



JEFF KRIPAL

“‘To Shoot Down Souls’:
Some Paradoxical Thoughts on
the UFO Phenomenon from a
Historian of Religions”



1
00:00:04,210 --> 00:00:30,040

[Music]

2
00:00:38,590 --> 00:00:36,270

[Applause]

3
00:00:40,549 --> 00:00:38,600

thank you Gary and thank you Peter I'm

4
00:00:42,510 --> 00:00:40,559

I'm going to read my paper and the

5
00:00:45,830 --> 00:00:42,520

reason I'm going to read it is when I

6
00:00:48,670 --> 00:00:45,840

speak casually with PowerPoints I

7
00:00:51,670 --> 00:00:48,680

suck and when I read a paper then there

8
00:00:52,470 --> 00:00:51,680

are ideas in it and I can communicate

9
00:00:56,790 --> 00:00:52,480

those

10
00:00:59,150 --> 00:00:56,800

ideas um I also I want to say

11
00:01:02,229 --> 00:00:59,160

um I'm speaking as someone who's trying

12
00:01:05,189 --> 00:01:02,239

to do this at another University um

13
00:01:06,990 --> 00:01:05,199

we've held two very large conferences

14

00:01:09,870 --> 00:01:07,000

with about 200 people in the room just

15

00:01:12,710 --> 00:01:09,880

like this at Rice called archives of the

16

00:01:15,630 --> 00:01:12,720

impossible and those conferences are

17

00:01:18,230 --> 00:01:15,640

based on an actual archive which was

18

00:01:20,149 --> 00:01:18,240

started by none other than Jac fet who

19

00:01:21,990 --> 00:01:20,159

who has been celebrated here and this

20

00:01:24,550 --> 00:01:22,000

was also my introduction to you Gary

21

00:01:27,910 --> 00:01:24,560

believe it or not it was about

22

00:01:29,469 --> 00:01:27,920

2014 and jacqu picked me up in Berkeley

23

00:01:32,990 --> 00:01:29,479

and was taking me to an airport and

24

00:01:35,950 --> 00:01:33,000

asked me for help placing his papers and

25

00:01:37,630 --> 00:01:35,960

his files in an archive and that was the

26

00:01:40,590 --> 00:01:37,640

beginning really of our of our

27

00:01:43,710 --> 00:01:40,600

collection since then uh Whitley streber

28

00:01:46,429 --> 00:01:43,720

gave us about 5,000 letters that came

29

00:01:49,190 --> 00:01:46,439

out of the communion um experience for

30

00:01:52,190 --> 00:01:49,200

the communion Affair in the 80s and 90s

31

00:01:54,789 --> 00:01:52,200

Diana Pula has helped us Leslie Kane has

32

00:01:57,709 --> 00:01:54,799

helped us we have John Max papers there

33

00:02:00,069 --> 00:01:57,719

now so there's a lot of major figures in

34

00:02:02,789 --> 00:02:00,079

the archive and we're trying to do do

35

00:02:06,789 --> 00:02:02,799

this at Rice but we're I think in terms

36

00:02:08,830 --> 00:02:06,799

of Jock's paper we're sort of in the

37

00:02:11,350 --> 00:02:08,840

categories five six and seven we're

38

00:02:12,589 --> 00:02:11,360

doing the weird and the strange at rice

39

00:02:14,350 --> 00:02:12,599

and I think we're trying to do the

40

00:02:16,710 --> 00:02:14,360

science and the public policy here which

41

00:02:17,540 --> 00:02:16,720

is a which is a different project but I

42

00:02:18,910 --> 00:02:17,550

I hope they're

43

00:02:21,430 --> 00:02:18,920

[Music]

