



**RUPERT
SHELDRAKE**

**MATERIALISM
IS DEAD**

1
00:00:04,390 --> 00:00:02,790
rupert sheldrake needs no introduction

2
00:00:04,950 --> 00:00:04,400
he's an author and a researcher in the

3
00:00:07,749 --> 00:00:04,960
field of

4
00:00:09,190 --> 00:00:07,759
parapsychology with a phd from cambridge

5
00:00:10,470 --> 00:00:09,200
and biochemistry

6
00:00:12,070 --> 00:00:10,480
this channel is dedicated to

7
00:00:12,789 --> 00:00:12,080
conversations around theories of

8
00:00:15,350 --> 00:00:12,799
everything

9
00:00:17,189 --> 00:00:15,360
consciousness free will god and topics

10
00:00:18,790 --> 00:00:17,199
that are cognate to that it's also about

11
00:00:20,070 --> 00:00:18,800
putting a spotlight on those who i don't

12
00:00:22,230 --> 00:00:20,080
think get as much credit

13
00:00:25,910 --> 00:00:22,240

as they should and you can see my john

14

00:00:28,070 --> 00:00:25,920

moffatt interview as an example of that

15

00:00:30,070 --> 00:00:28,080

now rupert has plenty of credit he's

16

00:00:32,470 --> 00:00:30,080

done many ted talks

17

00:00:34,709 --> 00:00:32,480

but there is one aspect which i find a

18

00:00:36,389 --> 00:00:34,719

significant shame

19

00:00:38,630 --> 00:00:36,399

it's unfair that rupert has been

20

00:00:39,270 --> 00:00:38,640

mischaracterized and that even i have

21

00:00:40,790 --> 00:00:39,280

had

22

00:00:42,549 --> 00:00:40,800

false views about him because of what i

23

00:00:44,709 --> 00:00:42,559

read online

24

00:00:46,549 --> 00:00:44,719

that i thought was legitimate but wasn't

25

00:00:48,310 --> 00:00:46,559

we get to this specific issue toward the

26

00:00:50,790 --> 00:00:48,320

latter half of the conversation

27

00:00:52,549 --> 00:00:50,800

however unfortunately my video nor peter

28

00:00:55,830 --> 00:00:52,559

glenns who's my colleague

29

00:00:59,830 --> 00:00:55,840

neither his video recorded either way

30

00:01:01,670 --> 00:00:59,840

this is an important issue enjoy

31

00:01:03,189 --> 00:01:01,680

why do you think physicists particularly

32

00:01:03,430 --> 00:01:03,199

theoretical physicists don't listen to

33

00:01:04,789 --> 00:01:03,440

you

34

00:01:08,870 --> 00:01:04,799

what's going on why aren't these ideas

35

00:01:15,990 --> 00:01:13,190

well um i'm primarily a biologist so

36

00:01:18,870 --> 00:01:16,000

i mean i i did the question be better

37

00:01:21,910 --> 00:01:18,880

directed to biologists and physicists

38

00:01:24,230 --> 00:01:21,920

um well the fact is that what i'm

39

00:01:27,030 --> 00:01:24,240

putting forward are views which are

40

00:01:28,950 --> 00:01:27,040

considered by some to be heretical i'm

41

00:01:31,030 --> 00:01:28,960

trying to

42

00:01:32,550 --> 00:01:31,040

find models and ways of doing science

43

00:01:36,069 --> 00:01:32,560

that go beyond

44

00:01:38,149 --> 00:01:36,079

the dogmas of mechanistic materialism

45

00:01:39,749 --> 00:01:38,159

now that is inevitably controversial

46

00:01:41,910 --> 00:01:39,759

because that is still the dominant

47

00:01:43,670 --> 00:01:41,920

orthodoxy or paradigm

48

00:01:45,990 --> 00:01:43,680

and there are a lot of people who have a

49

00:01:48,710 --> 00:01:46,000

heavy investment in it

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00:01:50,469 --> 00:01:48,720

particularly militant atheists i mean

51
00:01:51,590 --> 00:01:50,479
this is their worldview their belief

52
00:01:54,550 --> 00:01:51,600
system

53
00:01:56,550 --> 00:01:54,560
and i'm trying to show the way to a

54
00:01:58,149 --> 00:01:56,560
broader and more inclusive

55
00:01:59,830 --> 00:01:58,159
and i think more interesting kind of

56
00:02:02,469 --> 00:01:59,840
science which is

57
00:02:04,550 --> 00:02:02,479
the point of my relatively recent book

58
00:02:05,910 --> 00:02:04,560
sounds set free which has just come out

59
00:02:10,389 --> 00:02:05,920
in a new edition in britain

60
00:02:14,710 --> 00:02:13,110
so it's not true that everyone has a

61
00:02:16,470 --> 00:02:14,720
problem with it i have a lot of friends

62
00:02:17,430 --> 00:02:16,480
within the scientific world it's just

63
00:02:18,949 --> 00:02:17,440

that

64

00:02:20,790 --> 00:02:18,959

most of them keep their heads beneath

65

00:02:23,030 --> 00:02:20,800

the parapet because

66

00:02:24,949 --> 00:02:23,040

anyone who advocates on controversial

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00:02:26,869 --> 00:02:24,959

views in science is worried about

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00:02:28,869 --> 00:02:26,879

endangering their career losing their

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00:02:31,350 --> 00:02:28,879

grants etc etc

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00:02:32,630 --> 00:02:31,360

um but among in the scientific world

71

00:02:34,869 --> 00:02:32,640

there are lots of people

72

00:02:36,150 --> 00:02:34,879

who have much more open-minded views

73

00:02:39,190 --> 00:02:36,160

than you'd gather from

74

00:02:42,390 --> 00:02:39,200

listening to science popularizers

75

00:02:45,190 --> 00:02:42,400

there is a sense that this paradigm of

76

00:02:46,150 --> 00:02:45,200

this mechanism the universe as a

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00:02:50,070 --> 00:02:46,160

mechanism

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00:02:53,270 --> 00:02:50,080

this materialism is a cultural phenomena

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00:02:55,910 --> 00:02:53,280

uh sort of a scientific paradigm

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00:02:57,270 --> 00:02:55,920

that will have maybe an expiration date

81

00:03:00,949 --> 00:02:57,280

something along the lines of

82

00:03:04,070 --> 00:03:00,959

thomas kuhn scientific uh revolutions

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00:03:05,030 --> 00:03:04,080

and that we are maybe seeing an era that

84

00:03:07,270 --> 00:03:05,040

might come to an

85

00:03:09,910 --> 00:03:07,280

end i'm curious what you think will

86

00:03:11,750 --> 00:03:09,920

cause that era to come to an end

87

00:03:12,949 --> 00:03:11,760

and if we could throughout the interview

88

00:03:16,390 --> 00:03:12,959

could we touch on

89

00:03:19,750 --> 00:03:16,400

uh whether or not this universal view

90

00:03:22,470 --> 00:03:19,760

of the universe as a machine

91

00:03:23,190 --> 00:03:22,480

is historically grounded what was the

92

00:03:26,070 --> 00:03:23,200

view

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00:03:28,070 --> 00:03:26,080

that peoples had before this sort of

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00:03:30,390 --> 00:03:28,080

mechanism to the universe

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00:03:32,390 --> 00:03:30,400

