --> 00:34:01,220

and one of the things that I think is

732

00:34:05,230 --> 00:34:02,690

interesting about that from where I sit

733

00:34:07,660 --> 00:34:05,240

having done all these shows on for

734

00:34:11,110 --> 00:34:07,670

example near-death experience the

735

00:34:12,880 --> 00:34:11,120

underlying question seems to be okay if

736

00:34:15,820 --> 00:34:12,890

we get to the point where we accept that

737

00:34:18,040 --> 00:34:15,830

we're in a post materialistic world and

738

00:34:20,470 --> 00:34:18,050

that there's this extended consciousness

739

00:34:23,560 --> 00:34:20,480

realm which you accept as kind of a

740

00:34:25,360 --> 00:34:23,570

given in your work right then don't we

741

00:34:28,600 --> 00:34:25,370

have to ask the next question is is

742

00:34:30,370 --> 00:34:28,610

there a higher hierarchal nature to

743

00:34:32,860 --> 00:34:30,380

consciousness because there sure as hell

744

00:34:34,240 --> 00:34:32,870

seems to be I mean that's what that's

745

00:34:37,090 --> 00:34:34,250

what all the near-death experience

746

00:34:40,630 --> 00:34:37,100

research says research says that's what

747

00:34:42,940 --> 00:34:40,640

the the past lives research says that's

748

00:34:45,610 --> 00:34:42,950

what the medium research says it says

749

00:34:49,120 --> 00:34:45,620

there's a hierarchical structure to

750

00:34:51,909 --> 00:34:49,130

consciousness if there is then I think

751

00:34:55,980 --> 00:34:51,919

this question that I just teed up you

752

00:34:59,620 --> 00:34:55,990

know is religion moral is God moral and

753

00:35:02,470 --> 00:34:59,630

your reluctance to connect the moral and

754

00:35:04,570 --> 00:35:02,480

the mystical I don't know I want to

755

00:35:07,690 --> 00:35:04,580

throw that on the table and and in the

756

00:35:09,850 --> 00:35:07,700

spirit of having a good a good debate

757

00:35:12,370 --> 00:35:09,860

with you Jeff because as you know as we

758

00:35:15,160 --> 00:35:12,380

said I so respect what you're bringing

759

00:35:16,930 --> 00:35:15,170

to this conversation but I gotta push

760

00:35:19,420 --> 00:35:16,940

you a little bit because these are the

761

00:35:21,790 --> 00:35:19,430

things that I care about and because we

762

00:35:25,570 --> 00:35:21,800

need to model I think that there needs

763

00:35:27,310 --> 00:35:25,580

to be a dialogue that isn't always two

764

00:35:29,530 --> 00:35:27,320

people patting each other on the back

765

00:35:31,600 --> 00:35:29,540

and agreeing about everything that's

766

00:35:35,410 --> 00:35:31,610

fine like it's a great question Alex we

767

00:35:40,030 --> 00:35:35,420

could we could address it please go

768

00:35:42,520 --> 00:35:40,040

ahead well so you're referring to one of

769

00:35:45,070 --> 00:35:42,530

the there's 20 what I call no moans and

770

00:35:48,010 --> 00:35:45,080

these are like little short phrases that

771

00:35:51,410 --> 00:35:48,020

summarize basically the different ideas

772

00:35:54,319 --> 00:35:51,420

in the book and one of the early ones

773

00:35:58,549 --> 00:35:54,329

Cerie connection between the mystical

774

00:36:02,470 --> 00:35:58,559

and the moral and that's a very complex

775

00:36:05,109 --> 00:36:02,480

statement but what I mean by that is

776

00:36:08,690 --> 00:36:05,119

sometimes people have profound

777

00:36:13,099 --> 00:36:08,700

life-changing religious experiences in

778

00:36:18,020 --> 00:36:13,109

situations which are dangerous or deadly

779

00:36:21,640 --> 00:36:18,030

or traumatic and it sometimes deeply

780

00:36:24,589 --> 00:36:21,650

charismatic spiritual teachers who can

781

00:36:27,349 --> 00:36:24,599

change people instantly with a touch or

782

00:36:29,539 --> 00:36:27,359

a look can also engage in abusive

783