44

00:02:23,309 --> 00:02:21,440

complimentary all right so here goes I'm

45

00:02:26,270 --> 00:02:23,319

going to start off with a couple

46

00:02:29,190 --> 00:02:26,280

selections actually from Jock's journals

47

00:02:31,550 --> 00:02:29,200

uh this is from volume two and from

48

00:02:34,990 --> 00:02:31,560

volume four War the first is a quote

49

00:02:38,190 --> 00:02:35,000

from am Michelle uh a French researcher

50

00:02:41,750 --> 00:02:38,200

um probably writing this sometime in the

51
00:02:44,790 --> 00:02:41,760
1960s he writes UF ufology is not a

52
00:02:47,149 --> 00:02:44,800
science but a process of

53
00:02:52,589 --> 00:02:47,159
initiation one starts with field

54
00:02:58,390 --> 00:02:56,550
Mystics this next quote is from volume 4

55
00:03:01,390 --> 00:02:58,400
somewhere in the

56
00:03:04,630 --> 00:03:01,400
1990s and the here refers to Spring Hill

57
00:03:05,910 --> 00:03:04,640
Observatory and library that um jacqu

58
00:03:08,830 --> 00:03:05,920
had

59
00:03:12,710 --> 00:03:08,840
built he writes my view of the

60
00:03:15,110 --> 00:03:12,720
phenomenon has evolved here Beyond

61
00:03:18,670 --> 00:03:15,120
classical physical and biological

62
00:03:21,710 --> 00:03:18,680
parameters to a reality in multiple

63
00:03:24,910 --> 00:03:21,720

layers it melts the pre-existing grid of

64

00:03:28,390 --> 00:03:24,920

its logic with the consciousness of the

65

00:03:31,670 --> 00:03:28,400

Observer manifesting a display of

66

00:03:34,750 --> 00:03:31,680

arbitrary complexity

67

00:03:38,229 --> 00:03:34,760

okay that that's the weird

68

00:03:41,110 --> 00:03:38,239

part all right here goes the paper I

69

00:03:43,270 --> 00:03:41,120

know we are tired I hope I can do

70

00:03:47,589 --> 00:03:43,280

something helpful and hopeful here at

71

00:03:50,309 --> 00:03:47,599

the end an accent perhaps or a

72

00:03:51,110 --> 00:03:50,319

caution perhaps even a superhuman future

73

00:03:54,270 --> 00:03:51,120

or

74

00:03:57,429 --> 00:03:54,280

two I want to begin by defining my

75

00:04:00,589 --> 00:03:57,439

perspective since it blinds me to some

76

00:04:02,750 --> 00:04:00,599

things especially technological

77

00:04:05,350 --> 00:04:02,760

possibilities even as it brings other

78

00:04:08,710 --> 00:04:05,360

things into sharp Focus especially

79

00:04:11,270 --> 00:04:08,720

religious or spiritual

80

00:04:12,670 --> 00:04:11,280

possibilities one cannot see a star

81

00:04:15,270 --> 00:04:12,680

through a

82

00:04:16,349 --> 00:04:15,280

microscope and one cannot see a cell

83

00:04:18,550 --> 00:04:16,359

through a

84

00:04:20,949 --> 00:04:18,560

telescope the lenses through which we

85

00:04:23,629 --> 00:04:20,959

see are focusing and limiting at the

86

00:04:25,629 --> 00:04:23,639

same time put differently both the

87

00:04:29,189 --> 00:04:25,639

telescope and the microscope possess

88

00:04:31,710 --> 00:04:29,199

lenses that are intentionally distorted

89

00:04:33,510 --> 00:04:31,720

so that we can see at a particular level

90

00:04:35,870 --> 00:04:33,520

for specific

91

00:04:38,230 --> 00:04:35,880

purposes so too with our professional

92

00:04:41,270 --> 00:04:38,240

Frameworks they are distortions of the

93

00:04:43,749 --> 00:04:41,280

lenses but these disciplinary fosi are

94

00:04:46,350 --> 00:04:43,759

also very helpful and in fact they are

95

00:04:49,150 --> 00:04:46,360

necessary to see anything at

96

00:04:52,790 --> 00:04:49,160

all what I will say today is a kind of

97

00:04:55,070 --> 00:04:52,800

massive hunch or overwhelming intuition

98

00:04:57,870 --> 00:04:55,080

based on reading thousands of pages of

99

00:04:59,909 --> 00:04:57,880

books and archival materials and

100

00:05:01,670 --> 00:04:59,919

engaging in hundreds of hours of

101

00:05:04,189 --> 00:05:01,680

conversations with

102

00:05:07,629 --> 00:05:04,199

experiencers and researchers from the

103

00:05:09,350 --> 00:05:07,639

Natural Sciences the social sciences the

104

00:05:11,950 --> 00:05:09,360

humanities and the

105

00:05:14,189 --> 00:05:11,960

Arts I come to this practice through the

106

00:05:15,870 --> 00:05:14,199

history of religions a discipline that

107

00:05:17,950 --> 00:05:15,880

concerns itself with Humanity's

108

00:05:20,830 --> 00:05:17,960

religious experience from the

109

00:05:24,270 --> 00:05:20,840

prehistoric cave paintings of Europe to

110

00:05:26,870 --> 00:05:24,280

today's near death or abduction

111

00:05:30,670 --> 00:05:26,880

experience with a special focus on

112

00:05:32,629 --> 00:05:30,680

Altered States of consciousness

113

00:05:34,189 --> 00:05:32,639

it is out of this historical comparative

114

00:05:37,510 --> 00:05:34,199

and altered perspective that I will

115

00:05:40,790 --> 00:05:37,520

speak of what Peter skafish calls signs

116

00:05:42,749 --> 00:05:40,800

that are given off by the x of the

117

00:05:45,110 --> 00:05:42,759

UFO X

118

00:05:48,670 --> 00:05:45,120

indeed signs

119

00:05:50,790 --> 00:05:48,680

indeed I have six things to say I will

120

00:05:53,270 --> 00:05:50,800

stick to the first three for the sake of

121

00:05:55,909 --> 00:05:53,280

time the Fuller statement is the full

122

00:05:57,430 --> 00:05:55,919

paper which I'm happy to share with you

123

00:06:00,590 --> 00:05:57,440

and my joke will be if you ask me

124

00:06:02,710 --> 00:06:00,600

anything I'll say oh that's in the paper

125

00:06:05,270 --> 00:06:02,720

um this is just really a it's just a

126
00:06:06,870 --> 00:06:05,280
slice through through what I want to say

127
00:06:08,510 --> 00:06:06,880
the first thing I want to say is it's

128
00:06:13,550 --> 00:06:08,520
about

129
00:06:16,029 --> 00:06:13,560
scale the first thing I want to say is

130
00:06:20,430 --> 00:06:16,039
that the signs of the UFO extend over

131
00:06:22,430 --> 00:06:20,440
immense ranges of space and time

132
00:06:24,670 --> 00:06:22,440
certainly across the entire globe and

133
00:06:27,710 --> 00:06:24,680
throughout that tiny slice of memory

134
00:06:29,710 --> 00:06:27,720
that we call human history any

135
00:06:31,510 --> 00:06:29,720
individual contact or abduction

136
00:06:34,950 --> 00:06:31,520
experience in the Contemporary world is

137
00:06:37,469 --> 00:06:34,960
a mere moment in this larger super

138
00:06:39,390 --> 00:06:37,479

presence we can only intuit it something

139

00:06:43,550 --> 00:06:39,400

of its hyper presence from a larger

140

00:06:46,350 --> 00:06:43,560

perspective at once comparative and

141

00:06:49,670 --> 00:06:46,360

historical a number of corollaries

142

00:06:52,990 --> 00:06:49,680

follow one is that no single individual

143

00:06:55,230 --> 00:06:53,000

can fathom this thing this is why I so

144

00:06:58,390 --> 00:06:55,240

believe in the university and in a kind

145

00:07:00,150 --> 00:06:58,400

of intergenerational

146

00:07:03,950 --> 00:07:00,160

project

147

00:07:06,390 --> 00:07:03,960

the other thing is that no nation state

148

00:07:07,869 --> 00:07:06,400

or cultural identity can fathom what's

149

00:07:10,790 --> 00:07:07,879

at work as

150

00:07:13,309 --> 00:07:10,800

well the UFO after all does not appear

151

00:07:17,869 --> 00:07:13,319

to be restricted to any local politics

152

00:07:20,950 --> 00:07:17,879

or airspace our borders mean nothing to

153

00:07:23,869 --> 00:07:20,960

it this rather obvious fact need not be

154

00:07:26,390 --> 00:07:23,879

bad news it may in fact be very good

155

00:07:28,350 --> 00:07:26,400

news this relegation of our present

156

00:07:31,589 --> 00:07:28,360

National identities to a secondary

157

00:07:33,950 --> 00:07:31,599

status even a potential irrelevance is

158

00:07:35,869 --> 00:07:33,960

after all very much a piece with the

159

00:07:39,670 --> 00:07:35,879

UFO's consistent concerns over

160

00:07:41,869 --> 00:07:39,680

ecological collapse nuclear Armament and

161

00:07:44,430 --> 00:07:41,879

dystopian and

162

00:07:47,029 --> 00:07:44,440

apocalypse still public policies are

163

00:07:49,550 --> 00:07:47,039

important as working political

164

00:07:52,070 --> 00:07:49,560

responses what we desperately need is

165

00:07:54,990 --> 00:07:52,080

moral scientific and frankly spiritual

166

00:07:56,710 --> 00:07:55,000

leadership beyond our present borders

167

00:07:59,710 --> 00:07:56,720

and

168

00:08:01,909 --> 00:07:59,720

boundaries the US is poised to provide

169

00:08:04,749 --> 00:08:01,919

some leadership here but only if it can

170

00:08:07,430 --> 00:08:04,759

Embrace its Rich combinative logic with

171

00:08:09,390 --> 00:08:07,440

respect to religion no religion gets to

172

00:08:12,710 --> 00:08:09,400

speak for the whole and religious

173

00:08:14,390 --> 00:08:12,720

freedom guarantees new combinations and

174

00:08:16,550 --> 00:08:14,400

spiritual

175

00:08:19,909 --> 00:08:16,560

experiments it is also important to

176

00:08:22,149 --> 00:08:19,919

affirm The Immigrant or alien nature of

177

00:08:25,710 --> 00:08:22,159

the US remember the alien was used for

178

00:08:28,350 --> 00:08:25,720

the Immigrant for for still is I suppose

179

00:08:31,790 --> 00:08:28,360

and both acknowledge and mourn not

180

00:08:35,070 --> 00:08:31,800

celebrate and memorialize our colonizing

181

00:08:37,670 --> 00:08:35,080

and enslaving pasts and I don't say this

182

00:08:39,949 --> 00:08:37,680

for arbitrary reasons in fact a kind of

183

00:08:42,230 --> 00:08:39,959

postcolonial lens has been part of the

184

00:08:45,269 --> 00:08:42,240

UAP or UFO phenomena since at least

185

00:08:48,070 --> 00:08:45,279

Charles Ford in the 1920s who saw very

186

00:08:50,190 --> 00:08:48,080

clearly that the these things floating

187

00:08:52,230 --> 00:08:50,200

in the sky looked a lot like ships

188

00:08:54,150 --> 00:08:52,240

floating in the harbor that the Native

189

00:08:56,670 --> 00:08:54,160

Americans had no idea what was in store

190

00:08:59,269 --> 00:08:56,680

for them so there was a kind of colonial

191

00:09:01,110 --> 00:08:59,279

sensibility there and my African

192

00:09:04,269 --> 00:09:01,120

American colleagues point out to me

193

00:09:07,190 --> 00:09:04,279

constantly that strange ships showing up

194

00:09:09,750 --> 00:09:07,200

and abducting people is not unique to

195

00:09:12,069 --> 00:09:09,760

the UFO phenomena okay so there's a kind

196

00:09:15,150 --> 00:09:12,079

of History to this that I think we

197

00:09:16,269 --> 00:09:15,160

really need to to remember and and think

198

00:09:18,790 --> 00:09:16,279

[Music]