that's mechanistic view of the universe

96

00:03:33,990 --> 00:03:32,400

well i mean the the history of science

97

00:03:37,509 --> 00:03:34,000

the subject i've studied and

98

00:03:40,710 --> 00:03:37,519

it helps a lot in thinking about this um

99

00:03:42,550 --> 00:03:40,720

is it shows that in medieval europe i

100

00:03:43,509 --> 00:03:42,560

mean science grew up in europe so we're

101
00:03:45,110 --> 00:03:43,519
looking primarily

102
00:03:46,949 --> 00:03:45,120
european history if we're looking at

103
00:03:49,190 --> 00:03:46,959
modern science and of course

104
00:03:51,670 --> 00:03:49,200
it grew up in the islamic world and in

105
00:03:54,470 --> 00:03:51,680
india and china in different ways but

106
00:03:56,470 --> 00:03:54,480
science as we now know it grew out of

107
00:03:59,509 --> 00:03:56,480
its european roots

108
00:04:01,350 --> 00:03:59,519
primarily and in medieval europe the

109
00:04:04,630 --> 00:04:01,360
general world view was a kind of

110
00:04:07,190 --> 00:04:04,640
christian animism the nature was alive

111
00:04:07,750 --> 00:04:07,200
living organisms were truly alive the

112
00:04:12,789 --> 00:04:07,760
earth

113
00:04:14,789 --> 00:04:12,799

stars and the planets were intelligences

114

00:04:17,749 --> 00:04:14,799

there was living beings with souls and

115

00:04:21,110 --> 00:04:17,759

intelligence the whole cosmos had a soul

116

00:04:23,510 --> 00:04:21,120

and animals and plants had souls um

117

00:04:25,670 --> 00:04:23,520

even magnets had souls that we we lived

118

00:04:29,510 --> 00:04:25,680

in an animated world

119

00:04:31,189 --> 00:04:29,520

um and the reason we call animals

120

00:04:32,629 --> 00:04:31,199

animals is because the latin word for

121

00:04:35,990 --> 00:04:32,639

soul is anima

122

00:04:37,990 --> 00:04:36,000

um they're beings with souls so what the

123

00:04:38,790 --> 00:04:38,000

mechanistic revolution in the 17th

124

00:04:40,950 --> 00:04:38,800

century

125

00:04:43,590 --> 00:04:40,960

did was to say no this is completely

126

00:04:46,629 --> 00:04:43,600

wrong this is just superstitious stuff

127

00:04:48,870 --> 00:04:46,639

the world isn't made up of living beings

128

00:04:50,950 --> 00:04:48,880

it's made up of inanimate matter that

129

00:04:53,110 --> 00:04:50,960

works in a machine-like way

130

00:04:54,950 --> 00:04:53,120

and the stars and planets are not alive

131

00:04:56,710 --> 00:04:54,960

in any way they're just inanimate and

132

00:04:57,749 --> 00:04:56,720

animals and plants are just machines and

133

00:05:00,870 --> 00:04:57,759

so are we

134

00:05:03,270 --> 00:05:00,880

that was the mechanistic revolution and

135

00:05:04,469 --> 00:05:03,280

that has given us modern science as we

136

00:05:06,310 --> 00:05:04,479

know it

137

00:05:08,390 --> 00:05:06,320

but this was built in from the beginning

138

00:05:10,550 --> 00:05:08,400

the idea that nature is dead inanimate

139

00:05:13,270 --> 00:05:10,560

in the chemical

140

00:05:14,550 --> 00:05:13,280

so you mentioned this idea of the

141

00:05:16,790 --> 00:05:14,560

superstitious

142

00:05:18,230 --> 00:05:16,800

in the western european context there's

143

00:05:21,189 --> 00:05:18,240

this divide

144

00:05:21,749 --> 00:05:21,199

between the supernatural and the natural

145

00:05:24,150 --> 00:05:21,759

and this

146

00:05:26,230 --> 00:05:24,160

divide sort of comes along with the

147

00:05:28,469 --> 00:05:26,240

evolution of western theology

148

00:05:29,830 --> 00:05:28,479

but there's a professor by the name of

149

00:05:32,870 --> 00:05:29,840

howell who writes

150

00:05:34,629 --> 00:05:32,880

on the supernatural as understood by

151

00:05:37,670 --> 00:05:34,639

members of the ojibwe

152

00:05:38,390 --> 00:05:37,680

a native group in north america and he

153

00:05:41,830 --> 00:05:38,400

writes

154

00:05:42,629 --> 00:05:41,840

that the appellation of supernatural

155

00:05:45,670 --> 00:05:42,639

persons

156

00:05:48,390 --> 00:05:45,680

if applied to characters in the midst of

157

00:05:49,110 --> 00:05:48,400

northern ojibwe people is a complete is

158

00:05:51,590 --> 00:05:49,120

completely

159

00:05:52,950 --> 00:05:51,600

misleading if no other reason than the

160

00:05:54,510 --> 00:05:52,960

fact that the concept of the

161

00:05:57,350 --> 00:05:54,520

supernatural

162

00:05:59,029 --> 00:05:57,360

presupposes the concept of the natural

163

00:06:02,950 --> 00:05:59,039

the latter is not present

164

00:06:04,950 --> 00:06:02,960

in ojibwe thought because an

165

00:06:06,150 --> 00:06:04,960

understanding of the supernatural is

166

00:06:08,870 --> 00:06:06,160

predicated on an

167

00:06:10,950 --> 00:06:08,880

understanding of the natural the very

168

00:06:12,950 --> 00:06:10,960

very ancient hellenic concept

169

00:06:14,150 --> 00:06:12,960

more primitive societies if you would

170

00:06:17,189 --> 00:06:14,160

primitive in quotes

171

00:06:20,390 --> 00:06:17,199

lack this natural supernatural divide

172

00:06:21,830 --> 00:06:20,400

considering that our science grew out of

173

00:06:24,309 --> 00:06:21,840

this divide between

174

00:06:26,870 --> 00:06:24,319

oh here's the natural where you know we

175

00:06:28,550 --> 00:06:26,880

have turnips and mycorrhizal fungi

176

00:06:30,469 --> 00:06:28,560

and forests and things and then there's

177

00:06:33,590 --> 00:06:30,479

the supernatural

178

00:06:35,830 --> 00:06:33,600

demons angels consciousness

179

00:06:36,629 --> 00:06:35,840

do you feel that this is a sort of false

180

00:06:39,830 --> 00:06:36,639

divide

181

00:06:42,790 --> 00:06:39,840

and that the time will come where this

182

00:06:44,790 --> 00:06:42,800

natural and supernatural will collapse

183

00:06:46,870 --> 00:06:44,800

the material in the conscious

184

00:06:47,990 --> 00:06:46,880

oh absolutely i think it's a false

185

00:06:50,790 --> 00:06:48,000

divide and i think we're

186

00:06:51,430 --> 00:06:50,800

already coming out of it the divide

187

00:06:54,469 --> 00:06:51,440

occurred

188

00:06:57,189 --> 00:06:54,479

essentially in the 17th century and

189

00:06:57,589 --> 00:06:57,199

before that in the middle ages in europe

190

00:07:02,309 --> 00:06:57,599

the

191

00:07:05,029 --> 00:07:02,319

example in saint thomas aquinas

192

00:07:07,189 --> 00:07:05,039

uh was didn't have the supernatural as a

193

00:07:08,950 --> 00:07:07,199

separate category god was in nature the

194

00:07:09,990 --> 00:07:08,960

whole of nature was animated by the

195

00:07:12,870 --> 00:07:10,000

divine

196

00:07:15,270 --> 00:07:12,880

and the whole of nature was prepa was

197

00:07:15,589 --> 00:07:15,280

motivated to move towards the divine it

198

00:07:24,710 --> 00:07:15,599

was

199

00:07:26,790 --> 00:07:24,720

but the mechanistic theory of descartes

200

00:07:27,270 --> 00:07:26,800

created that division quite explicitly i

201
00:07:30,870 --> 00:07:27,280
mean that's

202
00:07:32,550 --> 00:07:30,880
why it's called cartesian dualism and

203
00:07:34,550 --> 00:07:32,560
what descartes said is the whole of

204
00:07:35,749 --> 00:07:34,560
nature is a mechanical machine-like

205
00:07:38,550 --> 00:07:35,759
inanimate

206
00:07:39,589 --> 00:07:38,560
but there's also consciousness and

207
00:07:42,070 --> 00:07:39,599
consciousness

208
00:07:43,029 --> 00:07:42,080
consists who has three categories god

209
00:07:46,070 --> 00:07:43,039
angels

210
00:07:47,589 --> 00:07:46,080
and demons and things and spirits and

211
00:07:51,510 --> 00:07:47,599
human minds

212
00:07:53,909 --> 00:07:51,520
things in the natural world

213
00:07:55,990 --> 00:07:53,919

mysteriously interacting with brains he

214

00:07:58,790 --> 00:07:56,000

thought in the pineal gland

215

00:08:00,869 --> 00:07:58,800

and that all of the rest guard angels

216

00:08:03,350 --> 00:08:00,879

and demons and spirits are supernatural

217

00:08:06,150 --> 00:08:03,360

they're outside or beyond nature

218

00:08:06,710 --> 00:08:06,160

so that created this dualistic split

219

00:08:08,790 --> 00:08:06,720

which

220

00:08:10,710 --> 00:08:08,800

has underlying western thought since the

221

00:08:14,070 --> 00:08:10,720

17th century

222

00:08:16,710 --> 00:08:14,080

and in the 19th century um

223

00:08:19,189 --> 00:08:16,720

the the there was a kind of rebellion

224

00:08:21,749 --> 00:08:19,199

against it from two sides by idealist

225

00:08:23,990 --> 00:08:21,759

philosophers on the one hand who said no

226

00:08:25,830 --> 00:08:24,000

we don't want two things consciousness

227

00:08:27,029 --> 00:08:25,840

and matter we just want one thing

228

00:08:29,430 --> 00:08:27,039

consciousness

229

00:08:31,749 --> 00:08:29,440

and matters sort of dumb down mind

230

00:08:33,430 --> 00:08:31,759

that's the idealist philosophy

231

00:08:35,110 --> 00:08:33,440

and but the other side became

232

00:08:37,589 --> 00:08:35,120

predominant materialists

233

00:08:38,310 --> 00:08:37,599

who said there aren't two things uh

234

00:08:40,230 --> 00:08:38,320

matter

235

00:08:42,469 --> 00:08:40,240

and consciousness is only one thing

236

00:08:45,030 --> 00:08:42,479

matter that's what materialism is the

237

00:08:47,269 --> 00:08:45,040

doctrine that matters the only reality

238

00:08:49,990 --> 00:08:47,279

therefore god and angels and spear

239

00:08:52,150 --> 00:08:50,000

spirits and demons simply don't exist as

240

00:08:54,949 --> 00:08:52,160

whole supernatural realm is pure mumbo

241

00:08:58,550 --> 00:08:54,959

jumbo imagination and superstition

242

00:09:00,870 --> 00:08:58,560

and um the only thing left of that realm

243

00:09:03,430 --> 00:09:00,880

uh in this view of nature was the human

244

00:09:05,990 --> 00:09:03,440

mind then the human mind has to become

245

00:09:08,389 --> 00:09:06,000

simply an emergent phenomenon from human

246

00:09:09,829 --> 00:09:08,399

brains created by physical processes

247

00:09:13,030 --> 00:09:09,839

inside the head

248

00:09:14,949 --> 00:09:13,040

and so materialism creates

249

00:09:16,710 --> 00:09:14,959

it has a view of the universe as being

250

00:09:20,230 --> 00:09:16,720

completely non-conscious

251
00:09:21,910 --> 00:09:20,240
and mechanical and the very existence of

252
00:09:23,910 --> 00:09:21,920
human consciousness is a terrible

253
00:09:25,990 --> 00:09:23,920
embarrassment for materialism we ought

254
00:09:28,070 --> 00:09:26,000
not to be conscious and in fact

255
00:09:29,990 --> 00:09:28,080
materialist philosophers have spent at

256
00:09:31,750 --> 00:09:30,000
the later part of the 20th century and

257
00:09:33,910 --> 00:09:31,760
they're still trying to do it now

258
00:09:34,949 --> 00:09:33,920
trying to prove that we're not conscious

259
00:09:36,870 --> 00:09:34,959
or that

260
00:09:38,150 --> 00:09:36,880
if we are the consciousness doesn't

261
00:09:40,310 --> 00:09:38,160
actually do anything

262
00:09:42,070 --> 00:09:40,320
uh we don't really have free will it's

263
00:09:43,750 --> 00:09:42,080

just a kind of epic phenomenon

264

00:09:46,389 --> 00:09:43,760

or another way of talking about the

265

00:09:49,110 --> 00:09:46,399

physical activity of the brain

266

00:09:50,870 --> 00:09:49,120

so i think that this world view which is

267

00:09:52,710 --> 00:09:50,880

what we've all been brought up with

268

00:09:54,630 --> 00:09:52,720

and which we've exported to the rest of

269

00:09:55,990 --> 00:09:54,640

the world the same worldview is taught

270

00:09:59,269 --> 00:09:56,000

in schools in china

271

00:10:02,150 --> 00:09:59,279

india south america africa everywhere

272

00:10:05,509 --> 00:10:02,160

nowadays um because of the prestige and

273

00:10:07,990 --> 00:10:05,519

the successes of science and technology

274

00:10:10,069 --> 00:10:08,000

um i think we're emerging out of it and

275

00:10:12,150 --> 00:10:10,079

that's the whole point of my book sunset

276

00:10:13,990 --> 00:10:12,160

free i take the ten dogmas of

277

00:10:17,990 --> 00:10:14,000

contemporary science

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00:10:19,590 --> 00:10:18,000

and show how actually science itself is

279

00:10:21,509 --> 00:10:19,600

growing out of them and showing us the

280

00:10:24,630 --> 00:10:21,519

way out of them

281

00:10:26,710 --> 00:10:24,640

and the for example the dogma that

282

00:10:28,710 --> 00:10:26,720

our minds are nothing but our brains the

283

00:10:31,030 --> 00:10:28,720

activity of our brains

284

00:10:33,110 --> 00:10:31,040

um that's being challenged in several

285

00:10:36,790 --> 00:10:33,120

ways even today within

286

00:10:39,509 --> 00:10:36,800

the academic and scientific world partly

287

00:10:41,110 --> 00:10:39,519

through the implausibility of the

288

00:10:43,190 --> 00:10:41,120

materialist worldview

289

00:10:44,870 --> 00:10:43,200

partly through the intractability of the

290

00:10:47,190 --> 00:10:44,880

hard problem

291

00:10:50,389 --> 00:10:47,200

and what it's led to is the emergence of

292

00:10:52,230 --> 00:10:50,399

a new kind of pan psychism the idea that

293

00:10:54,069 --> 00:10:52,240

there's a difference of degree between

294

00:10:55,030 --> 00:10:54,079

our consciousness and the rest of nature

295

00:10:57,910 --> 00:10:55,040

not a kind

296

00:10:59,670 --> 00:10:57,920

that even electrons atoms and so on have

297

00:11:01,430 --> 00:10:59,680

some degree of consciousness

298

00:11:03,590 --> 00:11:01,440

and therefore consciousness can emerge

299

00:11:05,990 --> 00:11:03,600

in brains not from totally non-conscious

300

00:11:07,750 --> 00:11:06,000

matter but from less conscious matter

301
00:11:11,750 --> 00:11:07,760
and that's surprisingly popular at the

302
00:11:16,280 --> 00:11:13,750
do you have any opinion on daniel

303
00:11:17,509 --> 00:11:16,290
dennett's explaining consciousness book

304
00:11:19,350 --> 00:11:17,519
[Music]