00:36:33,410 --> 00:36:29,549

sexually abusive physically abusive

784

00:36:36,950 --> 00:36:33,420

behaviors and what I've seen over the

785

00:36:39,819 --> 00:36:36,960

years is people who want to say that

786

00:36:43,240 --> 00:36:39,829

it's all either pure light and and

787

00:36:46,670 --> 00:36:43,250

happiness and love or it's all nonsense

788

00:36:48,559 --> 00:36:46,680

it's not real and what I'm trying to

789

00:36:53,870 --> 00:36:48,569

plead for is actually it's messier than

790

00:36:57,260 --> 00:36:53,880

that and sometimes we can have profound

791

00:37:00,049 --> 00:36:57,270

religious experiences in a moral or even

792

00:37:03,380 --> 00:37:00,059

immoral situations and it's just an

793

00:37:06,010 --> 00:37:03,390

observation I'm making it's it's not

794

00:37:08,870 --> 00:37:06,020

it's not a moral claim that Jeff

795

00:37:11,420 --> 00:37:08,880

cripples making I consider myself to be

796

00:37:14,599 --> 00:37:11,430

very concerned about moral issues I met

797

00:37:17,660 --> 00:37:14,609

I'm a social persona I'm a I'm a citizen

798

00:37:18,950 --> 00:37:17,670

I'm a family member like like the rest

799

00:37:22,579 --> 00:37:18,960

of us

800

00:37:25,760 --> 00:37:22,589

so I care about people but I don't then

801  
00:37:27,890 --> 00:37:25,770  
draw from that that every single

802  
00:37:31,280 --> 00:37:27,900  
religious experience has to somehow

803  
00:37:34,970 --> 00:37:31,290  
honor those moral codes because they

804  
00:37:37,579 --> 00:37:34,980  
clearly don't and if you look at

805  
00:37:40,579 --> 00:37:37,589  
religious experience historically what

806  
00:37:43,460 --> 00:37:40,589  
you realize very fairly quickly is that

807  
00:37:48,680 --> 00:37:43,470  
what human beings have experienced as

808  
00:37:51,920 --> 00:37:48,690  
holy is not the same as the good or the

809  
00:37:53,990 --> 00:37:51,930  
the moral that sometimes when someone

810  
00:37:57,079 --> 00:37:54,000  
has an encounter with the holy it's

811  
00:38:00,500 --> 00:37:57,089  
terrifying and it's even potentially

812  
00:38:03,660 --> 00:38:00,510  
deadly you don't get to look on the face

813  
00:38:05,819 --> 00:38:03,670

of God you don't get to touch the Ark

814

00:38:10,200 --> 00:38:05,829

of the Covenant if you get too close to

815

00:38:12,930 --> 00:38:10,210

this God you die so clearly the holding

816

00:38:16,109 --> 00:38:12,940

there is not what we think of as the

817

00:38:18,059 --> 00:38:16,119

good it's something way beyond that it's

818

00:38:20,609 --> 00:38:18,069

something way beyond any moral category

819

00:38:23,910 --> 00:38:20,619

and it can manifest in terrifying or

820

00:38:26,280 --> 00:38:23,920

very redemptive in healing ways so let

821

00:38:30,089 --> 00:38:26,290

me let me bring this back to a single

822

00:38:31,710 --> 00:38:30,099

example so I guess you know I'm really

823

00:38:35,099 --> 00:38:31,720

interested in the abduction literature

824

00:38:38,339 --> 00:38:35,109

in this phenomenon of modern people

825

00:38:40,380 --> 00:38:38,349

having these abduction experiences well

826

00:38:43,200 --> 00:38:40,390

some of those abduction experiences are

827

00:38:45,270 --> 00:38:43,210

very positive and redemptive in healing

828

00:38:49,230 --> 00:38:45,280

and some of them are terrifying and

829

00:38:52,140 --> 00:38:49,240

traumatizing and destructive and I would

830

00:38:54,510 --> 00:38:52,150

say they are both both of those kinds of

831

00:38:57,059 --> 00:38:54,520

abduction experiences are encounters

832

00:38:59,339 --> 00:38:57,069

with the holy one in a positive frame

833

00:39:02,160 --> 00:38:59,349

and one in a negative frame and I

834

00:39:03,990 --> 00:39:02,170

wouldn't want as what what I think what

835

00:39:07,950 --> 00:39:04,000