199

00:09:21,030 --> 00:09:18,800

through one can often detect something

200

00:09:24,030 --> 00:09:21,040

of this multifaceted leadership in the

201

00:09:25,670 --> 00:09:24,040

experiencers themselves I take it as

202

00:09:28,630 --> 00:09:25,680

significant for example that one of our

203

00:09:30,750 --> 00:09:28,640

most recent experiencers Matthew Roberts

204

00:09:33,790 --> 00:09:30,760

the US Naval service member who was

205

00:09:38,030 --> 00:09:33,800

stationed on the USS Theodore Roosevelt

206

00:09:40,150 --> 00:09:38,040

for the 2015 goast radar video and later

207

00:09:42,150 --> 00:09:40,160

transferred to the Office of Naval

208

00:09:45,350 --> 00:09:42,160

intelligence understands the phenomena

209

00:09:49,069 --> 00:09:45,360

to be fundamentally initiatory in its

210

00:09:51,509 --> 00:09:49,079

Dynamics and spiritual in nature whose

211

00:09:54,550 --> 00:09:51,519

aim is a kind of unconditional love for

212

00:09:57,430 --> 00:09:54,560

all human beings regardless of national

213

00:09:59,350 --> 00:09:57,440

politics ethnicity or

214

00:10:01,430 --> 00:09:59,360

religion this is the sour sort of

215

00:10:04,269 --> 00:10:01,440

leadership I'm talking

216

00:10:06,350 --> 00:10:04,279

about I fully understand that the vast

217

00:10:08,829 --> 00:10:06,360

majority of individuals are not ready

218

00:10:11,190 --> 00:10:08,839

for this type of flip into who they are

219

00:10:13,550 --> 00:10:11,200

before and beyond their constructed

220

00:10:15,590 --> 00:10:13,560

identities there is an

221

00:10:17,190 --> 00:10:15,600

understatement I understand that most

222

00:10:19,230 --> 00:10:17,200

people think that they are their

223

00:10:21,430 --> 00:10:19,240

psychological National and religious

224

00:10:23,790 --> 00:10:21,440

egos their surface

225

00:10:26,430 --> 00:10:23,800

selves this is probably the deepest

226

00:10:29,350 --> 00:10:26,440

provocation of the UFO its utter

227

00:10:31,710 --> 00:10:29,360

disregard for our constructed local egos

228

00:10:35,110 --> 00:10:31,720

and the degree to which it overcomes

229

00:10:36,790 --> 00:10:35,120

them there is immense potential here but

230

00:10:39,069 --> 00:10:36,800

only if we are willing to surrender

231

00:10:41,550 --> 00:10:39,079

these same righteous selves and create

232

00:10:45,990 --> 00:10:41,560

new public policy that constitutes a

233

00:10:49,269 --> 00:10:46,000

more Humane a more Humane and Global

234

00:10:51,230 --> 00:10:49,279

worldview number two it's about

235

00:10:53,190 --> 00:10:51,240

technology the second thing I want to

236

00:10:56,430 --> 00:10:53,200

observe is that the UFO has taken on

237

00:10:59,030 --> 00:10:56,440

special urgency because of our human

238

00:11:01,350 --> 00:10:59,040

technology with new advances in radars

239

00:11:04,310 --> 00:11:01,360

sonar and satellite capabilities we are

240

00:11:08,670 --> 00:11:04,320

seeing what was probably always there in

241

00:11:13,990 --> 00:11:11,389

invisible put more bluntly these things

242

00:11:15,069 --> 00:11:14,000

are not new but our abilities to see

243

00:11:18,509 --> 00:11:15,079

them

244

00:11:21,389 --> 00:11:18,519

are it also needs to be said many of our

245

00:11:24,030 --> 00:11:21,399

present Global crises around ecological

246

00:11:27,550 --> 00:11:24,040

degradation and nuclear Holocaust are

247

00:11:29,829 --> 00:11:27,560

precisely because of our sciences and

248

00:11:32,550 --> 00:11:29,839

Technologies I do not think it is an

249

00:11:35,310 --> 00:11:32,560

accident at all that the UFO shows such

250

00:11:37,350 --> 00:11:35,320

anxious interest in our nuclear

251
00:11:41,190 --> 00:11:37,360
installations so the statement it's

252
00:11:44,030 --> 00:11:41,200
about technology is doubly meant or

253
00:11:46,350 --> 00:11:44,040
triple the total UFO event after all

254
00:11:49,030 --> 00:11:46,360
seems to possess both a material or

255
00:11:52,069 --> 00:11:49,040
physical and a mental or spiritual

256
00:11:55,030 --> 00:11:52,079
Dimension the UFO clearly violates our

257
00:11:56,870 --> 00:11:55,040
present way of dividing reality up into

258
00:11:59,190 --> 00:11:56,880
mind and

259
00:12:01,629 --> 00:11:59,200
matter I continue to think that the this

260
00:12:03,949 --> 00:12:01,639
fundamental non-duality is the ultimate

261
00:12:06,590 --> 00:12:03,959
is its ultimate power and

262
00:12:08,509 --> 00:12:06,600
provocation any discussion of Technology

263
00:12:10,990 --> 00:12:08,519

then should take into account this

264

00:12:13,310 --> 00:12:11,000

fundamental both

265

00:12:15,470 --> 00:12:13,320

and I should also add here that our

266

00:12:18,110 --> 00:12:15,480

present realizations around AI will have

267

00:12:20,910 --> 00:12:18,120

a major impact in our ability to

268

00:12:23,949 --> 00:12:20,920

understand the UFO itself which has for

269

00:12:26,350 --> 00:12:23,959

decades now included descriptions of the

270

00:12:29,030 --> 00:12:26,360

robotic ways that the beings are said to

271

00:12:30,829 --> 00:12:29,040

move or interact with humans now other

272

00:12:32,990 --> 00:12:30,839

words there there have been there's been

273

00:12:34,910 --> 00:12:33,000

AI and abduction accounts for decades

274

00:12:37,189 --> 00:12:34,920

it's not it's not a recent thing but I

275

00:12:40,189 --> 00:12:37,199

think our ability to see it and to talk

276

00:12:42,990 --> 00:12:40,199

about it is fairly

277

00:12:46,150 --> 00:12:43,000

recent put a bit differently AI gives us

278

00:12:49,230 --> 00:12:46,160

a new way of imagining and picturing

279

00:12:51,990 --> 00:12:49,240

what may have been going on all

280

00:12:53,470 --> 00:12:52,000

along the present case of the UFO can be

281

00:12:55,949 --> 00:12:53,480

compared in some ways to the modern

282

00:12:58,310 --> 00:12:55,959

near-death experience which is also

283

00:12:59,670 --> 00:12:58,320

heavily dependent on recent biomedical

284

00:13:01,790 --> 00:12:59,680

technology

285

00:13:05,350 --> 00:13:01,800

the the phrase near-death experience

286

00:13:06,990 --> 00:13:05,360

dates to 1975 it's very it's very recent

287

00:13:08,590 --> 00:13:07,000

and it's definitely because of

288

00:13:11,230 --> 00:13:08,600

biomedical

289

00:13:14,269 --> 00:13:11,240

technology people are being brought back

290

00:13:16,030 --> 00:13:14,279

from much further into the death process