305
00:11:21,590 --> 00:11:19,360
yes i mean obviously what he's trying to

306
00:11:23,030 --> 00:11:21,600
do is explain consciousness away

307
00:11:24,870 --> 00:11:23,040
his book's called consciousness

308
00:11:25,190 --> 00:11:24,880
explained but as many people have said

309
00:11:27,190 --> 00:11:25,200
it

310
00:11:28,389 --> 00:11:27,200
we better call consciousness explained

311
00:11:31,990 --> 00:11:28,399
away

312
00:11:35,990 --> 00:11:32,000
dennit is a um a true believing hardcore

313
00:11:38,550 --> 00:11:36,000

materialist um who um

314

00:11:41,350 --> 00:11:38,560

he makes it clear that his total

315

00:11:43,110 --> 00:11:41,360

opposition is to cartesian dualism

316

00:11:45,269 --> 00:11:43,120

which i just mentioned the idea there's

317

00:11:47,190 --> 00:11:45,279

a supernatural realm out there

318

00:11:50,470 --> 00:11:47,200

but he thinks the only alternative to

319

00:11:52,949 --> 00:11:50,480

that is hardcore materialism

320

00:11:53,750 --> 00:11:52,959

and uh i think he's wrong i think there

321

00:11:55,750 --> 00:11:53,760

are

322

00:11:57,430 --> 00:11:55,760

several alternatives including pan

323

00:12:00,550 --> 00:11:57,440

psychism

324

00:12:03,110 --> 00:12:00,560

um but he then goes to enormous lengths

325

00:12:06,710 --> 00:12:03,120

to try and explain consciousness away

326

00:12:10,150 --> 00:12:06,720

um that he wants to get rid of

327

00:12:11,829 --> 00:12:10,160

any kind of magic or the problem is of

328

00:12:13,030 --> 00:12:11,839

course that

329

00:12:15,269 --> 00:12:13,040

you know it's very hard to be a

330

00:12:18,550 --> 00:12:15,279

consistent materialist if you believe

331

00:12:19,430 --> 00:12:18,560

that you're a machine yourself from your

332

00:12:23,350 --> 00:12:19,440

mind's nostril

333

00:12:25,430 --> 00:12:23,360

about nine but complex computer then

334

00:12:26,870 --> 00:12:25,440

your belief in materialism is just

335

00:12:27,670 --> 00:12:26,880

something that your mind makes you

336

00:12:30,069 --> 00:12:27,680

believe your

337

00:12:30,870 --> 00:12:30,079

your brain makes you believe uh

338

00:12:32,870 --> 00:12:30,880

materialists

339

00:12:34,389 --> 00:12:32,880

i'd like to think they're an exception

340

00:12:36,389 --> 00:12:34,399

to their in philosophy

341

00:12:38,790 --> 00:12:36,399

that they adopt their own views on the

342

00:12:40,710 --> 00:12:38,800

basis of reasons science and evidence

343

00:12:42,389 --> 00:12:40,720

but actually their own philosophy says

344

00:12:44,230 --> 00:12:42,399

that they have no choice in doing that

345

00:12:45,670 --> 00:12:44,240

they're simply programmed to believe in

346

00:12:49,430 --> 00:12:45,680

materialism

347

00:12:50,470 --> 00:12:49,440

um a meme or a meme complex has captured

348

00:12:53,030 --> 00:12:50,480

their brain

349

00:12:54,470 --> 00:12:53,040

and forces them to believe in it um and

350

00:12:56,470 --> 00:12:54,480

they're not aware that it's

351
00:12:58,150 --> 00:12:56,480
um they're being compelled to believe in

352
00:12:59,990 --> 00:12:58,160
it

353
00:13:02,310 --> 00:13:00,000
so because their consciousness is a kind

354
00:13:02,629 --> 00:13:02,320
of illusion anyway i think the problem

355
00:13:04,150 --> 00:13:02,639
with

356
00:13:05,990 --> 00:13:04,160
dennett and other materialist

357
00:13:10,870 --> 00:13:06,000
philosophers is that

358
00:13:15,509 --> 00:13:13,990
are you opposed to reason or do you see

359
00:13:16,790 --> 00:13:15,519
the limitations and reason first of all

360
00:13:19,990 --> 00:13:16,800
we'd have to define reason

361
00:13:21,670 --> 00:13:20,000
for the of audience

362
00:13:23,670 --> 00:13:21,680
i'm not opposed to reason i spent my

363
00:13:25,350 --> 00:13:23,680

whole career as a research scientist

364

00:13:26,310 --> 00:13:25,360

publishing papers in peer-reviewed

365

00:13:28,870 --> 00:13:26,320

journals and

366

00:13:29,910 --> 00:13:28,880

doing experiments and writing books

367

00:13:33,670 --> 00:13:29,920

which i hope

368

00:13:36,389 --> 00:13:33,680

are rational um well i think

369

00:13:38,069 --> 00:13:36,399

what reason is is simply a function of

370

00:13:40,470 --> 00:13:38,079

the human mind to do with

371

00:13:42,389 --> 00:13:40,480

looking at evidence um you know

372

00:13:43,910 --> 00:13:42,399

evaluating things in terms of

373

00:13:45,910 --> 00:13:43,920

probability and so forth

374

00:13:47,990 --> 00:13:45,920

i don't think it's some mysterious

375

00:13:51,269 --> 00:13:48,000

property with a capital are

376
00:13:53,030 --> 00:13:51,279
that makes us semi-divine and separate

377
00:13:57,189 --> 00:13:53,040
from the rest of nature

378
00:13:59,430 --> 00:13:57,199
um and you know there's so

379
00:14:01,269 --> 00:13:59,440
militant materialists go around saying

380
00:14:03,509 --> 00:14:01,279
they believe in science and reason i

381
00:14:05,910 --> 00:14:03,519
mean richard dawkins for example

382
00:14:07,590 --> 00:14:05,920
has the richard dawkins foundation for

383
00:14:10,870 --> 00:14:07,600
reason and science

384
00:14:14,949 --> 00:14:10,880
um but what they mean by reason

385
00:14:18,069 --> 00:14:14,959
is their world view

386
00:14:19,269 --> 00:14:18,079
and i find the best way of testing how

387
00:14:22,389 --> 00:14:19,279
serious they are about

388
00:14:24,870 --> 00:14:22,399

reason and science is to bring out the

389

00:14:27,269 --> 00:14:24,880

subject of telepathy for example

390

00:14:29,189 --> 00:14:27,279

um there's a lot of evidence for it

391

00:14:30,790 --> 00:14:29,199

there's lots of experiments that suggest

392

00:14:33,030 --> 00:14:30,800

it really happens

393

00:14:34,710 --> 00:14:33,040

it drives material is crazy because it

394

00:14:36,310 --> 00:14:34,720

doesn't fit their world view so they

395

00:14:38,870 --> 00:14:36,320

think it ought not to happen therefore

396

00:14:40,710 --> 00:14:38,880

all the evidence must be flawed

397

00:14:41,990 --> 00:14:40,720

but if you try and have a debate with a

398

00:14:45,509 --> 00:14:42,000

materialist about

399

00:14:48,790 --> 00:14:45,519

telepathy they just get angry um

400

00:14:51,590 --> 00:14:48,800

because they can't look at the evidence

401
00:14:53,110 --> 00:14:51,600
scientifically or reasonably um even

402
00:14:54,310 --> 00:14:53,120
though they claim to believe in reason

403
00:14:56,470 --> 00:14:54,320
and science which

404
00:14:58,310 --> 00:14:56,480
if you have any materialist friends this

405
00:15:00,069 --> 00:14:58,320
is a very good test

406
00:15:01,990 --> 00:15:00,079
bring up the subject of telepathy and

407
00:15:02,470 --> 00:15:02,000
see how reasonable and scientific they

408
00:15:06,230 --> 00:15:02,480
are

409
00:15:08,069 --> 00:15:06,240
certainly not very reasonable or

410
00:15:09,509 --> 00:15:08,079
scientific

411
00:15:11,350 --> 00:15:09,519
even though they claim to believe in

412
00:15:15,030 --> 00:15:11,360
reason with a capital r

413
00:15:17,829 --> 00:15:15,040

kind of slogan

414

00:15:19,189 --> 00:15:17,839

for a materialist world view rather than

415

00:15:24,069 --> 00:15:19,199

a genuine devotion

416

00:15:28,150 --> 00:15:26,949

you mentioned pan psychism does that

417

00:15:31,590 --> 00:15:28,160

have a role

418

00:15:34,949 --> 00:15:31,600

in relation to your belief in a

419

00:15:38,829 --> 00:15:34,959

a telepathy between organisms between

420

00:15:40,150 --> 00:15:38,839

life and to expound on this idea of

421

00:15:41,990 --> 00:15:40,160

panpsychism

422

00:15:44,949 --> 00:15:42,000

there's a certain sense that our

423

00:15:47,030 --> 00:15:44,959

conscious has an unconscious

424

00:15:48,629 --> 00:15:47,040

but i think if we go deeper is it fair

425

00:15:51,670 --> 00:15:48,639

to say that our unconscious has an

426
00:15:54,949 --> 00:15:51,680
unconscious and that this

427
00:15:57,030 --> 00:15:54,959
might act as a bedrock for the emergent

428
00:16:00,230 --> 00:15:57,040
consciousness that we that we see

429
00:16:01,350 --> 00:16:00,240
that is to say if we go further if we go

430
00:16:04,710 --> 00:16:01,360
down this iceberg

431
00:16:07,590 --> 00:16:04,720
is there a point where my unconscious is

432
00:16:09,590 --> 00:16:07,600
unconscious overlaps with with yours and

433
00:16:11,829 --> 00:16:09,600
that we are actually

434
00:16:12,949 --> 00:16:11,839
not really individuals but emergent

435
00:16:16,310 --> 00:16:12,959
beings from a

436
00:16:18,949 --> 00:16:16,320
sort of bedrock as the hindus would say

437
00:16:20,629 --> 00:16:18,959
um that we are both dreams in this

438
00:16:22,629 --> 00:16:20,639

larger dream of vishnu

439

00:16:25,670 --> 00:16:22,639

or as crucial might say that we are

440

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

within the mind of god

441

00:16:28,949 --> 00:16:28,000

well i think that's ultimately the case

442

00:16:31,990 --> 00:16:28,959

yes

443

00:16:32,629 --> 00:16:32,000

um and i think that the idea that our

444

00:16:34,870 --> 00:16:32,639

own

445

00:16:35,990 --> 00:16:34,880

personal unconscious is part of a larger

446

00:16:37,910 --> 00:16:36,000

unconscious is

447

00:16:40,150 --> 00:16:37,920

i mean after all quite well known idea i

448

00:16:42,150 --> 00:16:40,160

mean this is the basis of jung's idea of

449

00:16:45,829 --> 00:16:42,160

the collective unconscious

450

00:16:48,629 --> 00:16:45,839

and jung the psychologist cj

451

00:16:50,550 --> 00:16:48,639

young had this idea that we all draw

452

00:16:51,189 --> 00:16:50,560

upon this collective unconscious which

453

00:16:53,509 --> 00:16:51,199

is a

454

00:16:54,949 --> 00:16:53,519

kind of collective memory a collective

455

00:16:57,430 --> 00:16:54,959

human memory

456

00:16:59,749 --> 00:16:57,440

and this underlies our dreams the

457

00:17:01,509 --> 00:16:59,759

archetypal patterns we experience in our

458

00:17:04,549 --> 00:17:01,519

lives and so forth

459

00:17:06,789 --> 00:17:04,559

um and this is very similar to my own

460

00:17:07,590 --> 00:17:06,799

ideas about morphic resonance i mean my

461

00:17:10,710 --> 00:17:07,600

own

462

00:17:12,710 --> 00:17:10,720

main hypothesis about memory

463

00:17:13,990 --> 00:17:12,720

is that it works by a kind of resonance

464

00:17:16,949 --> 00:17:14,000

from the past

465

00:17:18,870 --> 00:17:16,959

morphic resonance i call it um which

466

00:17:21,270 --> 00:17:18,880

means that each species has a kind of

467

00:17:24,390 --> 00:17:21,280

collective memory not just humans

468

00:17:24,870 --> 00:17:24,400

um all have a collective memory and most

469

00:17:27,990 --> 00:17:24,880

of our

470

00:17:30,789 --> 00:17:28,000

habits um are unconscious i mean

471

00:17:32,390 --> 00:17:30,799

nature but the general theory that i'm

472

00:17:34,230 --> 00:17:32,400

putting forward is that the so-called

473

00:17:35,430 --> 00:17:34,240

laws of nature are more like habits the

474

00:17:39,029 --> 00:17:35,440

whole of the universe

475

00:17:41,590 --> 00:17:39,039

has a kind of memory um and there's

476

00:17:43,590 --> 00:17:41,600

the habits of nature underlie all the

477

00:17:45,990 --> 00:17:43,600

regularities within the physical

478

00:17:48,870 --> 00:17:46,000

and chemical and biological and

479

00:17:51,190 --> 00:17:48,880

psychological realms

480

00:17:52,549 --> 00:17:51,200

they're all habitual and habits are

481

00:17:55,669 --> 00:17:52,559

generally unconscious

482

00:17:57,750 --> 00:17:55,679

in us as well therefore the role of

483

00:18:00,150 --> 00:17:57,760

consciousness

484

00:18:01,830 --> 00:18:00,160

is always taking place against the

485

00:18:04,710 --> 00:18:01,840

background of habits and

486

00:18:06,390 --> 00:18:04,720

unconscious habits and collective memory

487

00:18:09,510 --> 00:18:06,400

that's the view that i've

488

00:18:12,230 --> 00:18:09,520

that i myself adopt so

489

00:18:12,950 --> 00:18:12,240

do we have free will i understand what

490

00:18:15,190 --> 00:18:12,960

you're saying

491

00:18:17,270 --> 00:18:15,200

implies that we're influenced by

492

00:18:18,390 --> 00:18:17,280

previous arrangements like matter has

493

00:18:20,630 --> 00:18:18,400

been arranged in a certain

494

00:18:22,470 --> 00:18:20,640

conglomeration i think that's lee

495

00:18:24,310 --> 00:18:22,480

smolin's principle of

496

00:18:25,669 --> 00:18:24,320

precedence which reminds me of the

497

00:18:27,990 --> 00:18:25,679

morphic resonance theory

498

00:18:29,830 --> 00:18:28,000

just in physics form is there room for

499

00:18:31,270 --> 00:18:29,840

free will do you personally believe in

500

00:18:33,430 --> 00:18:31,280

free will

501
00:18:34,630 --> 00:18:33,440
oh of course i think everybody does i

502
00:18:36,870 --> 00:18:34,640
don't i mean there are people who

503
00:18:38,789 --> 00:18:36,880
pretend they don't or argue in seminar

504
00:18:40,870 --> 00:18:38,799
rooms that it doesn't exist

505
00:18:42,710 --> 00:18:40,880
but i haven't met anyone who actually

506
00:18:44,870 --> 00:18:42,720
really believes that they're an