I'm trying to argue against is saying oh

836

00:39:10,020 --> 00:39:07,960

one is demonic and one is real no the

837

00:39:13,950 --> 00:39:10,030

demon and the angel are two sides of the

838

00:39:15,990 --> 00:39:13,960

same sacred coin here and and we have to

839

00:39:19,349 --> 00:39:16,000

struggle with that as human beings

840

00:39:21,809 --> 00:39:19,359

because this is our religious experience

841

00:39:24,359 --> 00:39:21,819

over the centuries and millennia we can

842

00:39:26,880 --> 00:39:24,369

find hundreds and thousands of cases of

843

00:39:29,130 --> 00:39:26,890

religious accounts that are incredibly

844

00:39:32,010 --> 00:39:29,140

positive and we can find the same number

845

00:39:33,930 --> 00:39:32,020

that are incredibly negative so why lop

846

00:39:37,020 --> 00:39:33,940

off one for the sake of the other why

847

00:39:39,359 --> 00:39:37,030

not just say they're both there because

848

00:39:42,420 --> 00:39:39,369

they don't know because we don't know if

849

00:39:45,920 --> 00:39:42,430

some of those really horrific abduction

850

00:39:50,549 --> 00:39:45,930

experiences are at the hand of some

851  
00:39:54,599 --> 00:39:50,559  
MyLab military-industrial complex idiot

852  
00:39:57,000 --> 00:39:54,609  
who's doing some other mindless MKULTRA

853  
00:40:00,150 --> 00:39:57,010  
type job and then there's a whole other

854  
00:40:02,370 --> 00:40:00,160  
set of them that truly are spiritually

855  
00:40:04,710 --> 00:40:02,380  
transformative because that was the

856  
00:40:06,630 --> 00:40:04,720  
intent of the people behind them we

857  
00:40:09,240 --> 00:40:06,640  
don't know so just but just in the same

858  
00:40:12,660 --> 00:40:09,250  
way that we can't apply you know the

859  
00:40:14,400 --> 00:40:12,670  
filter that you just kind of criticized

860  
00:40:16,230 --> 00:40:14,410  
we can't apply your filter either

861  
00:40:16,870 --> 00:40:16,240  
because we don't know what the nature of

862  
00:40:18,700 --> 00:40:16,880  
those

863  
00:40:22,330 --> 00:40:18,710

but we know that any religious

864

00:40:25,030 --> 00:40:22,340

experience before 1920 or just pick your

865

00:40:27,730 --> 00:40:25,040

date had nothing to do with an MKULTRA

866

00:40:30,370 --> 00:40:27,740

lab or any intelligence service I mean

867

00:40:33,490 --> 00:40:30,380

you can see these patterns as far as you

868

00:40:35,800 --> 00:40:33,500

want to go back in time I mean these

869

00:40:37,990 --> 00:40:35,810

these are deep deep historical pattern I

870

00:40:40,690 --> 00:40:38,000

don't buy your critique there I mean I I

871

00:40:42,760 --> 00:40:40,700

think these are ancient and they say

872

00:40:45,400 --> 00:40:42,770

something about our own our own humanity

873

00:40:48,670 --> 00:40:45,410

and how it interacts with whatever that

874

00:40:52,120 --> 00:40:48,680

is that we're interacting with I want to

875

00:40:55,480 --> 00:40:52,130

try and hit one more point before I let

876

00:40:57,130 --> 00:40:55,490

you go onto your busy day okay it's so

877

00:40:58,990 --> 00:40:57,140

incredibly generous for sharing this

878

00:41:01,690 --> 00:40:59,000

time with us and sharing so many people

879

00:41:04,270 --> 00:41:01,700

sharing with so many people your

880

00:41:08,110 --> 00:41:04,280

insights in your perspective about this

881

00:41:10,690 --> 00:41:08,120

new book secret body which is as we've

882

00:41:12,640 --> 00:41:10,700

touched down a little bit but I've told

883

00:41:15,490 --> 00:41:12,650

you in a lot of different directions but

884

00:41:17,380 --> 00:41:15,500

it's about this journey that you've been

885

00:41:19,320 --> 00:41:17,390

on it's a it's a memoir it's a

886

00:41:22,060 --> 00:41:19,330

celebration for people to understand