291

00:13:18,670 --> 00:13:16,040

as a consequence they are remembering

292

00:13:20,870 --> 00:13:18,680

more and so they are saying more one

293

00:13:24,189 --> 00:13:20,880

result is a new genre of literature of

294

00:13:26,430 --> 00:13:24,199

still unrealized potential that implies

295

00:13:29,829 --> 00:13:26,440

but never quite theorizes different

296

00:13:32,870 --> 00:13:29,839

types of bodies physical bodies that die

297

00:13:34,910 --> 00:13:32,880

and subtle or superbodies that do not

298

00:13:37,310 --> 00:13:34,920

another collapse of the Mind matter

299

00:13:39,990 --> 00:13:37,320

assumptions that we keep

300

00:13:42,389 --> 00:13:40,000

making the UFO and near-death experience

301
00:13:44,710 --> 00:13:42,399
then are in some sense unintended but

302
00:13:47,389 --> 00:13:44,720
quite real consequences of modern human

303
00:13:49,590 --> 00:13:47,399
technology to be more precise the two

304
00:13:52,189 --> 00:13:49,600
related phenomena cannot be reduced to

305
00:13:54,790 --> 00:13:52,199
the Technologies but they also cannot be

306
00:13:57,710 --> 00:13:54,800
experienced on a broad level without

307
00:14:01,030 --> 00:13:57,720
them okay number three it's about

308
00:14:04,990 --> 00:14:01,040
religion this is my my bigger Point

309
00:14:10,749 --> 00:14:07,550
about which brings me now to my third

310
00:14:14,189 --> 00:14:10,759
point the history of religions can be

311
00:14:15,829 --> 00:14:14,199
very helpful but also very misleading

312
00:14:19,110 --> 00:14:15,839
with respect to the

313
00:14:21,550 --> 00:14:19,120

UFO religion is the elephant in the

314

00:14:24,910 --> 00:14:21,560

living room

315

00:14:27,829 --> 00:14:24,920

obviously this rather obvious fact is

316

00:14:30,470 --> 00:14:27,839

dismissed under the intellectual cout

317

00:14:32,590 --> 00:14:30,480

that is woo

318

00:14:35,269 --> 00:14:32,600

to the extent that we use this word and

319

00:14:39,230 --> 00:14:35,279

what it represents we cannot grasp what

320

00:14:40,150 --> 00:14:39,240

is at stake what these events mean or P

321

00:14:46,110 --> 00:14:40,160

or

322

00:14:49,069 --> 00:14:46,120

is our answer I am not saying that I'm

323

00:14:51,829 --> 00:14:49,079

saying something doubled allow me to

324

00:14:53,829 --> 00:14:51,839

explain this

325

00:14:56,389 --> 00:14:53,839

doubleness first of all the history of

326

00:14:58,670 --> 00:14:56,399

religions is very helpful to the extent

327

00:15:00,590 --> 00:14:58,680

that the religions give powerful and

328

00:15:03,150 --> 00:15:00,600

consistent witness to something

329

00:15:05,790 --> 00:15:03,160

Transcendent to our ordinary Human

330

00:15:08,790 --> 00:15:05,800

Experience something other with a

331

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

capital O than the social human or

332

00:15:14,470 --> 00:15:11,040

rational mind and so potentially

333

00:15:17,430 --> 00:15:14,480

transformative of society and the self

334

00:15:19,670 --> 00:15:17,440

cosmologically speaking in other words

335

00:15:21,910 --> 00:15:19,680

the the view of the of the universe the

336

00:15:25,790 --> 00:15:21,920

religions commonly place this other in

337

00:15:28,309 --> 00:15:25,800

the sky the heavens or the Stars which

338

00:15:31,309 --> 00:15:28,319

they often understand in physical terms

339

00:15:34,309 --> 00:15:31,319

not metaphorical

340

00:15:38,470 --> 00:15:34,319

terms the similarities to the UFO are

341

00:15:40,269 --> 00:15:38,480

obvious I often joke about quote weird

342

00:15:42,670 --> 00:15:40,279

beings coming down from the sky and

343

00:15:44,749 --> 00:15:42,680

screwing with humans that's called

344

00:15:47,150 --> 00:15:44,759

religion

345

00:15:48,590 --> 00:15:47,160

unquote the joke is meant as a joke

346

00:15:52,150 --> 00:15:48,600

thanks for

347

00:15:54,790 --> 00:15:52,160

laughing some of you did but there is a

348

00:15:57,829 --> 00:15:54,800

there is a comparative argument

349

00:16:00,509 --> 00:15:57,839

here but we have to be very careful and

350

00:16:02,350 --> 00:16:00,519

precise about that comparative argument

351
00:16:04,790 --> 00:16:02,360
and most people are not

352
00:16:06,790 --> 00:16:04,800
careful they assume their own belief

353
00:16:08,990 --> 00:16:06,800
system their own

354
00:16:11,910 --> 00:16:09,000
worldview whatever that worldview

355
00:16:14,110 --> 00:16:11,920
happens to be religious or

356
00:16:16,030 --> 00:16:14,120
secular it should be stressed at this

357
00:16:19,150 --> 00:16:16,040
point that many of the prodigies of the

358
00:16:20,470 --> 00:16:19,160
religions have been very aware of the

359
00:16:22,749 --> 00:16:20,480
basic

360
00:16:25,509 --> 00:16:22,759
incommensurability of a non-human

361
00:16:28,550 --> 00:16:25,519
intelligence and and very Adept at

362
00:16:31,069 --> 00:16:28,560
translation and mediation of what looks

363
00:16:32,389 --> 00:16:31,079

like a non-human or superhuman presence

364

00:16:35,030 --> 00:16:32,399

in other words this thing has been

365

00:16:37,309 --> 00:16:35,040

around as far as we can see back there's

366

00:16:40,030 --> 00:16:37,319

really nothing nothing particularly new

367

00:16:41,790 --> 00:16:40,040

about it it should also be stressed

368

00:16:44,710 --> 00:16:41,800

however that these very

369

00:16:48,350 --> 00:16:44,720

translations by these religious adepts

370

00:16:50,590 --> 00:16:48,360

are often not accepted by the believing

371

00:16:53,189 --> 00:16:50,600

public this is one reason the word

372

00:16:56,309 --> 00:16:53,199

mystical or mystico means quite

373

00:16:58,150 --> 00:16:56,319

literally secret it is not that there is

374

00:17:00,309 --> 00:16:58,160

some kind of whispered content that

375

00:17:03,590 --> 00:17:00,319

could be shared but is held back some

376

00:17:06,710 --> 00:17:03,600

kind of power game I have the secret and

377

00:17:09,590 --> 00:17:06,720

you don't it is rather that this form of

378

00:17:12,029 --> 00:17:09,600

knowledge is simply not communicable

379

00:17:15,549 --> 00:17:12,039

unless the listener is ready has the

380

00:17:18,510 --> 00:17:15,559

requisite experience has ears to hear as

381

00:17:21,909 --> 00:17:18,520

the ancient Jewish rabbi once

382

00:17:24,029 --> 00:17:21,919

said as n put the same matter he called

383

00:17:27,390 --> 00:17:24,039

it esoteric by the way to get at the

384

00:17:29,990 --> 00:17:27,400