507
00:18:46,870 --> 00:18:44,880
automaton with no free choice

508
00:18:49,029 --> 00:18:46,880
and our entire legal and educational

509
00:18:51,110 --> 00:18:49,039
system is based on belief in free will

510
00:18:52,470 --> 00:18:51,120
if your brain makes you do it and you

511
00:18:54,630 --> 00:18:52,480
have no free will then

512
00:18:56,150 --> 00:18:54,640
that would be a perfect defense in any

513
00:18:59,190 --> 00:18:56,160

law court

514

00:19:01,270 --> 00:18:59,200

for being convicted of any crime um

515

00:19:02,630 --> 00:19:01,280

so i think everyone believes in it and i

516

00:19:05,029 --> 00:19:02,640

think rightly so

517

00:19:06,870 --> 00:19:05,039

and of course we don't have infinite

518

00:19:08,630 --> 00:19:06,880

freedom of choice in all matters we're

519

00:19:10,710 --> 00:19:08,640

influenced by our environment our

520

00:19:11,669 --> 00:19:10,720

background our conditioning our habits

521

00:19:14,870 --> 00:19:11,679

our

522

00:19:18,470 --> 00:19:14,880

frameworks of thought like paradigms um

523

00:19:20,150 --> 00:19:18,480

we're influenced by all these habits but

524

00:19:21,750 --> 00:19:20,160

there's a certain measure of choice we

525

00:19:23,350 --> 00:19:21,760

have all of us

526

00:19:25,909 --> 00:19:23,360

i mean we all chose to be talking

527

00:19:28,230 --> 00:19:25,919

together right now i don't believe i was

528

00:19:30,150 --> 00:19:28,240

programmed by my genes or by anything

529

00:19:31,669 --> 00:19:30,160

else to be talking to kat and peter at

530

00:19:34,390 --> 00:19:31,679

this exact moment

531

00:19:36,310 --> 00:19:34,400

um and i don't suppose you'd be you you

532

00:19:39,270 --> 00:19:36,320

were programmed to do it either so i

533

00:19:41,029 --> 00:19:39,280

i personally i see it as a non-issue and

534

00:19:44,310 --> 00:19:41,039

a kind of artificial

535

00:19:46,070 --> 00:19:44,320

debate that i'm not very interested in

536

00:19:49,590 --> 00:19:46,080

so so how do you respond to the

537

00:19:51,110 --> 00:19:49,600

reductionist attitude of causation just

538

00:19:52,549 --> 00:19:51,120

why did you make the decision you made

539

00:19:53,750 --> 00:19:52,559

because your neurons did so and so and

540

00:19:55,510 --> 00:19:53,760

you just keep asking why

541

00:19:57,190 --> 00:19:55,520

why because because because until you

542

00:19:58,789 --> 00:19:57,200

get to some wall

543

00:20:00,390 --> 00:19:58,799

that you could not have possibly caused

544

00:20:01,909 --> 00:20:00,400

as your mother gave birth to you or the

545

00:20:03,669 --> 00:20:01,919

big bang initial conditions

546

00:20:05,750 --> 00:20:03,679

what what's your response to that line

547

00:20:07,510 --> 00:20:05,760

of argumentation

548

00:20:09,830 --> 00:20:07,520

well i think even reductionists would

549

00:20:12,390 --> 00:20:09,840

agree that chance plays a large role

550

00:20:14,549 --> 00:20:12,400

in what happens in nature i mean the

551
00:20:16,070 --> 00:20:14,559
neo-darwinian theory of evolution which

552
00:20:19,110 --> 00:20:16,080
is their preferred

553
00:20:22,390 --> 00:20:19,120
theory of evolution uh puts all the

554
00:20:24,149 --> 00:20:22,400
creativity ultimately in transmutations

555
00:20:25,830 --> 00:20:24,159
so none of them are saying that nature

556
00:20:28,630 --> 00:20:25,840
is totally determined

557
00:20:30,470 --> 00:20:28,640
so just sorry just to quickly interject

558
00:20:30,789 --> 00:20:30,480
i'm not talking about lap classes demon

559
00:20:32,950 --> 00:20:30,799
where

560
00:20:34,870 --> 00:20:32,960
it's completely fixed but but even if we

561
00:20:37,590 --> 00:20:34,880
allow for quantum fluctuations

562
00:20:38,710 --> 00:20:37,600
they the materialist might still say

563
00:20:40,310 --> 00:20:38,720

that

564

00:20:41,750 --> 00:20:40,320

the randomness is not dependent on you

565

00:20:43,669 --> 00:20:41,760

either so whether you're determined or

566

00:20:45,750 --> 00:20:43,679

it's random on top of determinism

567

00:20:47,990 --> 00:20:45,760

it's still not within your control so

568

00:20:49,909 --> 00:20:48,000

what's what would you say to that

569

00:20:53,830 --> 00:20:49,919

well then i'd say to them well how come

570

00:20:57,669 --> 00:20:55,270

do they what's the reason for them

571

00:20:59,190 --> 00:20:57,679

believing themselves turn the tables

572

00:21:00,789 --> 00:20:59,200

in this argument and say what's the

573

00:21:02,549 --> 00:21:00,799

reason if you're a materialist for you

574

00:21:05,430 --> 00:21:02,559

believing in materialism

575

00:21:06,310 --> 00:21:05,440

what's caused you to believe in that and

576
00:21:08,149 --> 00:21:06,320
they probably

577
00:21:10,470 --> 00:21:08,159
they'd say well you know they'd have to

578
00:21:13,510 --> 00:21:10,480
say trans events in the brain

579
00:21:15,190 --> 00:21:13,520
conditioning etc they probably say i've

580
00:21:17,750 --> 00:21:15,200
been convinced of it by

581
00:21:18,710 --> 00:21:17,760
evidence by reason by the scientific

582
00:21:21,350 --> 00:21:18,720
method

583
00:21:23,029 --> 00:21:21,360
i believe in reason and science and then

584
00:21:25,270 --> 00:21:23,039
you say well okay well can you explain

585
00:21:28,230 --> 00:21:25,280
those in terms of materialism

586
00:21:28,630 --> 00:21:28,240
um because they imply free choice they

587
00:21:31,510 --> 00:21:28,640
imply

588
00:21:32,630 --> 00:21:31,520

choosing a world view on the basis of

589

00:21:34,710 --> 00:21:32,640

evidence

590

00:21:36,149 --> 00:21:34,720

and that's why i was saying earlier i

591

00:21:37,190 --> 00:21:36,159

think the materialist position is

592

00:21:40,390 --> 00:21:37,200

self-refuting

593

00:21:42,870 --> 00:21:40,400

their own belief in materialism um

594

00:21:44,950 --> 00:21:42,880

depends on the assumption that they're

595

00:21:46,070 --> 00:21:44,960

free to choose on the basis of evidence

596

00:21:48,390 --> 00:21:46,080

and reason

597

00:21:50,390 --> 00:21:48,400

um and so if they're going to say

598

00:21:51,669 --> 00:21:50,400

everybody else's choices are totally

599

00:21:53,909 --> 00:21:51,679

conditioned by

600

00:21:55,750 --> 00:21:53,919

nerve impulses neurotransmitters and

601
00:21:59,190 --> 00:21:55,760
random events in the brain

602
00:22:01,029 --> 00:21:59,200
um then again uh there you're the in the

603
00:22:02,390 --> 00:22:01,039
end or at least quite quickly

604
00:22:05,669 --> 00:22:02,400
i think one will find that they're

605
00:22:09,909 --> 00:22:05,679
making an exception for themselves

606
00:22:13,190 --> 00:22:09,919
there is a um brilliant comic

607
00:22:14,070 --> 00:22:13,200
calvin hopps where calvin and hobbes are

608
00:22:16,630 --> 00:22:14,080
going through

609
00:22:18,390 --> 00:22:16,640
monster land and by their being led by a

610
00:22:22,870 --> 00:22:18,400
monster tour guide

611
00:22:24,950 --> 00:22:22,880
hops

612
00:22:26,149 --> 00:22:24,960
run across a monster who's repeating the

613
00:22:27,750 --> 00:22:26,159

number nine

614

00:22:29,430 --> 00:22:27,760

right so he's saying nine nine nine nine

615

00:22:31,430 --> 00:22:29,440

nine and

616

00:22:33,510 --> 00:22:31,440

calvin asks the monster tour guide what

617

00:22:35,190 --> 00:22:33,520

is he doing he says the monster tour

618

00:22:38,230 --> 00:22:35,200

guide says oh he's just repeating

619

00:22:41,669 --> 00:22:38,240

nine in a very deterministic sequential

620

00:22:43,750 --> 00:22:41,679

order so no they keep walking

621

00:22:45,110 --> 00:22:43,760

and they come across another monster and

622

00:22:46,870 --> 00:22:45,120

the monster is repeating

623

00:22:48,549 --> 00:22:46,880

nine nine nine nine nine nine nine

624

00:22:50,230 --> 00:22:48,559

same number over and over and over again

625

00:22:52,070 --> 00:22:50,240

just like the monster beforehand they're

626
00:22:55,190 --> 00:22:52,080
identical

627
00:22:57,350 --> 00:22:55,200
and he says okay is

628
00:22:58,230 --> 00:22:57,360
this monster uh what's this monster

629
00:23:00,470 --> 00:22:58,240
doing

630
00:23:01,350 --> 00:23:00,480
and the monster tour guide says oh he's

631
00:23:05,350 --> 00:23:01,360
saying numbers

632
00:23:08,230 --> 00:23:05,360
at random totally undeterministically

633
00:23:09,750 --> 00:23:08,240
they all happen to be nine there's a

634
00:23:10,549 --> 00:23:09,760
great sense that we couldn't tell

635
00:23:12,710 --> 00:23:10,559
whether or not an

636
00:23:13,909 --> 00:23:12,720
ordered sequence was truly chaotic or

637
00:23:15,510 --> 00:23:13,919
truly ordered

638
00:23:17,750 --> 00:23:15,520

and whether or not the phenomena of

639

00:23:18,470 --> 00:23:17,760

nature that we see in the conscious mind

640

00:23:21,830 --> 00:23:18,480

is order

641

00:23:23,190 --> 00:23:21,840

or some you know random pattern that

642

00:23:25,270 --> 00:23:23,200

seems to be ordered

643

00:23:26,230 --> 00:23:25,280

would you say that this applies to

644

00:23:28,710 --> 00:23:26,240

whatever you find

645

00:23:29,909 --> 00:23:28,720

as the bedrock of consciousness

646

00:23:31,029 --> 00:23:29,919

furthermore

647

00:23:33,110 --> 00:23:31,039

you mentioned how you don't believe

648

00:23:35,190 --> 00:23:33,120

consciousness is purely material

649

00:23:36,230 --> 00:23:35,200

and therefore explained away but at the

650

00:23:38,549 --> 00:23:36,240

same time too

651
00:23:40,310 --> 00:23:38,559
you recognize that the divide between

652
00:23:41,350 --> 00:23:40,320
sort of supernatural substance something

653
00:23:43,190 --> 00:23:41,360
closer to

654
00:23:45,269 --> 00:23:43,200
um sarge radical freedom that

655
00:23:46,950 --> 00:23:45,279
consciousness is this sort of free agent

656
00:23:48,710 --> 00:23:46,960
is isn't necessarily real because it

657
00:23:51,029 --> 00:23:48,720
still recognizes that divide

658
00:23:52,630 --> 00:23:51,039
what is the bedrock of consciousness if

659
00:23:54,870 --> 00:23:52,640
it's neither material nor

660
00:23:57,590 --> 00:23:54,880
this sort of uh substance that

661
00:24:00,630 --> 00:23:57,600
transcends all material

662
00:24:03,350 --> 00:24:00,640
and is it ordered or is it random or

663
00:24:05,510 --> 00:24:03,360

could we never tell

664

00:24:07,190 --> 00:24:05,520

well i think in the end it's a choice of

665

00:24:09,350 --> 00:24:07,200

world view isn't it and

666

00:24:11,669 --> 00:24:09,360

i think that the world views we have

667

00:24:14,950 --> 00:24:11,679

depend on our experience as well as on

668

00:24:15,669 --> 00:24:14,960

reason most people who have a religious

669

00:24:17,830 --> 00:24:15,679

world view

670

00:24:19,669 --> 00:24:17,840

i mean the great mystics in all

671

00:24:21,350 --> 00:24:19,679

religious traditions

672

00:24:22,870 --> 00:24:21,360

believe there's a form of consciousness

673

00:24:26,230 --> 00:24:22,880

beyond the human level

674

00:24:30,789 --> 00:24:26,240

of which our consciousness is a small

675

00:24:33,350 --> 00:24:30,799

part not on the basis of reason logic

676
00:24:35,510 --> 00:24:33,360
calculations or mathematics but on the

677
00:24:37,350 --> 00:24:35,520
basis of mystical experiences where they

678
00:24:38,950 --> 00:24:37,360
feel themselves to be part of a vastly

679
00:24:41,590 --> 00:24:38,960
greater consciousness

680
00:24:41,990 --> 00:24:41,600
and this is what the great indian rishis

681
00:24:43,990 --> 00:24:42,000
were

682
00:24:45,510 --> 00:24:44,000
experiencing in their retreats in the

683
00:24:47,350 --> 00:24:45,520
himalayas and still do

684
00:24:49,110 --> 00:24:47,360
and what the buddha experienced in his

685
00:24:51,909 --> 00:24:49,120
moment of enlightenment

686
00:24:53,590 --> 00:24:51,919
and the it's what the great christian

687
00:24:55,350 --> 00:24:53,600
mystics have experienced and what the

688
00:24:57,669 --> 00:24:55,360

sufi mystics experience

689

00:24:59,029 --> 00:24:57,679

it's it's in all traditions in shamanic

690

00:25:01,590 --> 00:24:59,039

traditions too

691

00:25:02,630 --> 00:25:01,600

people don't go to classrooms and learn

692

00:25:05,990 --> 00:25:02,640

about spirits

693

00:25:07,269 --> 00:25:06,000

they have experiences of experiencing

694

00:25:11,190 --> 00:25:07,279

forms of consciousness

695

00:25:13,029 --> 00:25:11,200

other than our own and ultimately over

696

00:25:15,029 --> 00:25:13,039

kind of ground of all consciousness

697

00:25:16,549 --> 00:25:15,039

itself which we can experience through

698

00:25:18,789 --> 00:25:16,559

mystical experience

699

00:25:20,390 --> 00:25:18,799

meditation and other spiritual practices

700

00:25:22,310 --> 00:25:20,400

can help us to

701
00:25:24,789 --> 00:25:22,320
more likely makes it more likely that

702
00:25:27,990 --> 00:25:24,799
we'll have these kinds of experiences

703
00:25:30,070 --> 00:25:28,000
these tell us if we listen to our and

704
00:25:31,750 --> 00:25:30,080
pay attention to our inexperience if we

705
00:25:33,590 --> 00:25:31,760
have these experiences

706
00:25:36,230 --> 00:25:33,600
there's a greater form of consciousness