887

00:41:23,740 --> 00:41:22,070

really your whole body of work through

888

00:41:26,440 --> 00:41:23,750

these experiences that you've had and

889

00:41:30,340 --> 00:41:26,450

the connection between the erotic the

890

00:41:33,370 --> 00:41:30,350

esoteric and religion but as you can see

891

00:41:34,930 --> 00:41:33,380

on the screen the last topic that I want

892

00:41:38,710 --> 00:41:34,940

to talk about is something that you just

893

00:41:42,790 --> 00:41:38,720

let us into in this last section because

894

00:41:44,950 --> 00:41:42,800

again Jeff I don't quite agree with you

895

00:41:46,930 --> 00:41:44,960

you know I just had that yeah this is

896

00:41:49,120 --> 00:41:46,940

you're kind of famous if you will at

897

00:41:50,950 --> 00:41:49,130

this another influencer Jeff crippled

898

00:41:53,740 --> 00:41:50,960

influencer well you'll hear this over

899

00:41:56,920 --> 00:41:53,750

and over again and we need better sci-fi

900

00:41:59,200 --> 00:41:56,930

to understand UFOs that's Jeff cry pool

901  
00:42:00,520 --> 00:41:59,210  
if you hear anything like that in any

902  
00:42:03,970 --> 00:42:00,530  
form or fashion

903  
00:42:05,880 --> 00:42:03,980  
that's Jeff crippled talking but you

904  
00:42:12,070 --> 00:42:05,890  
know recently I had the opportunity to

905  
00:42:13,420 --> 00:42:12,080  
talk with both Jacques Vallee who's kind

906  
00:42:14,650 --> 00:42:13,430  
of come around and done some interviews

907  
00:42:17,440 --> 00:42:14,660  
again and I also had a chance to

908  
00:42:19,750 --> 00:42:17,450  
interview Stanton Friedman and I

909  
00:42:21,460 --> 00:42:19,760  
interviewed Stanton Friedman I want to

910  
00:42:23,080 --> 00:42:21,470  
really interview him because I think

911  
00:42:26,200 --> 00:42:23,090  
there's this contrast reverences

912  
00:42:29,350 --> 00:42:26,210  
Oh Jacques filet you know exactly him I

913  
00:42:30,220 --> 00:42:29,360

love ya glai but it's like Oh jock boule

914

00:42:37,990 --> 00:42:30,230

he under

915

00:42:40,300 --> 00:42:38,000

forever and then Stan freedom of course

916

00:42:43,930 --> 00:42:40,310

is characterized as this guy oh he's an

917

00:42:46,840 --> 00:42:43,940

old nuts and bolts UFO guy and he's just

918

00:42:49,660 --> 00:42:46,850

flying saucers and nuclear propulsion

919

00:42:51,640 --> 00:42:49,670

systems and all this no go talk to him

920

00:42:52,030 --> 00:42:51,650

both they're both saying the same damn

921

00:42:55,060 --> 00:42:52,040

thing

922

00:42:58,480 --> 00:42:55,070

so Jacque delay is very interested in

923

00:42:59,680 --> 00:42:58,490

the crashes he's very interested in

924

00:43:01,090 --> 00:42:59,690

MUFON

925

00:43:02,950 --> 00:43:01,100

still you know people say oh he isn't

926

00:43:04,480 --> 00:43:02,960

care yeah he cares about MUFON he cares

927

00:43:07,570 --> 00:43:04,490

about the data that there's collecting

928

00:43:09,670 --> 00:43:07,580

he cares about how to gather this

929

00:43:11,920 --> 00:43:09,680

information cares about the technology

930

00:43:14,140 --> 00:43:11,930

what we've gained what we've known and

931

00:43:16,750 --> 00:43:14,150

learned in the last 60 years

932

00:43:18,430 --> 00:43:16,760

so he's broaden the discussion in the

933

00:43:20,920 --> 00:43:18,440

way that you're talking about in terms

934

00:43:23,560 --> 00:43:20,930

of this extended consciousness realm and

935

00:43:27,520 --> 00:43:23,570

we don't know how it interacts but I

936

00:43:32,200 --> 00:43:27,530

don't find him as willing as most people

937

00:43:36,370 --> 00:43:32,210

have characterized him to give up on the

938

00:43:38,560 --> 00:43:36,380

immediacy of the technology that is kind

939

00:43:40,120 --> 00:43:38,570

of coming out of that and then on the

940

