



**GREG EGHIGIAN:**  
FINDING MEANING IN  
**UFOS**

1  
00:00:06,349 --> 00:00:04,670  
so I'm sitting out here and a late

2  
00:00:10,730 --> 00:00:06,359  
afternoon here in central Pennsylvania

3  
00:00:13,480 --> 00:00:10,740  
in the spring the Sun is out

4  
00:00:17,810 --> 00:00:13,490  
after a what seemed to be a very long

5  
00:00:19,609 --> 00:00:17,820  
winter and when you do this and you go

6  
00:00:21,950 --> 00:00:19,619  
out here finally and you can actually

7  
00:00:26,179 --> 00:00:21,960  
sit outside and in a shirt without a

8  
00:00:29,540 --> 00:00:26,189  
jacket you really appreciate the Sun you

9  
00:00:34,060 --> 00:00:29,550  
really appreciate the blue skies and it

10  
00:00:38,750 --> 00:00:34,070  
makes me sort of think about the kind of

11  
00:00:42,970 --> 00:00:38,760  
human and and and environmental aspects

12  
00:00:47,479 --> 00:00:42,980  
that surround the UFO phenomenon namely

13  
00:00:49,250 --> 00:00:47,489

how we as human beings relate to the

14

00:00:51,439 --> 00:00:49,260

skies above us

15

00:00:52,970 --> 00:00:51,449

certainly dating back to ancient times

16

00:00:58,610 --> 00:00:52,980

right

17

00:01:02,049 --> 00:00:58,620

the skies the heavens were linked to and

18

00:01:04,969 --> 00:01:02,059

always associated with the gods or God

19

00:01:08,960 --> 00:01:04,979

and therefore things that happened in

20

00:01:12,679 --> 00:01:08,970

the heavens particularly unusual things

21

00:01:16,999 --> 00:01:12,689

like comets and meteors always always

22

00:01:20,560 --> 00:01:17,009

we're seen as in some way having to have

23

00:01:23,420 --> 00:01:20,570

some kind of meaning they were seen as

24

00:01:26,630 --> 00:01:23,430

communications wholly communications

25

00:01:29,569 --> 00:01:26,640

from the deity or deities that existed

26

00:01:33,440 --> 00:01:29,579

or was seen as existing at the time and

27

00:01:37,999 --> 00:01:33,450

in many ways I think that hits it's

28

00:01:43,069 --> 00:01:38,009

something that I find really essentially

29

00:01:47,210 --> 00:01:43,079

and and fundamentally human about the

30

00:01:52,639 --> 00:01:47,220

UFO phenomenon about the way we interact

31

00:01:55,280 --> 00:01:52,649

and think about the environment around

32

00:02:00,730 --> 00:01:55,290

us and particularly the ways in which we

33

00:02:04,520 --> 00:02:00,740

imagine and try to map out ways of

34

00:02:10,969 --> 00:02:04,530

interacting with outer space because

35

00:02:13,750 --> 00:02:10,979

what to me is essential to understand

36

00:02:16,360 --> 00:02:13,760

when thinking about the UFO

37

00:02:21,699 --> 00:02:16,370

phenomenon is that we cannot think about

38

00:02:25,360 --> 00:02:21,709

it nor can we think about outer space or

39

00:02:28,449 --> 00:02:25,370

the sky or the Sun in any other way but

40

00:02:32,619 --> 00:02:28,459

through our eyes through our eyes as

41

00:02:35,170 --> 00:02:32,629

human beings who come to those kinds of

42

00:02:38,589 --> 00:02:35,180

perceptions could come to those kinds of

43

00:02:41,259 --> 00:02:38,599

insights those kinds of speculations in

44

00:02:43,330 --> 00:02:41,269

ways that inherently are always going to

45

00:02:46,690 --> 00:02:43,340

be connected to the world we live in

46

00:02:49,899 --> 00:02:46,700

here what we believe is happening above

47

00:02:53,080 --> 00:02:49,909

us has always been deeply inflected by

48

00:02:54,970 --> 00:02:53,090

what's going on here below us I mean

49

00:02:59,349 --> 00:02:54,980

take the nineteenth century for instance

50

00:03:01,990 --> 00:02:59,359

right you're kind of a long way away now

51  
00:03:05,259 --> 00:03:02,000  
from those ancient and medieval worlds

52  
00:03:09,309 --> 00:03:05,269  
where unusual things in the skies might

53  
00:03:12,670 --> 00:03:09,319  
be associated simply with the acts of

54  
00:03:14,500 --> 00:03:12,680  