707
00:25:39,510 --> 00:25:36,240
of which our end minds apart

708
00:25:41,029 --> 00:25:39,520
and anyone who has that world view

709
00:25:42,549 --> 00:25:41,039
which is the world view of all the

710
00:25:44,789 --> 00:25:42,559
world's religions

711
00:25:46,710 --> 00:25:44,799
and almost everyone who's got a kind of

712
00:25:47,909 --> 00:25:46,720
spiritual worldview takes the view that

713
00:25:51,269 --> 00:25:47,919

consciousness

714

00:25:53,110 --> 00:25:51,279

is underlies the universe and uh our own

715

00:25:55,110 --> 00:25:53,120

consciousness is part of that a kind of

716

00:25:56,390 --> 00:25:55,120

fractal version of that ultimate

717

00:25:58,870 --> 00:25:56,400

consciousness

718

00:25:59,669 --> 00:25:58,880

um then anyone who takes that view would

719

00:26:01,430 --> 00:25:59,679

see

720

00:26:03,430 --> 00:26:01,440

the universe in a different way from

721

00:26:04,230 --> 00:26:03,440

someone who starts from materialist

722

00:26:06,310 --> 00:26:04,240

assumption

723

00:26:07,909 --> 00:26:06,320

materialism after all isn't based on

724

00:26:10,149 --> 00:26:07,919

experiences and it's a purely

725

00:26:12,549 --> 00:26:10,159

intellectual theory

726
00:26:14,549 --> 00:26:12,559
that denies other forms of consciousness

727
00:26:16,710 --> 00:26:14,559
that's its first step his first move

728
00:26:18,070 --> 00:26:16,720
is to say by definition there are no

729
00:26:19,750 --> 00:26:18,080
forms of consciousness

730
00:26:21,269 --> 00:26:19,760
outside the universal within the

731
00:26:22,630 --> 00:26:21,279
universe everything is made of

732
00:26:25,350 --> 00:26:22,640
unconscious matter

733
00:26:27,029 --> 00:26:25,360
and so far as we are conscious then it's

734
00:26:29,830 --> 00:26:27,039
just a product of our brain

735
00:26:30,950 --> 00:26:29,840
material brain activity that's their

736
00:26:34,230 --> 00:26:30,960
worldview

737
00:26:36,070 --> 00:26:34,240
and um it's a belief system and people

738
00:26:38,789 --> 00:26:36,080

who are deeply embedded in it

739

00:26:39,190 --> 00:26:38,799

um are resistant to any evidence that

740

00:26:41,669 --> 00:26:39,200

would

741

00:26:43,430 --> 00:26:41,679

take them beyond it however when you

742

00:26:45,430 --> 00:26:43,440

look at the actual life history of

743

00:26:46,470 --> 00:26:45,440

people who used to be materialists who

744

00:26:49,909 --> 00:26:46,480

aren't anymore

745

00:26:52,070 --> 00:26:49,919

including me then um

746

00:26:53,909 --> 00:26:52,080

what you find is that what's persuaded

747

00:26:55,269 --> 00:26:53,919

people that consciousness is more

748

00:26:57,830 --> 00:26:55,279

pervasive than

749

00:26:59,830 --> 00:26:57,840

um just a product of the brain is

750

00:27:01,830 --> 00:26:59,840

personal experience

751
00:27:03,830 --> 00:27:01,840
mystical experiences for example in

752
00:27:05,750 --> 00:27:03,840
near-death experiences

753
00:27:09,029 --> 00:27:05,760
often for many modern people through

754
00:27:11,510 --> 00:27:09,039
psychedelic illuminations

755
00:27:13,750 --> 00:27:11,520
and through other experiences which

756
00:27:16,070 --> 00:27:13,760
convince them that their mind is more

757
00:27:17,350 --> 00:27:16,080
than just the activity of their brain

758
00:27:19,269 --> 00:27:17,360
the materialist would then

759
00:27:20,630 --> 00:27:19,279
counter by saying well that's just an

760
00:27:22,389 --> 00:27:20,640
illusion

761
00:27:23,909 --> 00:27:22,399
but then you have the situation what do

762
00:27:25,430 --> 00:27:23,919
you trust most do you trust an

763
00:27:27,750 --> 00:27:25,440

intellectual theory

764

00:27:29,750 --> 00:27:27,760

with a originating basically in its

765

00:27:31,990 --> 00:27:29,760

present form in the 19th century

766

00:27:32,870 --> 00:27:32,000

as an attempt to get rid of dualism

767

00:27:35,029 --> 00:27:32,880

religion

768

00:27:36,230 --> 00:27:35,039

and so forth as part of an atheistic

769

00:27:39,669 --> 00:27:36,240

crusade

770

00:27:42,070 --> 00:27:39,679

um a theory about science um or do you

771

00:27:44,630 --> 00:27:42,080

accept your own experience

772

00:27:45,909 --> 00:27:44,640

and personally i think it's more

773

00:27:50,230 --> 00:27:45,919

scientific to

774

00:27:52,149 --> 00:27:50,240

accept experience because the very word

775

00:27:53,909 --> 00:27:52,159

empirical on which science is based

776

00:27:57,029 --> 00:27:53,919

means to base it on

777

00:27:58,870 --> 00:27:57,039

experience and

778

00:28:00,630 --> 00:27:58,880

the greek word empirical means

779

00:28:03,430 --> 00:28:00,640

experience and in french

780

00:28:04,870 --> 00:28:03,440

the the word experience means experience

781

00:28:07,590 --> 00:28:04,880

and experiment

782

00:28:08,630 --> 00:28:07,600

um so it's not as if our own experience

783

00:28:10,870 --> 00:28:08,640

is irrelevant

784

00:28:13,430 --> 00:28:10,880

to understanding consciousness it is

785

00:28:15,190 --> 00:28:13,440

consciousness

786

00:28:16,549 --> 00:28:15,200

what the heck are psychedelics doing

787

00:28:19,269 --> 00:28:16,559

beside a neurochemical

788

00:28:19,909 --> 00:28:19,279

reaction how are they doing what they do

789

00:28:21,510 --> 00:28:19,919

and

790

00:28:22,870 --> 00:28:21,520

something else i've been interested in

791

00:28:24,389 --> 00:28:22,880

that's part one something else i've been

792

00:28:26,230 --> 00:28:24,399

interested in is

793

00:28:28,389 --> 00:28:26,240

the difference between lsd is

794

00:28:31,590 --> 00:28:28,399

psychedelic and then there's dmt it's

795

00:28:33,590 --> 00:28:31,600

almost like in a class of its own

796

00:28:35,750 --> 00:28:33,600

but they're both psychedelics what the

797

00:28:36,950 --> 00:28:35,760

heck is going on with dmt and is there

798

00:28:40,149 --> 00:28:36,960

any

799

00:28:42,310 --> 00:28:40,159

entities that people see

800

00:28:43,430 --> 00:28:42,320

so that is what are psychedelics doing

801
00:28:45,350 --> 00:28:43,440
besides the

802
00:28:48,549 --> 00:28:45,360
reaction in your brain and then

803
00:28:51,590 --> 00:28:48,559
furthermore what separates lsd from dmt

804
00:28:53,350 --> 00:28:51,600
well i think i think you know

805
00:28:55,430 --> 00:28:53,360
what the answer you give depends on your

806
00:28:56,789 --> 00:28:55,440
world view if you start from a

807
00:28:59,029 --> 00:28:56,799
materialist worldview

808
00:29:00,269 --> 00:28:59,039
then what they're doing is changing you

809
00:29:02,630 --> 00:29:00,279
know they're interfering with

810
00:29:03,990 --> 00:29:02,640
neurotransmitter receptor sites in the

811
00:29:07,269 --> 00:29:04,000
brain and so forth

812
00:29:10,950 --> 00:29:07,279
and leading to distorted brain activity

813
00:29:13,269 --> 00:29:10,960

and on fmri scans of people on lsd

814

00:29:14,070 --> 00:29:13,279

or on other psychedelics you can

815

00:29:16,310 --> 00:29:14,080

actually see

816

00:29:18,230 --> 00:29:16,320

differences in brain activity different

817

00:29:21,350 --> 00:29:18,240

areas connect up together

818

00:29:22,549 --> 00:29:21,360

all that for a materialist would be all

819

00:29:23,990 --> 00:29:22,559

you need to say

820

00:29:25,750 --> 00:29:24,000

and the conscious changes in

821

00:29:27,590 --> 00:29:25,760

consciousness they produce are just

822

00:29:28,549 --> 00:29:27,600

illusions like everything else produced

823

00:29:30,070 --> 00:29:28,559

by the brain

824

00:29:31,990 --> 00:29:30,080

they're just producing a different set

825

00:29:33,269 --> 00:29:32,000

of illusions and there are so

826

00:29:35,510 --> 00:29:33,279

there are materialists who take

827

00:29:37,909 --> 00:29:35,520

psychedelics who

828

00:29:39,590 --> 00:29:37,919

would explain their own experience in

829

00:29:43,590 --> 00:29:39,600

those terms

830

00:29:45,590 --> 00:29:43,600

however the experiences themselves

831

00:29:47,590 --> 00:29:45,600

don't seem like just something happening

832

00:29:49,990 --> 00:29:47,600

in the brain people feel they're getting

833

00:29:51,350 --> 00:29:50,000

true insight into some much more

834

00:29:54,310 --> 00:29:51,360

profound

835

00:29:56,310 --> 00:29:54,320

aspects of the mind that's why they're

836

00:29:56,950 --> 00:29:56,320

called psychedelics means psyche

837

00:29:59,750 --> 00:29:56,960

revealing

838

00:30:01,590 --> 00:29:59,760

mind revealers that's what they are

839

00:30:05,110 --> 00:30:01,600

aldous huxley coined the term

840

00:30:06,549 --> 00:30:05,120

to know to give this idea that what

841

00:30:08,789 --> 00:30:06,559

they're doing is revealing something

842

00:30:10,310 --> 00:30:08,799

about the nature of the mind

843

00:30:12,149 --> 00:30:10,320

one thing they do is shut down the

844

00:30:15,990 --> 00:30:12,159

default mode network

845

00:30:17,909 --> 00:30:16,000

the chattering mind that goes on uh in

846

00:30:20,230 --> 00:30:17,919

all the time when we're ruminating or

847

00:30:21,830 --> 00:30:20,240

worrying or being anxious or just

848

00:30:24,230 --> 00:30:21,840

thinking

849

00:30:25,590 --> 00:30:24,240

they shut down the default mode network

850

00:30:27,669 --> 00:30:25,600

so does meditation

851
00:30:29,909 --> 00:30:27,679
and you know when people are in deep

852
00:30:31,830 --> 00:30:29,919
meditative states that also shuts down

853
00:30:33,430 --> 00:30:31,840
the default mode network

854
00:30:35,750 --> 00:30:33,440
and when you shut down the chatter

855
00:30:39,029 --> 00:30:35,760
that's going on inside the mind

856
00:30:41,750 --> 00:30:39,039
then some people would argue i would

857
00:30:42,630 --> 00:30:41,760
argue that the mind then becomes more

858
00:30:46,230 --> 00:30:42,640
open

859
00:30:48,549 --> 00:30:46,240
to connecting with deeper or further

860
00:30:50,230 --> 00:30:48,559
or other forms of consciousness that are

861
00:30:51,669 --> 00:30:50,240
around us and

862
00:30:53,350 --> 00:30:51,679
of which we're apart but we're not

863
00:30:55,110 --> 00:30:53,360

normally aware because they're shut out

864

00:30:57,669 --> 00:30:55,120

by all this chatter

865

00:30:59,190 --> 00:30:57,679

just like you can see people in

866

00:31:00,950 --> 00:30:59,200

beautiful landscapes

867

00:31:02,389 --> 00:31:00,960

who just are completely unaware of the

868

00:31:04,070 --> 00:31:02,399

landscape because they're busy doing

869

00:31:04,870 --> 00:31:04,080

facebook on their smartphone or

870

00:31:06,950 --> 00:31:04,880

something their

871

00:31:09,669 --> 00:31:06,960

mind is completely occupied by this

872

00:31:11,830 --> 00:31:09,679

foreground of chatter and distraction

873

00:31:13,350 --> 00:31:11,840

and um some would argue that

874

00:31:15,350 --> 00:31:13,360

psychedelics shut out

875

00:31:16,470 --> 00:31:15,360

this distraction which other methods can

876

00:31:20,389 --> 00:31:16,480

do too like

877

00:31:24,710 --> 00:31:20,399

near-death experiences through trauma

878

00:31:27,909 --> 00:31:24,720

um and meditation and so forth

879

00:31:29,990 --> 00:31:27,919

other spiritual practices um and

880

00:31:31,669 --> 00:31:30,000

opens up to seeing things that are there

881

00:31:31,990 --> 00:31:31,679

all the time but which we don't normally

882

00:31:35,029 --> 00:31:32,000

see

883

00:31:36,950 --> 00:31:35,039

or experience so that's the world view

884

00:31:40,389 --> 00:31:36,960

of people who take a more spiritual

885

00:31:42,230 --> 00:31:40,399

interpretation of these but

886

00:31:44,149 --> 00:31:42,240

you know again you're going to come back

887

00:31:46,710 --> 00:31:44,159

to what people's world views are the way

888

00:31:49,430 --> 00:31:46,720

they interact

889

00:31:50,070 --> 00:31:49,440

how do you see it well i see it in terms

890

00:31:54,149 --> 00:31:50,080

of

891

00:31:58,070 --> 00:31:54,159

we can

892

00:32:04,310 --> 00:32:01,430

with visionary substances like um lsd

893

00:32:07,990 --> 00:32:04,320

and ayahuasca where many people have

894

00:32:12,310 --> 00:32:11,590

experiences um i think what they do is

895

00:32:14,789 --> 00:32:12,320

open up

896

00:32:16,310 --> 00:32:14,799

the realm of the imagination we have

897

00:32:18,950 --> 00:32:16,320

this imaginal realm

898

00:32:20,230 --> 00:32:18,960

anyway every night when we dream we're

899

00:32:23,190 --> 00:32:20,240

creating

900

00:32:24,070 --> 00:32:23,200

scenes that aren't the same as reality

901
00:32:28,389 --> 00:32:24,080
that are

902
00:32:30,230 --> 00:32:28,399
in some sense illusory um i think

903
00:32:31,509 --> 00:32:30,240
it's the same kind of faculty we have

904
00:32:34,230 --> 00:32:31,519
when we're dreaming

905
00:32:36,389 --> 00:32:34,240
but we enter it from the waking state in

906
00:32:39,669 --> 00:32:36,399
a much more vivid and enhanced state

907
00:32:42,870 --> 00:32:39,679
through certain kinds of psychedelics

908
00:32:45,269 --> 00:32:42,880
now i think dmt um

909
00:32:45,990 --> 00:32:45,279
is produces something for some people

910
00:32:47,909 --> 00:32:46,000
more like

911