00:43:43,120 --> 00:43:40,130

flip side you know you have Stan

941

00:43:44,800 --> 00:43:43,130

Friedman who like I've always saw with

942

00:43:46,300 --> 00:43:44,810

Stan Friedman he's always talked about

943

00:43:48,220 --> 00:43:46,310

consciousness right so he's talking

944

00:43:50,290 --> 00:43:48,230

about Benny Betty and Barney Hill the

945

00:43:51,790 --> 00:43:50,300

first major abduction case in the 50s

946

00:43:53,230 --> 00:43:51,800

and he say hey it's all about

947

00:43:54,940 --> 00:43:53,240

consciousness and they're doing all

948

00:43:56,830 --> 00:43:54,950

these consciousness things and we have

949

00:43:58,510 --> 00:43:56,840

to factor that in and we have to factor

950

00:44:01,060 --> 00:43:58,520

in the technology of consciousness and

951  
00:44:03,040 --> 00:44:01,070  
how much we don't understand it so might

952  
00:44:05,140 --> 00:44:03,050  
push back on you Jeff and what I'd like

953  
00:44:06,910 --> 00:44:05,150  
to hear you respond to and I like

954  
00:44:08,230 --> 00:44:06,920  
pushing you because you push back hard

955  
00:44:12,550 --> 00:44:08,240  
and that's how you should do it

956  
00:44:16,260 --> 00:44:12,560  
I think you're overstating the UFO

957  
00:44:19,240 --> 00:44:16,270  
consciousness Jacque filet fairies and

958  
00:44:22,590 --> 00:44:19,250  
angels throughout history thing to the

959  
00:44:25,510 --> 00:44:22,600  
extent that it doesn't jive with the

960  
00:44:28,060 --> 00:44:25,520  
technology angle that we know exists

961  
00:44:30,220 --> 00:44:28,070  
from the last 50 years of recovering

962  
00:44:32,140 --> 00:44:30,230  
flying saucers and trying to reverse

963  
00:44:34,450 --> 00:44:32,150

engineer them and doing all that stuff

964

00:44:37,720 --> 00:44:34,460

which is now so much outed and in the

965

00:44:39,310 --> 00:44:37,730

news and Tom DeLonge and you know all

966

00:44:41,109 --> 00:44:39,320

the rest that stuff that we know now

967

00:44:42,609 --> 00:44:41,119

that stuff is there and we're living

968

00:44:44,180 --> 00:44:42,619

through this kind of drip by drip

969

00:44:46,640 --> 00:44:44,190

disclosure

970

00:44:50,810 --> 00:44:46,650

I'll shut up now what do you think about

971

00:44:53,120 --> 00:44:50,820

the technology angle to this well again

972

00:44:57,050 --> 00:44:53,130

this goes back to something I said

973

00:44:58,760 --> 00:44:57,060

earlier that one of the first rules when

974

00:45:01,760 --> 00:44:58,770

you're trying to write a book or you're

975

00:45:03,260 --> 00:45:01,770

trying to be a responsible intellectual

976

00:45:05,450 --> 00:45:03,270

is you don't talk about things you don't

977

00:45:07,610 --> 00:45:05,460

know anything about now you already

978

00:45:09,110 --> 00:45:07,620

played that card you not know about you

979

00:45:09,980 --> 00:45:09,120

got to know about as much stuff as you

980

00:45:13,250 --> 00:45:09,990

can know about it

981

00:45:15,530 --> 00:45:13,260

well no I don't I've never seen any hard

982

00:45:17,450 --> 00:45:15,540

fast evidence for recovered technology

983

00:45:19,940 --> 00:45:17,460

you so it is your opinion from the

984

00:45:21,680 --> 00:45:19,950

evidence you've seen you do not believe

985

00:45:24,170 --> 00:45:21,690

that there's any there's been any

986

00:45:26,810 --> 00:45:24,180

recovered technology I didn't say that I

987

00:45:29,300 --> 00:45:26,820

didn't say pinning you down I'm asking I

988

00:45:31,190 --> 00:45:29,310

said obviously been in this field I mean

989

00:45:33,050 --> 00:45:31,200

it's not like you've been had your head

990

00:45:34,970 --> 00:45:33,060

buried in the sand I think what you just

991

00:45:36,770 --> 00:45:34,980

said is you haven't found any evidence

992

00:45:39,470 --> 00:45:36,780