same idea what will be heard in most

385

00:17:32,630 --> 00:17:30,000

such cases is is nothing at

386

00:17:36,630 --> 00:17:32,640

all the teaching will sound

387

00:17:38,909 --> 00:17:36,640

nonsensical absurd in a word

388

00:17:42,110 --> 00:17:38,919

impossible that is because that which is

389

00:17:43,909 --> 00:17:42,120

being spoken is impossible within the

390

00:17:46,590 --> 00:17:43,919

categories of the reigning order of

391

00:17:49,270 --> 00:17:46,600

knowledge so there's a real Clash here

392

00:17:52,230 --> 00:17:49,280

that I really I really want to stress

393

00:17:54,510 --> 00:17:52,240

that I also think the physical aspects

394

00:17:56,110 --> 00:17:54,520

of the history of religions especially

395

00:17:58,990 --> 00:17:56,120

what I want to call the physics of

396

00:18:01,190 --> 00:17:59,000

Mystics have been vastly

397

00:18:04,630 --> 00:18:01,200

underestimated in the present regime of

398

00:18:07,390 --> 00:18:04,640

knowledge both in the humanities and the

399

00:18:10,230 --> 00:18:07,400

Sciences human bodies in the history of

400

00:18:12,070 --> 00:18:10,240

religions do all sorts of superhuman

401
00:18:14,710 --> 00:18:12,080
things they

402
00:18:17,270 --> 00:18:14,720
levitate they

403
00:18:19,510 --> 00:18:17,280
bilocate they know the physical

404
00:18:22,149 --> 00:18:19,520
future and they experience different

405
00:18:25,390 --> 00:18:22,159
types of conscious energy to name just a

406
00:18:27,230 --> 00:18:25,400
few I was once asked to lecture this is

407
00:18:30,630 --> 00:18:27,240
a true story believe it or not I was

408
00:18:32,909 --> 00:18:30,640
once asked to lecture at MIT by a former

409
00:18:36,710 --> 00:18:32,919
propulsion expert who worked in the

410
00:18:39,430 --> 00:18:36,720
classified division of a major Aerospace

411
00:18:40,789 --> 00:18:39,440
Corporation the colleague asked me to

412
00:18:45,110 --> 00:18:40,799
talk about two

413
00:18:47,630 --> 00:18:45,120

things human levitation and

414

00:18:49,789 --> 00:18:47,640

UFOs he was he was totally

415

00:18:52,029 --> 00:18:49,799

serious there was a there was a DARPA

416

00:18:54,390 --> 00:18:52,039

guy sitting right in the front row too

417

00:18:57,470 --> 00:18:54,400

um so I mean this was like totally

418

00:18:59,590 --> 00:18:57,480

serious so I did I think they are indeed

419

00:19:02,710 --> 00:18:59,600

related in their anti-gravitational

420

00:19:06,070 --> 00:19:02,720

properties people do levitate they do

421

00:19:08,190 --> 00:19:06,080

fly and they do so silently inexplicably

422

00:19:10,430 --> 00:19:08,200

almost always in Altered States Of

423

00:19:11,830 --> 00:19:10,440

Consciousness we have no way of

424

00:19:13,909 --> 00:19:11,840

understanding any of this in our present

425

00:19:17,310 --> 00:19:13,919

order of knowledge it is simply

426

00:19:19,630 --> 00:19:17,320

impossible and yet there it is and if

427

00:19:23,230 --> 00:19:19,640

you don't believe me I suggest a recent

428

00:19:25,590 --> 00:19:23,240

book that just came out called they flew

429

00:19:28,909 --> 00:19:25,600

from Yale University

430

00:19:31,909 --> 00:19:28,919

press my point that we have much to

431

00:19:34,549 --> 00:19:31,919

learn from what we already know that is

432

00:19:36,990 --> 00:19:34,559

from the historical past but we have to

433

00:19:39,110 --> 00:19:37,000

be very careful with that past very

434

00:19:41,590 --> 00:19:39,120

suspicious what we are often dealing

435

00:19:44,070 --> 00:19:41,600

with in the U ufological materials is

436

00:19:46,590 --> 00:19:44,080

what Christian theology would call

437

00:19:48,710 --> 00:19:46,600

demonology or in other more positive or

438

00:19:51,149 --> 00:19:48,720

transformative modes

439

00:19:53,710 --> 00:19:51,159

angelology basically entities that are

440

00:19:56,750 --> 00:19:53,720

not human beings have different types of

441

00:19:58,190 --> 00:19:56,760

bodies and are not God such entities

442

00:19:59,990 --> 00:19:58,200

have been given multiple inter

443

00:20:03,270 --> 00:20:00,000

interpretations in different religions

444

00:20:05,870 --> 00:20:03,280

and I really want to stress that I'm not

445

00:20:08,590 --> 00:20:05,880

assigning I'm not assigning my name to

446

00:20:11,110 --> 00:20:08,600

to the Christian

447

00:20:13,510 --> 00:20:11,120

interpretation but the Demonic beings in

448

00:20:16,230 --> 00:20:13,520

particular are generally seen as fairly

449

00:20:18,710 --> 00:20:16,240

low within the total Ecology of the

450

00:20:21,070 --> 00:20:18,720

religions even below the human the

451
00:20:23,750 --> 00:20:21,080
living human this is as true in Hindu

452
00:20:26,870 --> 00:20:23,760
South Asia as it is in Christian

453
00:20:29,110 --> 00:20:26,880
Europe this does not mean that this is

454
00:20:31,630 --> 00:20:29,120
what such entities in fact are I want to

455
00:20:34,510 --> 00:20:31,640
be really really clear here we also have

456
00:20:37,710 --> 00:20:34,520
to remember that both the soul and its

457
00:20:40,350 --> 00:20:37,720
double have been called Demons by Elite

458
00:20:43,230 --> 00:20:40,360
religious practitioners the demon or

459
00:20:45,870 --> 00:20:43,240
Dion as they called it in Greek is in

460
00:20:49,909 --> 00:20:45,880
fact an ancient R figure of immense

461
00:20:54,909 --> 00:20:52,789
Nuance things are different today but

462
00:20:56,990 --> 00:20:54,919
not that different in the modern

463
00:20:58,470 --> 00:20:57,000

ufological literatures for example the

464

00:21:01,710 --> 00:20:58,480

entities are often consider considered

465

00:21:03,789 --> 00:21:01,720

to be future humans an interpretation to

466

00:21:04,750 --> 00:21:03,799

which I am much drawn and actually find

467

00:21:07,029 --> 00:21:04,760

quite

468

00:21:09,110 --> 00:21:07,039

persuasive indeed I happen to think that

469

00:21:12,310 --> 00:21:09,120

one of our big mistakes is that we are

470

00:21:14,510 --> 00:21:12,320

Imagining the UFO in spatial terms so we

471

00:21:17,710 --> 00:21:14,520

say things like the distances are too

472

00:21:20,950 --> 00:21:17,720

great for Interstellar travel we are not

473

00:21:23,269 --> 00:21:20,960

considering a temporal imagination or a

474

00:21:26,630 --> 00:21:23,279

temporal Focus here these beings are

475

00:21:29,310 --> 00:21:26,640

from another time not another star

476

00:21:32,190 --> 00:21:29,320