00:32:49,430 --> 00:32:47,919
a near-death experience it takes you

912
00:32:52,789 --> 00:32:49,440
beyond that realm

913
00:32:56,710 --> 00:32:52,799

into some further realm of the mind or

914

00:32:59,110 --> 00:32:56,720

greater realm of consciousness um

915

00:33:01,350 --> 00:32:59,120

which is sort of beyond the realms that

916

00:33:02,070 --> 00:33:01,360

nsd would normally take you into which

917

00:33:04,230 --> 00:33:02,080

are more

918

00:33:05,430 --> 00:33:04,240

like enhanced versions of the dream

919

00:33:10,149 --> 00:33:05,440

state

920

00:33:13,990 --> 00:33:10,159

unity of consciousness

921

00:33:15,669 --> 00:33:14,000

um so anyway these are

922

00:33:17,029 --> 00:33:15,679

different psychedelics work differently

923

00:33:17,750 --> 00:33:17,039

for different people it's hard to

924

00:33:20,389 --> 00:33:17,760

generalize

925

00:33:22,310 --> 00:33:20,399

but from what i've learned from talking

926
00:33:22,950 --> 00:33:22,320
to people and reading about these things

927
00:33:26,230 --> 00:33:22,960
and

928
00:33:26,630 --> 00:33:26,240
partly through my own experience i think

929
00:33:29,669 --> 00:33:26,640
they're

930
00:33:31,990 --> 00:33:29,679
opening it up to these wider realms of

931
00:33:33,509 --> 00:33:32,000
experience and i think that actually one

932
00:33:34,789 --> 00:33:33,519
of the things that is causing the

933
00:33:36,870 --> 00:33:34,799
cultural shift

934
00:33:39,350 --> 00:33:36,880
that we're all talking about at the

935
00:33:40,470 --> 00:33:39,360
moment is psychedelics and if you read

936
00:33:42,789 --> 00:33:40,480
that book

937
00:33:44,230 --> 00:33:42,799
came out last year by michael pollan on

938
00:33:46,470 --> 00:33:44,240

psychedelics called

939

00:33:48,389 --> 00:33:46,480

how to change your mind it was a new

940

00:33:51,269 --> 00:33:48,399

york times bestseller for months

941

00:33:52,230 --> 00:33:51,279

you may well have seen it um michael

942

00:33:55,590 --> 00:33:52,240

pollan

943

00:33:58,310 --> 00:33:55,600

uh is a scientific journalist

944

00:34:00,149 --> 00:33:58,320

and his other books on things like food

945

00:34:03,269 --> 00:34:00,159

the omnivores dilemma

946

00:34:07,750 --> 00:34:03,279

his book on plants the botany of desire

947

00:34:09,510 --> 00:34:07,760

um it we did a book on the new science

948

00:34:12,069 --> 00:34:09,520

of psychedelics the research that's

949

00:34:14,869 --> 00:34:12,079

going on uh into the effects of

950

00:34:15,909 --> 00:34:14,879

psilocybin magic mushrooms in reducing

951
00:34:18,470 --> 00:34:15,919
depression

952
00:34:19,109 --> 00:34:18,480
uh in curing people who've got various

953
00:34:21,270 --> 00:34:19,119
mental

954
00:34:23,030 --> 00:34:21,280
illnesses these have therapeutic uses

955
00:34:25,750 --> 00:34:23,040
these psychedelics

956
00:34:27,669 --> 00:34:25,760
and as part of the book he says that he

957
00:34:29,109 --> 00:34:27,679
started the book as a materialist and

958
00:34:32,629 --> 00:34:29,119
atheist

959
00:34:34,790 --> 00:34:32,639
and um but he took psychedelics he felt

960
00:34:37,030 --> 00:34:34,800
as an investigative journalist he should

961
00:34:39,270 --> 00:34:37,040
experience what he's writing about

962
00:34:41,430 --> 00:34:39,280
and by the end of the book he's become a

963
00:34:43,109 --> 00:34:41,440

kind of pan psychist you know he thinks

964

00:34:45,349 --> 00:34:43,119

consciousness is much more widely

965

00:34:46,710 --> 00:34:45,359

distributed in nature it's not just in

966

00:34:48,710 --> 00:34:46,720

human brains it's in

967

00:34:50,950 --> 00:34:48,720

trees and plants and animals in the

968

00:34:52,950 --> 00:34:50,960

earth in the natural world

969

00:34:54,389 --> 00:34:52,960

and i think many people who've obtained

970

00:34:57,270 --> 00:34:54,399

psychedelics undergo

971

00:34:59,349 --> 00:34:57,280

that kind of conversion experience where

972

00:35:01,270 --> 00:34:59,359

they realize it's not all just about us

973

00:35:02,950 --> 00:35:01,280

and about human brains

974

00:35:05,430 --> 00:35:02,960

and that then leads to a wider

975

00:35:07,349 --> 00:35:05,440

questioning of the materialist worldview

976
00:35:11,190 --> 00:35:07,359
and the scientific paradigm

977
00:35:11,990 --> 00:35:11,200
so my point is that most people change

978
00:35:15,430 --> 00:35:12,000
their minds

979
00:35:16,550 --> 00:35:15,440
as he did through experience rather than

980
00:35:19,030 --> 00:35:16,560
through argument

981
00:35:21,109 --> 00:35:19,040
he then becomes much more interested in

982
00:35:22,310 --> 00:35:21,119
and psychist philosophy as a result of

983
00:35:24,550 --> 00:35:22,320
his own experience

984
00:35:26,710 --> 00:35:24,560
and his book after all is called how to

985
00:35:29,109 --> 00:35:26,720
change your mind

986
00:35:30,470 --> 00:35:29,119
there is a sense when you were talking

987
00:35:32,230 --> 00:35:30,480
about meditation

988
00:35:34,710 --> 00:35:32,240

and given that this is an ancient

989

00:35:37,829 --> 00:35:34,720

practice that

990

00:35:40,870 --> 00:35:37,839

sort of the practices we have in society

991

00:35:43,990 --> 00:35:40,880

that we do for reasons we know not of

992

00:35:46,630 --> 00:35:44,000

uh tend to be ahead of in some

993

00:35:47,430 --> 00:35:46,640

very serious sense the sciences so for

994

00:35:49,510 --> 00:35:47,440

example

995

00:35:50,870 --> 00:35:49,520

we would wash our hands before we

996

00:35:53,589 --> 00:35:50,880

understood germ theory

997

00:35:55,430 --> 00:35:53,599

we would uh take the bark off of the

998

00:35:56,950 --> 00:35:55,440

aspirin tree to cure our headaches

999

00:35:58,550 --> 00:35:56,960

before we understood its chemical

1000

00:36:01,910 --> 00:35:58,560

composition

1001

00:36:05,030 --> 00:36:01,920

these practices pre-date

1002

00:36:08,150 --> 00:36:05,040

many of the scientific reasons and uh

1003

00:36:09,990 --> 00:36:08,160

rationalizations as to why we do that

1004

00:36:12,950 --> 00:36:10,000

is it for this do you believe that for

1005

00:36:15,750 --> 00:36:12,960

this reason the mystic practitioner

1006

00:36:16,310 --> 00:36:15,760

will always be in some sense ahead of

1007

00:36:21,349 --> 00:36:16,320

the

1008

00:36:23,190 --> 00:36:21,359

yes i think when it comes to

1009

00:36:24,790 --> 00:36:23,200

understanding consciousness the people

1010

00:36:25,190 --> 00:36:24,800

who understand it best are the ones

1011

00:36:28,390 --> 00:36:25,200

who've

1012

00:36:29,910 --> 00:36:28,400

experienced it most systematically and

1013

00:36:31,829 --> 00:36:29,920

you know if you have a tibetan monk

1014

00:36:34,230 --> 00:36:31,839

that's spent you know hours a day

1015

00:36:35,990 --> 00:36:34,240

meditating for years

1016

00:36:38,069 --> 00:36:36,000

they're basically studying the nature of

1017

00:36:39,670 --> 00:36:38,079

their own minds from within

1018

00:36:41,430 --> 00:36:39,680

they're going to understand more about

1019

00:36:43,109 --> 00:36:41,440

it than someone who's done psychology

1020

00:36:45,829 --> 00:36:43,119

101 at a university

1021

00:36:46,390 --> 00:36:45,839

and as an undergraduate uh even though

1022

00:36:47,910 --> 00:36:46,400

the

1023

00:36:49,829 --> 00:36:47,920

graduate is going to emerge with a

1024

00:36:50,630 --> 00:36:49,839

degree that says they've got a degree in

1025

00:36:52,470 --> 00:36:50,640

psychology

1026

00:36:54,230 --> 00:36:52,480

the tibetan monk who may have no degree

1027

00:36:55,349 --> 00:36:54,240

is going to have a vastly deeper

1028

00:36:58,550 --> 00:36:55,359

understanding

1029

00:37:01,030 --> 00:36:58,560

how to measure

1030

00:37:02,550 --> 00:37:01,040

brain waves with encephalographs and the

1031

00:37:04,630 --> 00:37:02,560

technologies of

1032

00:37:05,990 --> 00:37:04,640

measuring nerve impulses and that kind

1033

00:37:07,910 --> 00:37:06,000

of thing but

1034

00:37:10,790 --> 00:37:07,920

in terms of the study of consciousness

1035

00:37:12,950 --> 00:37:10,800

itself then they've gone far further

1036

00:37:14,870 --> 00:37:12,960

um i mean what modern science is

1037

00:37:15,990 --> 00:37:14,880

mechanistic science is really good at

1038

00:37:18,630 --> 00:37:16,000

making machines

1039

00:37:20,710 --> 00:37:18,640

it's about its metaphor as machinery

1040

00:37:22,390 --> 00:37:20,720

it's really good at machines we're

1041

00:37:24,069 --> 00:37:22,400

talking through a computer now and

1042

00:37:26,790 --> 00:37:24,079

through the internet and

1043

00:37:28,790 --> 00:37:26,800

science is unrivaled no tibetan monk

1044

00:37:29,430 --> 00:37:28,800

could possibly come up with a smartphone

1045

00:37:33,190 --> 00:37:29,440

or

1046

00:37:35,190 --> 00:37:33,200

a you know an internet system you need

1047

00:37:36,550 --> 00:37:35,200

engineering science and technology for

1048

00:37:38,950 --> 00:37:36,560

that but when we come

1049

00:37:40,390 --> 00:37:38,960

to consciousness then i think they're

1050

00:37:42,390 --> 00:37:40,400

far in advance

1051
00:37:43,750 --> 00:37:42,400
of anything that's come out of any

1052
00:37:46,390 --> 00:37:43,760
science lab

1053
00:37:49,990 --> 00:37:46,400
that i've seen in terms of understanding

1054
00:37:51,829 --> 00:37:50,000
the true nature of the mind

1055
00:37:53,430 --> 00:37:51,839
read this critique of the dog experiment

1056
00:37:55,670 --> 00:37:53,440
and i want to know what your response to

1057
00:37:57,510 --> 00:37:55,680
this is this is from richard wiseman

1058
00:37:58,870 --> 00:37:57,520
someone said he is not convinced he

1059
00:38:00,630 --> 00:37:58,880
argues keep as

1060
00:38:02,710 --> 00:38:00,640
in richard wiseman have we told people

1061
00:38:06,390 --> 00:38:02,720
what the dog experiment is

1062
00:38:08,790 --> 00:38:06,400
no let us please actually please

1063
00:38:10,150 --> 00:38:08,800

uh well we should explain this to

1064

00:38:13,990 --> 00:38:10,160

because no one will know what we're

1065

00:38:18,150 --> 00:38:16,390

well i've i've been interested in

1066

00:38:20,550 --> 00:38:18,160

telepathy um

1067

00:38:21,430 --> 00:38:20,560

for a long time and partly because i

1068

00:38:23,349 --> 00:38:21,440

think

1069

00:38:25,430 --> 00:38:23,359

if you have a field theory of minds and

1070

00:38:26,230 --> 00:38:25,440

a field theory of social groups which i

1071

00:38:28,470 --> 00:38:26,240

do

1072

00:38:30,150 --> 00:38:28,480

then i would actually predict telepathy

1073

00:38:32,710 --> 00:38:30,160

as a form of communication between

1074

00:38:36,069 --> 00:38:32,720

bonded members of social groups

1075

00:38:37,670 --> 00:38:36,079

and when i thought about this first i

1076

00:38:40,790 --> 00:38:37,680

realized it would apply to

1077

00:38:43,349 --> 00:38:40,800

animals animal groups like

1078

00:38:45,270 --> 00:38:43,359

packs of wolves or stalks of flocks of

1079

00:38:46,950 --> 00:38:45,280

birds or schools of fish

1080

00:38:48,950 --> 00:38:46,960

should be related through a field that

1081

00:38:50,870 --> 00:38:48,960

relates the individual members of the

1082

00:38:52,870 --> 00:38:50,880

group

1083

00:38:54,710 --> 00:38:52,880

and they'd remain connected by this

1084

00:38:56,550 --> 00:38:54,720

field even at a distance which would

1085

00:38:57,589 --> 00:38:56,560

mean a change in one could affect the

1086

00:38:59,670 --> 00:38:57,599

others

1087

00:39:01,750 --> 00:38:59,680

similar analogous to quantum

1088

00:39:03,510 --> 00:39:01,760

non-locality where particles have been

1089

00:39:04,390 --> 00:39:03,520

part of the same system when they move

1090

00:39:06,430 --> 00:39:04,400

apart

1091

00:39:07,670 --> 00:39:06,440

uh if one changes the other

1092

00:39:11,190 --> 00:39:07,680

instantaneously

1093

00:39:11,670 --> 00:39:11,200

uh is it takes up a different position

1094

00:39:14,710 --> 00:39:11,680

like

1095

00:39:16,230 --> 00:39:14,720

one polarization polarized photon the

1096

00:39:18,230 --> 00:39:16,240

other one will immediately adopt the

1097

00:39:21,030 --> 00:39:18,240

ultimate the opposite polarity

1098

00:39:22,870 --> 00:39:21,040

quantum non-locality or entanglement so

1099

00:39:24,310 --> 00:39:22,880

something like that i predicted would be

1100

00:39:26,150 --> 00:39:24,320

going on with animals

1101
00:39:28,230 --> 00:39:26,160
so then i thought well no one's looked

1102
00:39:30,550 --> 00:39:28,240
at telepathy and animals

1103
00:39:32,550 --> 00:39:30,560
in the human realm it gets sort of

1104
00:39:33,670 --> 00:39:32,560
associated in some people's minds with

1105
00:39:37,190 --> 00:39:33,680
sort of spooky

1106
00:39:40,310 --> 00:39:37,200
green light imaginary

1107
00:39:42,069 --> 00:39:40,320
star superstition and so forth treat it

1108
00:39:44,069 --> 00:39:42,079
scientifically if it exists it should

1109
00:39:45,910 --> 00:39:44,079
have evolved if animals if it exists it

1110
00:39:48,390 --> 00:39:45,920
should be bearing animals

1111
00:39:50,870 --> 00:39:48,400
then i ask people who have animals dogs