that convinces you that there's a

993

00:45:41,150 --> 00:45:39,480

reality to that so you accept the kind

994

00:45:43,130 --> 00:45:41,160

of government sanctioned opinion that

995

00:45:45,830 --> 00:45:43,140

there hasn't been any I don't have any

996

00:45:48,530 --> 00:45:45,840

security clearances Alex I haven't seen

997

00:45:52,040 --> 00:45:48,540

any of these objects I haven't I have

998

00:45:53,990 --> 00:45:52,050

nothing but what I all have nothing

999

00:45:56,750 --> 00:45:54,000

we've been pushed into a position of

1000

00:45:58,310 --> 00:45:56,760

having nothing I have to work with the

1001  
00:46:00,230 --> 00:45:58,320  
data we have we have to work with the

1002  
00:46:01,910 --> 00:46:00,240  
information here's what we have here's

1003  
00:46:05,990 --> 00:46:01,920  
what we have we have people's

1004  
00:46:08,210 --> 00:46:06,000  
experiences we have lots of experiences

1005  
00:46:11,030 --> 00:46:08,220  
and that's what I do as a scholar

1006  
00:46:13,520 --> 00:46:11,040  
religion I study people's experiences so

1007  
00:46:15,770 --> 00:46:13,530  
when I talk about the UFO phenomena I

1008  
00:46:18,260 --> 00:46:15,780  
don't talk about recovered craft because

1009  
00:46:20,780 --> 00:46:18,270  
I don't know anything about it I talk

1010  
00:46:23,390 --> 00:46:20,790  
about people's experiences of abduction

1011  
00:46:26,180 --> 00:46:23,400  
or sightings or encounters because those

1012  
00:46:28,580 --> 00:46:26,190  
do in fact look just like the religious

1013  
00:46:30,890 --> 00:46:28,590

encounters in the past and I can say

1014

00:46:34,940 --> 00:46:30,900

something about that because that's my

1015

00:46:37,340 --> 00:46:34,950

area I actually can speak to that I'm

1016

00:46:40,400 --> 00:46:37,350

shaking my head because I don't buy that

1017

00:46:44,330 --> 00:46:40,410

Jeff in the sense that it changes

1018

00:46:47,090 --> 00:46:44,340

everything if you push if you push that

1019

00:46:48,650 --> 00:46:47,100

to the end it changes anything

1020

00:46:50,690 --> 00:46:48,660

everything it's like when we're talking

1021

00:46:53,030 --> 00:46:50,700

about Christianity you know on the show

1022

00:46:55,160 --> 00:46:53,040

we've gotten very interested in biblical

1023

00:46:57,380 --> 00:46:55,170

scholarship and the mythos is kind of

1024

00:47:01,250 --> 00:46:57,390

idea about Jesus

1025

00:47:03,920 --> 00:47:01,260

it changes everything if when we come to

1026  
00:47:06,650 --> 00:47:03,930  
one conclusion versus another about a

1027  
00:47:10,100 --> 00:47:06,660  
historical Jesus I think there's an

1028  
00:47:12,890 --> 00:47:10,110  
exact parallel with UFOs if you come

1029  
00:47:15,050 --> 00:47:12,900  
down on the John Mac side and you say

1030  
00:47:17,180 --> 00:47:15,060  
this is real these people are having

1031  
00:47:20,390 --> 00:47:17,190  
abduction experiences and they're

1032  
00:47:23,570 --> 00:47:20,400  
spiritual in nature that puts you in one

1033  
00:47:26,420 --> 00:47:23,580  
camp come down on the David Jacob side

1034  
00:47:29,230 --> 00:47:26,430  
and you say these are abductions in the

1035  
00:47:33,230 --> 00:47:29,240  
abduction criminal sense of the word and

1036  
00:47:36,370 --> 00:47:33,240  
that it's a prop it's a project will

1037  
00:47:40,310 --> 00:47:36,380  
being rung by someone in control in that

1038  
00:47:42,530 --> 00:47:40,320

MKULTRA kind of world then you you it

1039

00:47:46,430 --> 00:47:42,540

puts a completely different filter on

1040

00:47:51,740 --> 00:47:46,440

the experience I'm very suspicious of

1041

00:47:53,540 --> 00:47:51,750

the invasion mythology and the whole the

1042

00:47:55,280 --> 00:47:53,550

whole thing you just articulated it

1043

00:47:58,790 --> 00:47:55,290