system my point though is not to opt for

477

00:21:34,870 --> 00:21:32,200

a particular model Angels aliens or

478

00:21:36,310 --> 00:21:34,880

future humans my point is that even

479

00:21:38,070 --> 00:21:36,320

within the religious Traditions

480

00:21:39,830 --> 00:21:38,080

themselves far above the demons or

481

00:21:42,190 --> 00:21:39,840

aliens and very much within the reach of

482

00:21:45,269 --> 00:21:42,200

living human beings are the mystical

483

00:21:48,310 --> 00:21:45,279

experiences of unity communion emptiness

484

00:21:50,630 --> 00:21:48,320

Enlightenment Liberation

485

00:21:52,830 --> 00:21:50,640

deification and physical

486

00:21:55,549 --> 00:21:52,840

metamorphosis that are all understood to

487

00:21:58,590 --> 00:21:55,559

be the real purpose and goal of human

488

00:22:00,830 --> 00:21:58,600

life we do not need to sign our names to

489

00:22:02,350 --> 00:22:00,840

any of these particular belief systems

490

00:22:04,830 --> 00:22:02,360

but we should learn from their attempts

491

00:22:06,870 --> 00:22:04,840

at ordering the anomalies and affirming

492

00:22:08,590 --> 00:22:06,880

both the spiritual and physical nature

493

00:22:10,789 --> 00:22:08,600

of the beings

494

00:22:12,430 --> 00:22:10,799

involved many of the Altered States of

495

00:22:14,909 --> 00:22:12,440

the history of religious moreover are

496

00:22:15,990 --> 00:22:14,919

inherently apophatic that is they say

497

00:22:18,630 --> 00:22:16,000

away

498

00:22:20,990 --> 00:22:18,640

apases what has been said or believed by

499

00:22:23,870 --> 00:22:21,000

the surrounding public or culture within

500

00:22:25,830 --> 00:22:23,880

the religious register which generally

501
00:22:28,710 --> 00:22:25,840
understands the deity as an object or

502
00:22:30,789 --> 00:22:28,720
being that can be approached and engaged

503
00:22:33,029 --> 00:22:30,799
here we return to the basic non-duality

504
00:22:36,029 --> 00:22:33,039
of mind and matter I hinted at

505
00:22:38,750 --> 00:22:36,039
above these apophatic experiences are

506
00:22:41,430 --> 00:22:38,760
non-translatable into sensory or

507
00:22:43,630 --> 00:22:41,440
rational means which of course rely on

508
00:22:45,310 --> 00:22:43,640
this same subject object structure I

509
00:22:47,029 --> 00:22:45,320
think this is one of our most basic

510
00:22:50,430 --> 00:22:47,039
assumptions that we're a subject looking

511
00:22:52,950 --> 00:22:50,440
at a a collection of

512
00:22:56,230 --> 00:22:52,960
objects much less mathematical or

513
00:22:59,029 --> 00:22:56,240

scientific ones in a word these

514

00:23:01,149 --> 00:22:59,039

experiences are incommensurable

515

00:23:03,390 --> 00:23:01,159

secrecy here again is not about content

516

00:23:05,350 --> 00:23:03,400

it is about a kind of noesis or deifying

517

00:23:07,990 --> 00:23:05,360

direct knowledge that is simply not

518

00:23:09,909 --> 00:23:08,000

transactional or communicable because it

519

00:23:10,870 --> 00:23:09,919

cannot be slotted into any subject

520

00:23:12,990 --> 00:23:10,880

object

521

00:23:16,230 --> 00:23:13,000

structure that's the good

522

00:23:18,230 --> 00:23:16,240

news there's also some bad news what we

523

00:23:20,110 --> 00:23:18,240

today call religion is also profoundly

524

00:23:21,750 --> 00:23:20,120

unhelpful and that it is usually not

525

00:23:25,110 --> 00:23:21,760

like this at

526

00:23:27,110 --> 00:23:25,120

all it is not apophatic indeed religion

527

00:23:29,430 --> 00:23:27,120

inly leads to all kinds of belief

528

00:23:31,470 --> 00:23:29,440

systems or inter interpretations from a

529

00:23:33,830 --> 00:23:31,480

historical and comparative perspective

530

00:23:37,190 --> 00:23:33,840

none of these systems can be exclusively

531

00:23:38,870 --> 00:23:37,200

true for the species as a whole it is

532

00:23:41,390 --> 00:23:38,880

quite possible of course that they they

533

00:23:44,149 --> 00:23:41,400

are all true in some kind of inclusive

534

00:23:45,830 --> 00:23:44,159

or pluralist kind of way that is it is

535

00:23:48,190 --> 00:23:45,840

possible that all these belief systems

536

00:23:51,390 --> 00:23:48,200

give relative witness to a set of human

537

00:23:53,029 --> 00:23:51,400

responses to this super presence such a

538

00:23:55,390 --> 00:23:53,039

comparative practice is embedded for

539

00:23:58,350 --> 00:23:55,400

example in the ancient a Asian image of

540

00:24:00,510 --> 00:23:58,360

The Five Blind Men and the Elephant in

541

00:24:03,590 --> 00:24:00,520

this case literally in our living

542

00:24:06,909 --> 00:24:03,600

room all Five Blind Men feel a different

543

00:24:08,990 --> 00:24:06,919

part of the elephant the trunk the Tusk

544

00:24:11,470 --> 00:24:09,000

the leg The Ear The

545

00:24:14,070 --> 00:24:11,480

Tail they all describe it completely

546

00:24:16,149 --> 00:24:14,080

differently but it's the same elephant

547

00:24:23,190 --> 00:24:16,159

no one is

548

00:24:24,909 --> 00:24:23,200

correct either right but this is a very

549

00:24:27,110 --> 00:24:24,919

different kind of comparative argument

550

00:24:28,830 --> 00:24:27,120

and not and not one in favor of any

551

00:24:31,269 --> 00:24:28,840

particular religion or

552

00:24:33,269 --> 00:24:31,279

culture it is also possible by the way

553

00:24:35,789 --> 00:24:33,279

that a pluralism may be more radical

554

00:24:37,909 --> 00:24:35,799

still not a witness to a deeper Unity or

555

00:24:40,350 --> 00:24:37,919

elephant but to a fundamental plurality

556

00:24:43,149 --> 00:24:40,360

of being maybe what we think of as

557

00:24:46,630 --> 00:24:43,159

nature behaves differently in different

558

00:24:49,870 --> 00:24:46,640

cultural context because it really is

559

00:24:52,510 --> 00:24:49,880

different maybe nature is culturally

560

00:24:55,230 --> 00:24:52,520

conditioned maybe this is why people fly

561

00:24:58,230 --> 00:24:55,240

in some historical epochs and don't in

562

00:25:00,909 --> 00:24:58,240

others that would be weird but that's

563

00:25:02,350 --> 00:25:00,919

what it looks like so yes there is a

564

00:25:04,269 --> 00:25:02,360

deep connection between the history of

565

00:25:06,830 --> 00:25:04,279

religions and the UFO but we cannot use

566

00:25:08,909 --> 00:25:06,840

our present assumptions about Society

567

00:25:11,510 --> 00:25:08,919

science space exploration and

568