God we get into a much more secular

55  
00:03:18,699 --> 00:03:14,510  
world a much more materialistic world

56  
00:03:22,119 --> 00:03:18,709  
and yet this world too starts to project

57  
00:03:25,689 --> 00:03:22,129  
its own kinds of meanings onto the skies

58  
00:03:28,569 --> 00:03:25,699  
above them and onto objects that they

59  
00:03:31,180 --> 00:03:28,579  
believe might be in the sky namely in

60  
00:03:33,670 --> 00:03:31,190  
particular this is the age in the 19th

61  
00:03:36,400 --> 00:03:33,680  
century of the creation of all sorts of

62  
00:03:40,680 --> 00:03:36,410  
new fabulous inventions the steam boat

63  
00:03:43,330 --> 00:03:40,690

the locomotive photography telegraphy

64

00:03:43,659 --> 00:03:43,340

ocean liners by the end of the century

65

00:03:45,789 --> 00:03:43,669

right

66

00:03:48,909 --> 00:03:45,799

all of these are touted at the time is

67

00:03:51,670 --> 00:03:48,919

modern wonders they themselves become

68

00:03:54,759 --> 00:03:51,680

the things that are seen as marvelous as

69

00:03:57,670 --> 00:03:54,769

wondrous but they are now our inventions

70

00:03:59,890 --> 00:03:57,680

they are things that we made and so

71

00:04:02,470 --> 00:03:59,900

there seems to be in fact by the end of

72

00:04:05,199 --> 00:04:02,480

the 19th century for many people many

73

00:04:08,890 --> 00:04:05,209

observers at the time really perhaps no

74

00:04:12,460 --> 00:04:08,900

end no limit to what we might achieve

75

00:04:15,129 --> 00:04:12,470

and so the great dream of the 19th

76

00:04:18,939 --> 00:04:15,139

century really circles around and really

77

00:04:21,520 --> 00:04:18,949

rotates around this possibility of human

78

00:04:24,520 --> 00:04:21,530

flight when will we conquer it we've

79

00:04:26,950 --> 00:04:24,530

done it with balloons already they are

80

00:04:27,340 --> 00:04:26,960

saying but by the mid part of the 19th

81

00:04:29,950 --> 00:04:27,350

century

82

00:04:32,800 --> 00:04:29,960

but will we be able to do this as human

83

00:04:34,660 --> 00:04:32,810

beings by creating contraptions that can

84

00:04:36,520 --> 00:04:34,670

fly through the air and when you hear

85

00:04:39,790 --> 00:04:36,530

people talk about those possibly they

86

00:04:42,370 --> 00:04:39,800

imagine it like the ways they did when

87

00:04:44,170 --> 00:04:42,380

they observe the steamships right they

88

00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:44,180

saw and they talked about these

89

00:04:47,860 --> 00:04:46,010

possibilities when they talked about it

90

00:04:50,710 --> 00:04:47,870

they talked about it in terms of the

91

00:04:53,020 --> 00:04:50,720

ways in which an airship might be

92

00:04:56,080 --> 00:04:53,030

powered by steam engines right or

93

00:04:58,900 --> 00:04:56,090

through the sails of ships similar to

94

00:05:01,840 --> 00:04:58,910

what you see on the high seas and so

95

00:05:04,240 --> 00:05:01,850

when we move further into the early 20th

96

00:05:06,220 --> 00:05:04,250

century what do people start to describe

97

00:05:08,710 --> 00:05:06,230

when they describe sightings of strange

98

00:05:11,050 --> 00:05:08,720

objects we start to hear descriptions

99

00:05:13,510 --> 00:05:11,060

that sound like Zeppelin's right the

100

00:05:16,390 --> 00:05:13,520

dirigible is that the Germans are

101

00:05:18,310 --> 00:05:16,400

creating around the early part at the

102

00:05:21,760 --> 00:05:18,320

end of the 19th in the early part of the

103

00:05:23,560 --> 00:05:21,770

20th century here so what we do and what

104

00:05:24,850 --> 00:05:23,570

we see in that instance is a similar

105

00:05:28,090 --> 00:05:24,860

thing always talking about in the past

106

00:05:30,970 --> 00:05:28,100

there is always going to be this way in

107

00:05:33,760 --> 00:05:30,980

which we can only understand and

108

00:05:40,740 --> 00:05:33,770

perceive and think and imagine what the