sounds too much meat to me like a

1044

00:48:03,890 --> 00:47:58,800

paranoid kind of fundamentalist fantasy

1045

00:48:05,960 --> 00:48:03,900

about extraterrestrial and invasions you

1046

00:48:08,510 --> 00:48:05,970

know and I address that in the book by

1047

00:48:10,070 --> 00:48:08,520

the way if you remember I didn't

1048

00:48:12,980 --> 00:48:10,080

remember that part but go ahead tell us

1049

00:48:15,920 --> 00:48:12,990

what you think I think those kinds of

1050

00:48:18,770 --> 00:48:15,930

fears and phobias are essentially

1051

00:48:20,930 --> 00:48:18,780

religious and their fears of hybridity

1052

00:48:24,770 --> 00:48:20,940

and their fears of the other and their

1053

00:48:26,660 --> 00:48:24,780

fears of of the religious other and they

1054

00:48:28,700 --> 00:48:26,670

get framed in these abduction

1055

00:48:30,320 --> 00:48:28,710

experiences which are real by the way

1056

00:48:33,080 --> 00:48:30,330

people really have these abduction

1057

00:48:35,870 --> 00:48:33,090

experiences but that doesn't mean I I

1058

00:48:39,830 --> 00:48:35,880

think there are actual extraterrestrials

1059

00:48:44,000 --> 00:48:39,840

invading the u.s. that that sounds way

1060

00:48:47,090 --> 00:48:44,010

to cold war way to fundamentalist to me

1061

00:48:48,950 --> 00:48:47,100

to believe and it's not my job as a

1062

00:48:51,290 --> 00:48:48,960

scholar religion to believe any

1063

00:48:53,690 --> 00:48:51,300

mythology I run into I don't I don't

1064

00:48:56,750 --> 00:48:53,700

believe any of it I think I think all of

1065

00:48:58,730 --> 00:48:56,760

these things are stories that cultures

1066

00:49:01,670 --> 00:48:58,740

tell themselves in particular places in

1067

00:49:04,220 --> 00:49:01,680

time to make sense of the world but I

1068

00:49:06,530 --> 00:49:04,230

don't I don't believe any of the stories

1069

00:49:08,780 --> 00:49:06,540

well I think liberalism is a story I

1070

00:49:11,040 --> 00:49:08,790

think feminism is a story in particular

1071

00:49:13,440 --> 00:49:11,050

when we find out that what

1072

00:49:17,160 --> 00:49:13,450

feminism was really about was a project

1073

00:49:20,130 --> 00:49:17,170

run by the CIA to control and shape

1074

00:49:22,530 --> 00:49:20,140

culture and I say that in the sense that

1075

00:49:26,640 --> 00:49:22,540

we can all get behind and say going back

1076  
00:49:28,680 --> 00:49:26,650  
to the 1950s and treating women in this

1077  
00:49:32,550 --> 00:49:28,690  
subservient role is a completely

1078  
00:49:34,530 --> 00:49:32,560  
unacceptable but so is an engineered

1079  
00:49:38,730 --> 00:49:34,540  
effort to shape culture in a particular

1080  
00:49:40,950 --> 00:49:38,740  
way in order to control people so so

1081  
00:49:42,750 --> 00:49:40,960  
what I would say to that Alex first of

1082  
00:49:45,180 --> 00:49:42,760  
all like people have been trying to

1083  
00:49:48,750 --> 00:49:45,190  
control the cultural narrative forever

1084  
00:49:51,390 --> 00:49:48,760  
and you can blame the CIA today but

1085  
00:49:55,860 --> 00:49:51,400  
before that it was the Catholic Church

1086  
00:49:57,690 --> 00:49:55,870  
or the Puritans or you know the the the

1087  
00:50:00,800 --> 00:49:57,700  
Empire or the cult the British

1088  
00:50:03,780 --> 00:50:00,810

colonialists or the East India Company

1089

00:50:07,470 --> 00:50:03,790

human beings always trying to control

1090

00:50:09,810 --> 00:50:07,480

the narrative and what I am is a scholar

1091

00:50:12,510 --> 00:50:09,820

of religion is I'm always suspicious of

1092

00:50:14,550 --> 00:50:12,520

the narratives whatever they are because

1093

00:50:15,210 --> 00:50:14,560

I know they're controlled that's my

1094

00:50:18,390 --> 00:50:15,220

point

1095

00:50:21,570 --> 00:50:18,400