1112
00:39:52,630 --> 00:39:50,880
cats parrots horses and other animals

1113
00:39:55,109 --> 00:39:52,640

if they'd ever experience their animals

1114

00:39:57,510 --> 00:39:55,119

picking up their thoughts or intentions

1115

00:39:59,430 --> 00:39:57,520

and overwhelmingly people i got i've had

1116

00:40:00,950 --> 00:39:59,440

more than six thousand case histories on

1117

00:40:02,870 --> 00:40:00,960

my database

1118

00:40:04,309 --> 00:40:02,880

yes lots of people have noticed it and

1119

00:40:07,030 --> 00:40:04,319

one of the most common

1120

00:40:07,829 --> 00:40:07,040

phenomena and one of the most testable

1121

00:40:10,390 --> 00:40:07,839

is

1122

00:40:11,190 --> 00:40:10,400

um dogs that know when their owners are

1123

00:40:13,910 --> 00:40:11,200

coming home

1124

00:40:15,670 --> 00:40:13,920

about 50 of dogs going waiters door or

1125

00:40:17,910 --> 00:40:15,680

window while the person they're most

1126
00:40:19,990 --> 00:40:17,920
bonded to is on the way home from work

1127
00:40:21,829 --> 00:40:20,000
or from holiday or whatever

1128
00:40:23,109 --> 00:40:21,839
members of the household know when

1129
00:40:24,710 --> 00:40:23,119
they're coming because the dog goes and

1130
00:40:26,069 --> 00:40:24,720
waits for them

1131
00:40:28,309 --> 00:40:26,079
this happens even if they come at

1132
00:40:30,470 --> 00:40:28,319
non-routine times even if they come in

1133
00:40:33,829 --> 00:40:30,480
non-familiar vehicles

1134
00:40:36,230 --> 00:40:33,839
so um the skeptics said to me oh that

1135
00:40:38,230 --> 00:40:36,240
can't be true it's impossible

1136
00:40:39,589 --> 00:40:38,240
it's just make-believe people dote on

1137
00:40:41,589 --> 00:40:39,599
their pets and they imagine

1138
00:40:43,910 --> 00:40:41,599

it's just a coincidence they forget all

1139

00:40:45,829 --> 00:40:43,920

the times they're wrong and so forth

1140

00:40:48,150 --> 00:40:45,839

um they hadn't done any experiments but

1141

00:40:49,750 --> 00:40:48,160

they confidently dismissed it so i set

1142

00:40:52,710 --> 00:40:49,760

up an experiment

1143

00:40:55,109 --> 00:40:52,720

where we filmed the place a dog waited

1144

00:40:58,150 --> 00:40:55,119

this is a dog that regularly did it

1145

00:41:00,069 --> 00:40:58,160

um we filmed the place the whole whole

1146

00:41:01,829 --> 00:41:00,079

time leona was out so we could see

1147

00:41:03,349 --> 00:41:01,839

objectively when the dog went to the

1148

00:41:06,150 --> 00:41:03,359

door or window

1149

00:41:07,030 --> 00:41:06,160

um i they only went at least five miles

1150

00:41:09,270 --> 00:41:07,040

away

1151
00:41:10,710 --> 00:41:09,280
dogs even the most sensitive dogs can't

1152
00:41:13,030 --> 00:41:10,720
smell things for more

1153
00:41:14,470 --> 00:41:13,040
more than about half a mile away and

1154
00:41:15,750 --> 00:41:14,480
then the wind has to be in the right

1155
00:41:17,910 --> 00:41:15,760
direction

1156
00:41:19,990 --> 00:41:17,920
um they didn't know when they were

1157
00:41:22,309 --> 00:41:20,000
coming home i told them by mobile

1158
00:41:23,190 --> 00:41:22,319
phone at randomly chosen time go home

1159
00:41:26,069 --> 00:41:23,200
now

1160
00:41:28,150 --> 00:41:26,079
um and they didn't travel in a familiar

1161
00:41:29,430 --> 00:41:28,160
vehicle they took public transport or

1162
00:41:31,829 --> 00:41:29,440
traveled on

1163
00:41:33,270 --> 00:41:31,839

borrowed bicycles or in taxes different

1164

00:41:34,950 --> 00:41:33,280

taxi each time

1165

00:41:36,470 --> 00:41:34,960

so there were no familiar signs no

1166

00:41:37,829 --> 00:41:36,480

routine the people at home didn't know

1167

00:41:39,829 --> 00:41:37,839

when they were coming they didn't know

1168

00:41:41,589 --> 00:41:39,839

in advance when they were coming home

1169

00:41:44,150 --> 00:41:41,599

and in these experiments over and over

1170

00:41:46,630 --> 00:41:44,160

again in hundreds of trials

1171

00:41:47,349 --> 00:41:46,640

the dog went and waited at the door for

1172

00:41:49,349 --> 00:41:47,359

10

1173

00:41:50,950 --> 00:41:49,359

minutes before the person came home

1174

00:41:52,309 --> 00:41:50,960

there were a few times they didn't do it

1175

00:41:55,510 --> 00:41:52,319

when the dog was sick

1176

00:41:57,190 --> 00:41:55,520

or mostly the few exceptions were when

1177

00:41:58,069 --> 00:41:57,200

there was a on heat in the next

1178

00:42:01,030 --> 00:41:58,079

apartment

1179

00:42:01,990 --> 00:42:01,040

so it proved the dog could be distracted

1180

00:42:05,270 --> 00:42:02,000

but most of the time

1181

00:42:07,750 --> 00:42:05,280

highly significant statistically i then

1182

00:42:09,510 --> 00:42:07,760

appeared on a tv program in britain that

1183

00:42:11,190 --> 00:42:09,520

described this research and they showed

1184

00:42:14,150 --> 00:42:11,200

one of these experiments

1185

00:42:16,309 --> 00:42:14,160

richard wiseman is a hardcore

1186

00:42:18,390 --> 00:42:16,319

materialist atheist skeptic type

1187

00:42:20,069 --> 00:42:18,400

who is a member of the committee for

1188

00:42:23,430 --> 00:42:20,079

skeptical inquiry a

1189

00:42:25,190 --> 00:42:23,440
militant campaigning skeptic so

1190

00:42:27,430 --> 00:42:25,200
he criticized it saying oh it's just

1191

00:42:29,109 --> 00:42:27,440
routine and they hear the car sounds

1192

00:42:30,630 --> 00:42:29,119
and i'd already explained you know we

1193

00:42:31,750 --> 00:42:30,640
that's the first thing we thought of we

1194

00:42:33,349 --> 00:42:31,760
spent a year

1195

00:42:35,270 --> 00:42:33,359
doing hundreds of experiments showing

1196

00:42:37,109 --> 00:42:35,280
it's not but you it's still on tv you

1197

00:42:39,109 --> 00:42:37,119
said well it's obviously just routine

1198

00:42:40,710 --> 00:42:39,119
so i invited him to do experiments with

1199

00:42:43,670 --> 00:42:40,720
the dog himself

1200

00:42:45,109 --> 00:42:43,680
he did with his own car his own

1201

00:42:48,150 --> 00:42:45,119

randomizing system

1202

00:42:49,750 --> 00:42:48,160

i lent him one of my cameras um he did

1203

00:42:51,270 --> 00:42:49,760

three experiments with the dog in the

1204

00:42:53,750 --> 00:42:51,280

same place i'd done it

1205

00:42:56,069 --> 00:42:53,760

in every one of them the dog was waiting

1206

00:42:58,790 --> 00:42:56,079

when she came home the owner came home

1207

00:42:59,990 --> 00:42:58,800

it was at the window 78 of the time when

1208

00:43:03,349 --> 00:43:00,000

she was on the way home

1209

00:43:05,190 --> 00:43:03,359

of that period 78 was at winter

1210

00:43:07,430 --> 00:43:05,200

when she wasn't coming home it was the

1211

00:43:09,109 --> 00:43:07,440

window an average of four percent of the

1212

00:43:12,710 --> 00:43:09,119

time it occasionally went to look at

1213

00:43:15,030 --> 00:43:12,720

passing cats as it did in my experiments

1214

00:43:16,870 --> 00:43:15,040

and to my astonishment wiseman then

1215

00:43:19,030 --> 00:43:16,880

appeared on television and in the media

1216

00:43:20,870 --> 00:43:19,040

to saying he'd refuted the psychic dog

1217

00:43:23,990 --> 00:43:20,880

phenomenon

1218

00:43:26,630 --> 00:43:24,000

and that the dog had gone to the window

1219

00:43:27,829 --> 00:43:26,640

before she came home and therefore it

1220

00:43:30,390 --> 00:43:27,839

failed the test

1221

00:43:32,710 --> 00:43:30,400

when i pointed out to him that actually

1222

00:43:35,109 --> 00:43:32,720

after his supposed failing of the test

1223

00:43:36,950 --> 00:43:35,119

when it had gone to the window for some

1224

00:43:38,230 --> 00:43:36,960

other reason not waiting just going for

1225

00:43:40,870 --> 00:43:38,240

a brief visit

1226

00:43:42,790 --> 00:43:40,880

um um that you look at the rest of his

1227

00:43:44,870 --> 00:43:42,800

own data and they showed this massive

1228

00:43:46,550 --> 00:43:44,880

effect statistically significant

1229

00:43:48,470 --> 00:43:46,560

he said oh you can't look at that data

1230

00:43:51,270 --> 00:43:48,480

that's reading the date reading

1231

00:43:53,510 --> 00:43:51,280

data patterns into the data after the

1232

00:43:56,069 --> 00:43:53,520

dog's already failed the test

1233

00:43:58,069 --> 00:43:56,079

and now everyone who's looked at richard

1234

00:44:00,470 --> 00:43:58,079

wiseman's analysis of the data

1235

00:44:02,470 --> 00:44:00,480

and who's looked at his data it's now

1236

00:44:03,109 --> 00:44:02,480

been discussed in several books there's

1237

00:44:06,150 --> 00:44:03,119

a book called

1238

00:44:07,109 --> 00:44:06,160

randy's prize about materialists and

1239

00:44:10,069 --> 00:44:07,119

skeptics

1240

00:44:11,990 --> 00:44:10,079

there's a book called heretics by

1241

00:44:13,270 --> 00:44:12,000

somebody who interviewed wiseman went

1242

00:44:16,470 --> 00:44:13,280

into this whole story

1243

00:44:17,109 --> 00:44:16,480

it's become a classic case of skeptical

1244

00:44:20,150 --> 00:44:17,119

treatment

1245

00:44:21,030 --> 00:44:20,160

of evidence and distortion of what went

1246

00:44:23,750 --> 00:44:21,040

on

1247

00:44:25,270 --> 00:44:23,760

so i mean read what he said and i'll

1248

00:44:28,150 --> 00:44:25,280

tell you in this context

1249

00:44:28,790 --> 00:44:28,160

what it's about sure i'll paraphrase for

1250

00:44:30,309 --> 00:44:28,800

brevity

1251
00:44:31,670 --> 00:44:30,319
he essentially said that it's not

1252
00:44:33,430 --> 00:44:31,680
surprising that the dog would be on the

1253
00:44:36,470 --> 00:44:33,440
porch before it comes home because

1254
00:44:38,470 --> 00:44:36,480
that it just the longer the

1255
00:44:40,230 --> 00:44:38,480
owner is away the more likely the dog is

1256
00:44:42,870 --> 00:44:40,240
to wait on the porch

1257
00:44:44,470 --> 00:44:42,880
and it's more evidence of the dog

1258
00:44:46,710 --> 00:44:44,480
anticipating the arrival of the owner

1259
00:44:47,910 --> 00:44:46,720
instead of knowing through psychedelic

1260
00:44:50,390 --> 00:44:47,920
mystery sorry through

1261
00:44:51,910 --> 00:44:50,400
psychic abilities and then he goes on

1262
00:44:53,750 --> 00:44:51,920
further to criticize that

1263
00:44:55,270 --> 00:44:53,760

your work hasn't been peer-reviewed in

1264

00:44:58,069 --> 00:44:55,280

peer-reviewed journals

1265

00:44:59,670 --> 00:44:58,079

but only in books and that this means

1266

00:45:00,950 --> 00:44:59,680

that your methodology has not been fully

1267

00:45:01,910 --> 00:45:00,960

described making it difficult to

1268

00:45:05,109 --> 00:45:01,920

properly assess

1269

00:45:07,109 --> 00:45:05,119

the validity of the methodology well you

1270

00:45:08,390 --> 00:45:07,119

see unfortunately this is a perfect

1271

00:45:11,510 --> 00:45:08,400

example of lying

1272

00:45:12,630 --> 00:45:11,520

and deception and his phd thesis was on

1273

00:45:17,430 --> 00:45:12,640

deception

1274

00:45:19,990 --> 00:45:17,440

magician he's a skilled deceiver

1275

00:45:21,109 --> 00:45:20,000

and let me explain why that's deceptive

1276

00:45:23,510 --> 00:45:21,119

first of all

1277

00:45:25,510 --> 00:45:23,520

the dog doesn't go to the window more

1278

00:45:27,109 --> 00:45:25,520

and more as time goes on we did control

1279

00:45:28,069 --> 00:45:27,119

experiments where the owner didn't come

1280

00:45:29,990 --> 00:45:28,079

home at all

1281

00:45:31,109 --> 00:45:30,000

during the whole experimental period of

1282

00:45:32,870 --> 00:45:31,119

more than four hours

1283

00:45:35,190 --> 00:45:32,880

and it doesn't go it's just more or less

1284

00:45:38,230 --> 00:45:35,200

a flat line he's knows that he's seen

1285

00:45:40,230 --> 00:45:38,240

the graphs i've shown in the data

1286

00:45:41,510 --> 00:45:40,240

secondly all the data from these

1287

00:45:43,109 --> 00:45:41,520

experiments is published in

1288

00:45:45,190 --> 00:45:43,119

peer-reviewed journals

1289

00:45:46,230 --> 00:45:45,200

and it's all on my website you can

1290

00:45:48,309 --> 00:45:46,240

actually see

1291

00:45:49,950 --> 00:45:48,319

pdfs of the papers in peer-reviewed

1292

00:45:53,270 --> 00:45:49,960

journals website

1293

00:45:56,230 --> 00:45:53,280

sheldrate.org research section

1294

00:45:57,430 --> 00:45:56,240

unexplained animal powers telepathy with

1295

00:46:02,069 --> 00:45:57,440

dogs

1296

00:46:04,470 --> 00:46:02,079

all the data quantitative data there um

1297

00:46:06,470 --> 00:46:04,480

there was a film done from an austrian

1298

00:46:07,829 --> 00:46:06,480

television company which you can also

1299

00:46:09,750 --> 00:46:07,839

see on my website a

1300

00:46:11,270 --> 00:46:09,760

skeptical science unit where they showed

1301

00:46:14,630 --> 00:46:11,280

this phenomenon

1302

00:46:17,190 --> 00:46:14,640

very clearly um so

1303

00:46:17,829 --> 00:46:17,200

it is in peer-reviewed journals uh it

1304

00:46:20,150 --> 00:46:17,839

has been

1305

00:46:21,990 --> 00:46:20,160

subjected to scientific scrutiny it has

1306

00:46:24,950 --> 00:46:22,000

been done in the correct way