00:25:14,070 --> 00:25:11,520

extraterrestrials to understand the past

569

00:25:16,470 --> 00:25:14,080

within a kind of presentism as if our

570

00:25:18,470 --> 00:25:16,480

present worldview is somehow complete or

571

00:25:20,830 --> 00:25:18,480

infallible nor can we use the

572

00:25:23,149 --> 00:25:20,840

assumptions of the past about gods or

573

00:25:25,269 --> 00:25:23,159

God or Angels or demons to understand

574

00:25:27,870 --> 00:25:25,279

the present we have to be much more

575

00:25:31,110 --> 00:25:27,880

sophisticated than this kind of thinking

576

00:25:33,470 --> 00:25:31,120

whichever way the arrow

577

00:25:35,230 --> 00:25:33,480

flies there is simply no debate for

578

00:25:36,950 --> 00:25:35,240

example that the UFO is related to

579

00:25:39,750 --> 00:25:36,960

psychical Paras psychological and

580

00:25:41,630 --> 00:25:39,760

paranormal phenomena serious researchers

581

00:25:43,909 --> 00:25:41,640

have been saying this for over half a

582

00:25:46,710 --> 00:25:43,919

century how many times do we need to

583

00:25:49,230 --> 00:25:46,720

hear this before it becomes common

584

00:25:51,029 --> 00:25:49,240

knowledge before perhaps the technology

585

00:25:53,630 --> 00:25:51,039

affects or projects the Paranormal

586

00:25:55,909 --> 00:25:53,640

display like some kind of movie

587

00:25:57,950 --> 00:25:55,919

projector perhaps these anomalies are

588

00:25:59,870 --> 00:25:57,960

expressions of Consciousness itself

589

00:26:02,149 --> 00:25:59,880

perhaps Consciousness itself is the

590

00:26:03,909 --> 00:26:02,159

projector perhaps as I have argued for

591

00:26:06,190 --> 00:26:03,919

over a decade such events show us in

592

00:26:08,990 --> 00:26:06,200

dramatic terms that there is no final

593

00:26:11,310 --> 00:26:09,000

separation between mind and matter this

594

00:26:13,190 --> 00:26:11,320

could be good news if we can but accept

595

00:26:15,990 --> 00:26:13,200

our Sciences for what they are and can

596

00:26:17,710 --> 00:26:16,000

do and what they are not and cannot do

597

00:26:19,269 --> 00:26:17,720

and then integrate those other in

598

00:26:21,470 --> 00:26:19,279

intellectual disciplines like

599

00:26:23,750 --> 00:26:21,480

anthropology philosophy and the history

600

00:26:26,510 --> 00:26:23,760

of religions that have Rich histories of

601
00:26:29,269 --> 00:26:26,520
theorizing Consciousness or mind and its

602
00:26:31,430 --> 00:26:29,279
relationship to the physical

603
00:26:32,710 --> 00:26:31,440
World related here and I'm going to

604
00:26:35,310 --> 00:26:32,720
close with this thought but this is a

605
00:26:37,350 --> 00:26:35,320
big thought related here is the question

606
00:26:40,590 --> 00:26:37,360
of how the religions might react or

607
00:26:42,909 --> 00:26:40,600
respond to what is sometimes called

608
00:26:45,070 --> 00:26:42,919
disclosure there appear to be two basic

609
00:26:47,669 --> 00:26:45,080
positions in the literature we've heard

610
00:26:49,350 --> 00:26:47,679
them both one position argues that the

611
00:26:51,470 --> 00:26:49,360
religions more likely the religion of

612
00:26:54,269 --> 00:26:51,480
the author in question can assimilate

613
00:26:56,029 --> 00:26:54,279

and integrate such disclosure the other

614

00:26:58,070 --> 00:26:56,039

position argues that the religions are

615

00:27:00,389 --> 00:26:58,080

expressions of previous eras and forms

616

00:27:02,389 --> 00:27:00,399

of knowledge not this one and so they

617

00:27:04,990 --> 00:27:02,399

are incapable of the radical change that

618

00:27:07,350 --> 00:27:05,000

would be necessary hence it is concluded

619

00:27:08,750 --> 00:27:07,360

the necessity of secrecy or in some

620

00:27:11,070 --> 00:27:08,760

cases gradual

621

00:27:13,990 --> 00:27:11,080

disclosure speaking such a secret out

622

00:27:15,830 --> 00:27:14,000

loud or all at once would spell the end

623

00:27:21,310 --> 00:27:15,840

of the

624

00:27:24,430 --> 00:27:21,320

latter negative Camp I do not think that

625

00:27:27,750 --> 00:27:24,440

all religions can integrate the UFO much

626
00:27:29,710 --> 00:27:27,760
less alien bodies although I understand

627
00:27:32,430 --> 00:27:29,720
and appreciate the former positive Camp

628
00:27:35,149 --> 00:27:32,440
as well perhaps I Sid or wobble in the

629
00:27:37,549 --> 00:27:35,159
middle of the two I suspect there is an

630
00:27:39,310 --> 00:27:37,559
important truth in both positions and I

631
00:27:40,430 --> 00:27:39,320
would draw a distinction to explain my

632
00:27:42,870 --> 00:27:40,440
own

633
00:27:44,350 --> 00:27:42,880
waffling I would say that I would say

634
00:27:45,630 --> 00:27:44,360
what I already said namely that the

635
00:27:48,269 --> 00:27:45,640
religions are helpful in their

636
00:27:49,830 --> 00:27:48,279
insistence on translating or mediating a

637
00:27:52,310 --> 00:27:49,840
presence that is transcendent to the

638
00:27:54,509 --> 00:27:52,320

social human being but that they are not

639

00:27:56,509 --> 00:27:54,519

helpful in the ways that they insist on

640

00:27:58,789 --> 00:27:56,519

particular belief

641

00:28:01,269 --> 00:27:58,799

systems few of which could likely

642

00:28:04,630 --> 00:28:01,279

survive any kind of robust revelation of

643

00:28:06,269 --> 00:28:04,640

a species-wide cosmic condition I

644

00:28:08,509 --> 00:28:06,279

suppose in the end it matters which

645

00:28:11,269 --> 00:28:08,519

religions or what kind of religion one

646

00:28:13,310 --> 00:28:11,279

is talking about and what constitutes

647

00:28:15,590 --> 00:28:13,320

disclosure I think the question is

648

00:28:17,950 --> 00:28:15,600

complicated and not at all in either or

649

00:28:22,310 --> 00:28:17,960

and I always joke here I I work and

650

00:28:25,149 --> 00:28:22,320

teach in Texas okay this is

651

00:28:27,750 --> 00:28:25,159

California okay is very very different

652

00:28:30,630 --> 00:28:27,760

in Texas I assure you the answer are

653

00:28:33,950 --> 00:28:30,640

different but allow me two two points

654

00:28:36,149 --> 00:28:33,960

here and these are my last points first

655

00:28:37,909 --> 00:28:36,159

I cannot help but notice that many a

656

00:28:40,590 --> 00:28:37,919

religious believer will literally

657

00:28:44,269 --> 00:28:40,600

demonize parapsychological

658

00:28:48,110 --> 00:28:44,279

phenomena literally UFOs are real but

659

00:28:50,590 --> 00:28:48,120