their curse their control but it's not

1096

00:50:25,980 --> 00:50:21,580

the evil CIA doing everything it's human

1097

00:50:29,190 --> 00:50:25,990

nature nation-states do this bloggers

1098

00:50:32,220 --> 00:50:29,200

like Alex do this I mean we all do this

1099

00:50:34,740 --> 00:50:32,230

we're all kind of arguing about what the

1100

00:50:36,450 --> 00:50:34,750

narrative is and I'm just like saying

1101

00:50:38,640 --> 00:50:36,460

hey okay

1102

00:50:40,980 --> 00:50:38,650

let's wake up let's let's admit we're

1103

00:50:43,320 --> 00:50:40,990

arguing about the story and let's tell a

1104

00:50:45,000 --> 00:50:43,330

better story that's what that's that's

1105

00:50:47,700 --> 00:50:45,010

the source of the quote you put up there

1106

00:50:50,100 --> 00:50:47,710

earlier this is why this is the better

1107

00:50:52,410 --> 00:50:50,110

sci-fi line we need better science

1108

00:50:55,530 --> 00:50:52,420

fiction not because one's true and one's

1109

00:50:57,510 --> 00:50:55,540

false but because you know we're living

1110

00:50:59,940 --> 00:50:57,520

in us we're living in a set of stories

1111

00:51:04,020 --> 00:50:59,950

that are pretty nasty our guest again

1112

00:51:05,820 --> 00:51:04,030

has been the incomparable dr. Jeffrey

1113

00:51:09,120 --> 00:51:05,830

[h\_\_\h] you're going to want to check

1114

00:51:12,390 --> 00:51:09,130

out his new book if you're a fan at all

1115

00:51:14,820 --> 00:51:12,400

of any of his prior work you really want

1116

00:51:17,760 --> 00:51:14,830

to add this book for me and for a lot of

1117

00:51:21,240 --> 00:51:17,770

folks it'll just add such an enriched

1118

00:51:23,550 --> 00:51:21,250

view of this whole body of work it's

1119

00:51:24,690 --> 00:51:23,560

been absolutely terrific having him on

1120

00:51:27,120 --> 00:51:24,700

if you've just tuned in

1121

00:51:29,609 --> 00:51:27,130

this segment of the conversation do

1122

00:51:31,380 --> 00:51:29,619

check out a plan on releasing this in a

1123

00:51:33,780 --> 00:51:31,390

couple of different ways twelve

1124

00:51:35,220 --> 00:51:33,790

altogether and in parts so we can pull

1125

00:51:37,319 --> 00:51:35,230

out some of the really interesting stuff

1126  
00:51:38,490 --> 00:51:37,329  
that Jeff had to say he kept saying I

1127  
00:51:40,589 --> 00:51:38,500  
was pulling him away from the book

1128  
00:51:42,540 --> 00:51:40,599  
that's the point Jeff everyone's going

1129  
00:51:44,040 --> 00:51:42,550  
to buy the book we want to know what

1130  
00:51:47,460 --> 00:51:44,050  
you're thinking about all these other

1131  
00:51:50,040 --> 00:51:47,470  
issues but you're terrific like I just

1132  
00:51:51,420 --> 00:51:50,050  
I'm so honored to to have you on and

1133  
00:51:53,010 --> 00:51:51,430  
have this kind of dialogue with you

1134  
00:51:55,829 --> 00:51:53,020  
thanks so much for joining me

1135  
00:51:57,390 --> 00:51:55,839  
thanks Alex it was fun so thanks for

1136  
00:52:00,030 --> 00:51:57,400  
watching this video and if it wasn't

1137  
00:52:01,980 --> 00:52:00,040  
really a video but just an audio stored

1138  
00:52:04,050 --> 00:52:01,990

as a video I apologize but there's more

1139

00:52:06,000 --> 00:52:04,060

videos out there as well but please

1140

00:52:07,500 --> 00:52:06,010

check out the Skeptical website you can

1141

00:52:09,109 --> 00:52:07,510

see it here we cover a lot of different

1142

00:52:12,120 --> 00:52:09,119

stuff you might be interested in

1143

00:52:14,940 --> 00:52:12,130

relating to controversial science and

1144

00:52:17,940 --> 00:52:14,950

spirituality a lot of shows up there

1145

00:52:21,120 --> 00:52:17,950

over 350 of them are so all free all

1146

00:52:22,370 --> 00:52:21,130

available for download so do check it