109

00:05:47,110 --> 00:05:44,260

great inventions of the modern world our

110

00:05:51,040 --> 00:05:47,120

interactions and our thinking towards

111

00:05:53,800 --> 00:05:51,050

and about what is beyond this particular

112

00:05:56,470 --> 00:05:53,810

world in which we live in and how it

113

00:05:59,290 --> 00:05:56,480

might expand beyond that to other worlds

114

00:06:02,320 --> 00:05:59,300

and that's exactly what you see when the

115

00:06:04,450 --> 00:06:02,330

Flying Saucer phenomenon takes shape at

116

00:06:07,390 --> 00:06:04,460

the end of World War two and the

117

00:06:10,090 --> 00:06:07,400

beginning of the Cold War a similar way

118

00:06:13,120 --> 00:06:10,100

because in a similar fashion of the 19th

119

00:06:15,970 --> 00:06:13,130

century all sorts of new technologies

120

00:06:19,270 --> 00:06:15,980

all sorts of new ways of thinking about

121

00:06:23,080 --> 00:06:19,280

not just flight but thinking about how

122

00:06:27,370 --> 00:06:23,090

we might we might be able to create

123

00:06:30,480 --> 00:06:27,380

machines and technologies that can do

124

00:06:33,510 --> 00:06:30,490

things that exceed our wildest

125

00:06:36,130 --> 00:06:33,520

imaginations here and if we can do that

126  
00:06:38,140 --> 00:06:36,140  
then what might an intelligent

127  
00:06:40,570 --> 00:06:38,150  
civilization even far more advanced than

128  
00:06:44,619 --> 00:06:40,580  
us what might they be capable of

129  
00:06:48,010 --> 00:06:44,629  
that to me then is what connects us

130  
00:06:50,800 --> 00:06:48,020  
today people fifty years ago with the

131  
00:06:52,300 --> 00:06:50,810  
people who are in the ancient world we

132  
00:06:54,459 --> 00:06:52,310  
may view the world through different

133  
00:06:57,399 --> 00:06:54,469  
eyes we certainly do

134  
00:07:00,909 --> 00:06:57,409  
but what connects us is always this idea

135  
00:07:04,300 --> 00:07:00,919  
that when we approach and think about

136  
00:07:09,450 --> 00:07:04,310  
and project on to the world some sense

137  
00:07:15,490 --> 00:07:13,149  
unusual anomalous kinds of things we

138  
00:07:17,860 --> 00:07:15,500

inherently have to come back to the

139

00:07:20,080 --> 00:07:17,870

world we live in the world we've grown

140

00:07:23,529 --> 00:07:20,090

up in the world we're a part of it are

141

00:07:25,659 --> 00:07:23,539

making we turn to we can only turn to

142

00:07:31,029 --> 00:07:25,669

that which is available to us our

143

00:07:32,800 --> 00:07:31,039

culture our values our ideas that we've

144

00:07:35,110 --> 00:07:32,810

inherited that are part of our legacy

145

00:07:38,459 --> 00:07:35,120

but that we live with an embrace today

146

00:07:42,070 --> 00:07:38,469

every society has invariably done that

147

00:07:46,089 --> 00:07:42,080

that can be seen perhaps as a limitation

148

00:07:48,519 --> 00:07:46,099

as a problem I see it differently I see

149

00:07:51,909 --> 00:07:48,529

it is that is it what it means to assent

150

00:07:55,570 --> 00:07:51,919

to essentially means to be a human being

151  
00:07:58,689 --> 00:07:55,580  
we are meaning makers we seek to make

152  
00:08:01,779 --> 00:07:58,699  
meaning and understand things that are

153  
00:08:04,240 --> 00:08:01,789  
sometimes difficult or downright

154  
00:08:07,180 --> 00:08:04,250  
impossible to make meaning of but we

155  
00:08:09,100 --> 00:08:07,190  
seek that out and we will keep doing

156  
00:08:12,519 --> 00:08:09,110  
this for the foreseeable future

157  
00:08:18,209 --> 00:08:12,529  
so if you ask me what makes the UFO

158  
00:08:21,550 --> 00:08:18,219  
phenomenon a distinctively human kind of

159  
00:08:23,890 --> 00:08:21,560  
problem it is that what it does is that

160  
00:08:26,860 --> 00:08:23,900  
what what so many other things have done

161  
00:08:31,610 --> 00:08:26,870  
throughout history it forces us it