they are demons mediumship is evil and

660

00:28:52,470 --> 00:28:50,600

so on I can explain to you what such

661

00:28:54,830 --> 00:28:52,480

people believe are the biblical roots of

662

00:28:56,630 --> 00:28:54,840

such beliefs or convictions and why the

663

00:28:58,430 --> 00:28:56,640

biblical texts themselves are much more

664

00:29:01,630 --> 00:28:58,440

complicated and frankly much more

665

00:29:04,110 --> 00:29:01,640

interesting but that is not my point my

666

00:29:06,190 --> 00:29:04,120

point is that some religions literally

667

00:29:09,950 --> 00:29:06,200

demonize what we are trying to talk

668

00:29:11,909 --> 00:29:09,960

about that takes the topic off the table

669

00:29:12,789 --> 00:29:11,919

it does not keep it on the table that's

670

00:29:15,269 --> 00:29:12,799

not

671

00:29:16,750 --> 00:29:15,279

helpful second and very much related I

672

00:29:18,269 --> 00:29:16,760

am quite concerned about what is

673

00:29:20,149 --> 00:29:18,279

sometimes called the Psychedelic

674

00:29:21,990 --> 00:29:20,159

Renaissance a name given to the

675

00:29:24,430 --> 00:29:22,000

broad-based psychiatric and clinical

676
00:29:26,750 --> 00:29:24,440
study of psychoactive molecules in the

677
00:29:28,750 --> 00:29:26,760
US and Europe and the pharmaceutical and

678
00:29:30,230 --> 00:29:28,760
legal transformations that are very

679
00:29:33,750 --> 00:29:30,240
much sought in their way this is very

680
00:29:36,110 --> 00:29:33,760
similar actually to the UFO disclosure

681
00:29:38,190 --> 00:29:36,120
discussion much as we see in the UFO

682
00:29:40,230 --> 00:29:38,200
phenomena the Altered States induced by

683
00:29:42,909 --> 00:29:40,240
such psychoactive plants often display a

684
00:29:45,269 --> 00:29:42,919
fairly clear animous structure plants

685
00:29:49,070 --> 00:29:45,279
and animals speak paranormal Powers

686
00:29:51,310 --> 00:29:49,080
manifest insectoid entities appear as do

687
00:29:54,389 --> 00:29:51,320
by the way aliens and

688
00:29:57,789 --> 00:29:54,399

UFOs what concerns me here are two basic

689

00:29:59,909 --> 00:29:57,799

things first predictably the mildest or

690

00:30:02,789 --> 00:29:59,919

strangest of the Psychedelic states are

691

00:30:07,310 --> 00:30:02,799

actively ignored or not reported at all

692

00:30:09,470 --> 00:30:07,320

in the in the literature okay secondly

693

00:30:11,669 --> 00:30:09,480

the history of European colonialism and

694

00:30:15,269 --> 00:30:11,679

monotheism with respect to psychoactive

695

00:30:16,830 --> 00:30:15,279

plants has been absolutely awful and

696

00:30:19,269 --> 00:30:16,840

often literally

697

00:30:21,310 --> 00:30:19,279

murderous has religion then welcomed the

698

00:30:24,630 --> 00:30:21,320

animous revelation of the plants

699

00:30:26,750 --> 00:30:24,640

absolutely not okay so let's let's let's

700

00:30:29,070 --> 00:30:26,760

be really careful here when we when we

701
00:30:30,830 --> 00:30:29,080
we're thinking about this the British

702
00:30:33,509 --> 00:30:30,840
writer Arthur C Clark wrote a science

703
00:30:36,310 --> 00:30:33,519
fiction novel many decades ago he called

704
00:30:38,669 --> 00:30:36,320
it childhood's end

705
00:30:41,070 --> 00:30:38,679
1953 he basically argued that full

706
00:30:43,070 --> 00:30:41,080
disclosure of an alien presence even a

707
00:30:45,750 --> 00:30:43,080
friendly one would render immediately

708
00:30:48,630 --> 00:30:45,760
irrelevant all religions on the planet

709
00:30:51,909 --> 00:30:48,640
except the book implied Buddhism this

710
00:30:55,190 --> 00:30:51,919
was by the way Clark's religion all

711
00:30:58,789 --> 00:30:55,200
right this was the end of childhood that

712
00:31:00,750 --> 00:30:58,799
is the end of religion I'm somewhat with

713
00:31:02,310 --> 00:31:00,760

the early Clark here although I

714

00:31:04,350 --> 00:31:02,320

seriously doubt that the that most

715

00:31:07,070 --> 00:31:04,360

Buddhist Traditions can survive a fuller

716

00:31:08,750 --> 00:31:07,080

Revelation either I guess I am deeply

717

00:31:11,710 --> 00:31:08,760

skeptical that anything resembling what

718

00:31:15,149 --> 00:31:11,720

we now call religion or science can

719

00:31:17,110 --> 00:31:15,159

survive a truly nonhuman or superhuman

720

00:31:19,669 --> 00:31:17,120

intelligence I think we are talking

721

00:31:22,190 --> 00:31:19,679

about a different kind of humanity here

722

00:31:24,750 --> 00:31:22,200

a future one that has not yet appeared

723

00:31:27,950 --> 00:31:24,760

to us or maybe it

724

00:31:30,310 --> 00:31:27,960

has final comments

725

00:31:32,629 --> 00:31:30,320

I like to tell jokes as I think these

726

00:31:35,230 --> 00:31:32,639

jokes crystallize my intellectual

727

00:31:36,870 --> 00:31:35,240

arguments much as icebergs crystallize

728

00:31:40,350 --> 00:31:36,880

the ocean they float in and in fact are

729

00:31:42,110 --> 00:31:40,360

in another Frozen or crystallized form

730

00:31:43,350 --> 00:31:42,120

people remember jokes too they don't

731

00:31:45,789 --> 00:31:43,360

remember

732

00:31:48,190 --> 00:31:45,799

arguments sometimes okay often no one

733

00:31:50,470 --> 00:31:48,200

laughs at my jokes no doubt because the

734

00:31:52,230 --> 00:31:50,480

terms of the joke do not match their

735

00:31:54,789 --> 00:31:52,240

understanding of the world and so can

736

00:31:56,430 --> 00:31:54,799

produce no sudden disjunction shock or

737

00:31:58,310 --> 00:31:56,440

what we call humor in other words I'm

738

00:32:00,830 --> 00:31:58,320

not funny

739

00:32:02,990 --> 00:32:00,840

okay I sometimes joke for example that

740

00:32:05,029 --> 00:32:03,000

the present concern with threats and

741

00:32:07,430 --> 00:32:05,039

National Intelligence is fundamentally

742

00:32:10,870 --> 00:32:07,440

misguided that quote they might as well

743

00:32:12,990 --> 00:32:10,880

be trying to shoot down Souls unquote I

744

00:32:15,750 --> 00:32:13,000

then follow up with a challenge good

745

00:32:17,789 --> 00:32:15,760

luck with that does such a joke and

746

00:32:20,430 --> 00:32:17,799

challenge make any sense in our pres

747

00:32:23,950 --> 00:32:20,440

present order of knowledge no of course

748

00:32:26,830 --> 00:32:23,960

not and that's my point I think the joke

749

00:32:28,070 --> 00:32:26,840

is funny but then I also feel very alone

750

00:32:29,910 --> 00:32:28,080

thank thank you all this weekend for