1307

00:46:25,670 --> 00:46:24,960

um i have taken into account you know

1308

00:46:30,150 --> 00:46:25,680

the

1309

00:46:32,790 --> 00:46:30,160

wiseman's own data show this

1310

00:46:34,630 --> 00:46:32,800

and yet you see like you reading the

1311

00:46:37,030 --> 00:46:34,640

kind if you read wikipedia which is

1312

00:46:39,030 --> 00:46:37,040

being captured by skeptics

1313

00:46:41,750 --> 00:46:39,040

all the areas to do with me psychic

1314

00:46:43,270 --> 00:46:41,760

research alternative medicine

1315

00:46:44,790 --> 00:46:43,280

they're all full of this kind of

1316

00:46:46,630 --> 00:46:44,800

misinformation so

1317

00:46:48,309 --> 00:46:46,640

you're i mean you're an open-minded chap

1318

00:46:49,990 --> 00:46:48,319

you want to find out about this you go

1319

00:46:51,349 --> 00:46:50,000

and look it up online and that's what

1320

00:46:54,550 --> 00:46:51,359

you find

1321

00:46:56,630 --> 00:46:54,560

the reality is completely different and

1322

00:46:58,069 --> 00:46:56,640

what we're seeing is particularly with

1323

00:47:00,390 --> 00:46:58,079

wikipedia is

1324

00:47:03,349 --> 00:47:00,400

the defense of a materialist paradigm by

1325

00:47:06,069 --> 00:47:03,359

the systematic and deliberate distortion

1326

00:47:06,870 --> 00:47:06,079

of evidence filtering out positive

1327

00:47:09,910 --> 00:47:06,880

evidence

1328

00:47:11,910 --> 00:47:09,920

putting in snide incorrect results like

1329

00:47:13,910 --> 00:47:11,920

sneering remarks like that it's not in

1330

00:47:16,630 --> 00:47:13,920

peer-reviewed journals online books

1331

00:47:17,190 --> 00:47:16,640

absolutely untrue uh and he knows it's

1332

00:47:19,270 --> 00:47:17,200

untrue

1333

00:47:21,750 --> 00:47:19,280

i mean he's seen my peer-reviewed papers

1334

00:47:22,470 --> 00:47:21,760

i mean in private when i talk to richard

1335

00:47:24,390 --> 00:47:22,480

wiseman

1336

00:47:25,750 --> 00:47:24,400

he's a perfectly reasonable personally

1337

00:47:28,710 --> 00:47:25,760

he's quite funny

1338

00:47:29,190 --> 00:47:28,720

um but as soon as he gets onto his sort

1339

00:47:32,309 --> 00:47:29,200

of

1340

00:47:35,349 --> 00:47:32,319

podium as the media skeptic

1341

00:47:35,910 --> 00:47:35,359

it's astonishing that he can say things

1342

00:47:38,230 --> 00:47:35,920

like that

1343

00:47:39,510 --> 00:47:38,240

and get away with it well he doesn't get

1344

00:47:41,589 --> 00:47:39,520

away with it actually

1345

00:47:42,710 --> 00:47:41,599

look at a website called skeptical about

1346

00:47:44,710 --> 00:47:42,720

skeptics

1347

00:47:47,430 --> 00:47:44,720

and you'll find a dossier on his

1348

00:47:50,829 --> 00:47:47,440

deceptions in this and other areas

1349

00:47:54,069 --> 00:47:50,839

and um there's also um a video

1350

00:47:55,990 --> 00:47:54,079

online uh which shows

1351
00:47:58,150 --> 00:47:56,000
how he distorted the evidence about the

1352
00:47:59,750 --> 00:47:58,160
dog experiment there's clips from tv

1353
00:48:01,670 --> 00:47:59,760
shows where he's

1354
00:48:03,510 --> 00:48:01,680
he claims the dog just goes to the door

1355
00:48:05,349 --> 00:48:03,520
over and over again

1356
00:48:08,630 --> 00:48:05,359
it's showing the same footage twice in

1357
00:48:11,190 --> 00:48:08,640
one case to create the illusion

1358
00:48:11,829 --> 00:48:11,200
this has all been exposed over and over

1359
00:48:14,950 --> 00:48:11,839
again

1360
00:48:16,150 --> 00:48:14,960
but you won't get to realize the

1361
00:48:18,230 --> 00:48:16,160
exposure and

1362
00:48:19,750 --> 00:48:18,240
if you look at things like wikipedia

1363
00:48:22,390 --> 00:48:19,760

which as i say

1364

00:48:23,430 --> 00:48:22,400

being captured by groups of skeptical

1365

00:48:25,589 --> 00:48:23,440

activists called

1366

00:48:26,630 --> 00:48:25,599

guerrilla skeptics on wikipedia and

1367

00:48:28,790 --> 00:48:26,640

other um

1368

00:48:30,230 --> 00:48:28,800

activist groups i mean i'm not making

1369

00:48:33,030 --> 00:48:30,240

this up they have a website

1370

00:48:34,309 --> 00:48:33,040

uh guerrilla skeptics on wikipedia i'm

1371

00:48:37,190 --> 00:48:34,319

not paranoid

1372

00:48:39,750 --> 00:48:37,200

um but when i exposed the guerrilla

1373

00:48:42,069 --> 00:48:39,760

skeptics on wikipedia in the blog

1374

00:48:43,430 --> 00:48:42,079

three days later they just took down my

1375

00:48:45,030 --> 00:48:43,440

own biography page and they've

1376

00:48:46,470 --> 00:48:45,040

controlled it ever since they stripped

1377

00:48:48,710 --> 00:48:46,480

me of a phd

1378

00:48:51,030 --> 00:48:48,720

they said i was a pseudoscientist they

1379

00:48:52,950 --> 00:48:51,040

removed all my academic qualifications

1380

00:48:54,549 --> 00:48:52,960

they stated i had no papers in

1381

00:48:57,270 --> 00:48:54,559

peer-reviewed journals

1382

00:48:57,829 --> 00:48:57,280

a few people fought back and managed to

1383

00:49:00,150 --> 00:48:57,839

get

1384

00:49:01,670 --> 00:49:00,160

at some of the most gross just

1385

00:49:05,190 --> 00:49:01,680

distortions corrected

1386

00:49:08,470 --> 00:49:05,200

but um they're still in control of this

1387

00:49:10,230 --> 00:49:08,480

biography page and so when people

1388

00:49:12,470 --> 00:49:10,240

students and others who are trying to

1389

00:49:15,829 --> 00:49:12,480

get a sense of what's going on the kind

1390

00:49:19,270 --> 00:49:15,839

of area you two are exploring

1391

00:49:20,470 --> 00:49:19,280

world views paradigms the view you get

1392

00:49:23,510 --> 00:49:20,480

through the regular

1393

00:49:26,069 --> 00:49:23,520

orthodox scientific educational system

1394

00:49:28,790 --> 00:49:26,079

and through media like wikipedia is

1395

00:49:30,390 --> 00:49:28,800

subject to systematic distortion

1396

00:49:32,150 --> 00:49:30,400

and i mean that's just what happens when

1397

00:49:33,030 --> 00:49:32,160

you have a paradigm a paradigm is a

1398

00:49:35,270 --> 00:49:33,040

worldview

1399

00:49:36,549 --> 00:49:35,280

people who believe in it think it's true

1400

00:49:39,190 --> 00:49:36,559

anything doesn't fit in

1401

00:49:40,230 --> 00:49:39,200

with it is marginalized treated as

1402

00:49:43,109 --> 00:49:40,240

heresy

1403

00:49:45,190 --> 00:49:43,119

um excluded um and that's what's

1404

00:49:45,750 --> 00:49:45,200

happening and that's just the way things

1405

00:49:47,430 --> 00:49:45,760

are

1406

00:49:49,430 --> 00:49:47,440

it's what happened to the theory of

1407

00:49:51,270 --> 00:49:49,440

continental drift it's what happens to

1408

00:49:54,470 --> 00:49:51,280

all sorts of theories in science

1409

00:49:58,309 --> 00:49:54,480

some of them are false but um the

1410

00:50:01,430 --> 00:49:58,319

the this kind of um doctrinaire

1411

00:50:03,750 --> 00:50:01,440

uh dogmatism is is something

1412

00:50:05,510 --> 00:50:03,760

in my view holds back true scientific

1413

00:50:08,069 --> 00:50:05,520

inquiry

1414

00:50:09,510 --> 00:50:08,079

there is a sense after talking about all

1415

00:50:11,829 --> 00:50:09,520

this uh

1416

00:50:12,630 --> 00:50:11,839

dogs waiting for their owners to come

1417

00:50:15,990 --> 00:50:12,640

home

1418

00:50:18,150 --> 00:50:16,000

i'm reminded of argos the odysseus's dog

1419

00:50:19,109 --> 00:50:18,160

who waited for him after 20 years or so

1420

00:50:21,349 --> 00:50:19,119

the myth goes

1421

00:50:22,790 --> 00:50:21,359

and then finally passed after seeing his

1422

00:50:24,630 --> 00:50:22,800

master

1423

00:50:26,230 --> 00:50:24,640

do you believe and just because we do

1424

00:50:28,150 --> 00:50:26,240

have to wrap up uh

1425

00:50:29,589 --> 00:50:28,160

so very briefly what do you believe is

1426

00:50:33,430 --> 00:50:29,599

the role of myth

1427

00:50:35,589 --> 00:50:33,440

in exposing these uh truths

1428

00:50:38,150 --> 00:50:35,599

for highlighting these truths is there

1429

00:50:40,230 --> 00:50:38,160

any validity to men

1430

00:50:41,430 --> 00:50:40,240

well myths are stories that make sense

1431

00:50:43,829 --> 00:50:41,440

of the world for us

1432

00:50:45,109 --> 00:50:43,839

and um they try and explain the way

1433

00:50:47,190 --> 00:50:45,119

things are

1434

00:50:48,549 --> 00:50:47,200

in terms of stories about what happened

1435

00:50:50,870 --> 00:50:48,559

in the past

1436

00:50:51,829 --> 00:50:50,880

and i think they're absolutely essential

1437

00:50:53,510 --> 00:50:51,839

for uh

1438

00:50:55,030 --> 00:50:53,520

we have to we make sense of the world

1439

00:50:57,190 --> 00:50:55,040

through stories

1440

00:50:58,790 --> 00:50:57,200

and you know there will be people who'll

1441

00:51:00,230 --> 00:50:58,800

tell you world science is different

1442

00:51:02,870 --> 00:51:00,240

science is the truth

1443

00:51:04,710 --> 00:51:02,880

but actually the big bang theory is our

1444

00:51:07,990 --> 00:51:04,720

modern creation myth

1445

00:51:10,630 --> 00:51:08,000

um you know there's lots of archaic

1446

00:51:12,710 --> 00:51:10,640

creation myths that say the world grew

1447

00:51:14,710 --> 00:51:12,720

from the hatching of a cosmic egg

1448

00:51:17,109 --> 00:51:14,720

and the cosmic egg gave rise to the

1449

00:51:19,270 --> 00:51:17,119

organism of the cosmos that grew

1450

00:51:20,390 --> 00:51:19,280

uh from this hatchet hatching of the

1451
00:51:23,589 --> 00:51:20,400
cosmic egg

1452
00:51:25,750 --> 00:51:23,599
iranian is the hindu myth of the

1453
00:51:28,230 --> 00:51:25,760
hatching of the cosmic egg

1454
00:51:29,910 --> 00:51:28,240
the golden egg from which the cosmos

1455
00:51:31,990 --> 00:51:29,920
comes well the big bang theory is

1456
00:51:33,589 --> 00:51:32,000
a modern scientific version of that

1457
00:51:35,430 --> 00:51:33,599
cosmogonic myth

1458
00:51:37,349 --> 00:51:35,440
and nobody was around at the time of the

1459
00:51:39,349 --> 00:51:37,359
big bang to see it

1460
00:51:41,589 --> 00:51:39,359
it's not as if it was carefully observed

1461
00:51:42,870 --> 00:51:41,599
and written up in full colour photos to

1462
00:51:45,589 --> 00:51:42,880
scientific american

1463
00:51:47,270 --> 00:51:45,599

by on the spot observers the whole thing

1464

00:51:49,910 --> 00:51:47,280

is

1465

00:51:51,270 --> 00:51:49,920

a theoretical projection of the way we

1466

00:51:54,069 --> 00:51:51,280

see the world now

1467

00:51:56,230 --> 00:51:54,079

basically the universe is expanding so

1468

00:51:58,470 --> 00:51:56,240

if you scroll it back you get to a point

1469

00:52:02,150 --> 00:51:58,480

ultimately where it all collapses in

1470

00:52:04,630 --> 00:52:02,160

to the big bang the original point that

1471

00:52:06,630 --> 00:52:04,640

that world view assumes that the laws of

1472

00:52:09,109 --> 00:52:06,640

nature have always been exactly the same

1473

00:52:11,030 --> 00:52:09,119

i don't think they are but anyway i'm

1474

00:52:11,430 --> 00:52:11,040

perfectly happy to go along with the big

1475

00:52:13,190 --> 00:52:11,440

bang

1476
00:52:15,109 --> 00:52:13,200
as a creation myth but i don't think

1477
00:52:17,910 --> 00:52:15,119
it's just literal truth

1478
00:52:19,270 --> 00:52:17,920
um i think it's the best story we've got

1479
00:52:22,390 --> 00:52:19,280
at the moment

1480
00:52:22,950 --> 00:52:22,400
and um you know there's a lot in science

1481
00:52:26,069 --> 00:52:22,960
which

1482
00:52:26,950 --> 00:52:26,079
has this storytelling aspect i mean the

1483
00:52:29,910 --> 00:52:26,960
selfish gene

1484
00:52:30,470 --> 00:52:29,920
story tells us that dna controls life

1485
00:52:41,109 --> 00:52:30,480
and

1486
00:52:43,510 --> 00:52:41,119
subject he's making up myths about dna

1487
00:52:46,069 --> 00:52:43,520
it's not scientific language to say dna

1488
00:52:48,549 --> 00:52:46,079

is selfish and ruthless and competitive

1489

00:52:50,710 --> 00:52:48,559

and we have survival machines that jeans

1490

00:52:54,069 --> 00:52:50,720

have built to live in and stuff

1491

00:52:55,990 --> 00:52:54,079

um this is all storytelling um

1492

00:52:57,990 --> 00:52:56,000

it happens in that case it's very bad

1493

00:52:59,910 --> 00:52:58,000

storytelling because

1494

00:53:01,270 --> 00:52:59,920

genes have been graciously overrated and

1495

00:53:04,710 --> 00:53:01,280

we now know through

1496

00:53:07,430 --> 00:53:04,720

the study of epigenetic inheritance that

1497

00:53:08,549 --> 00:53:07,440

a lot of inheritance is not based simply

1498

00:53:11,349 --> 00:53:08,559

on genes

1499

00:53:12,069 --> 00:53:11,359

there are other factors involved so i

1500

00:53:14,710 --> 00:53:12,079

would say

1501
00:53:16,150 --> 00:53:14,720
we have to have stories and some stories

1502
00:53:19,190 --> 00:53:16,160
are better than others

1503
00:53:19,750 --> 00:53:19,200
and but it's not as if on one hand

1504
00:53:21,349 --> 00:53:19,760
you've got

1505
00:53:23,190 --> 00:53:21,359
ancient myths which are sort of

1506
00:53:25,990 --> 00:53:23,200
superstitions and on the other hand

1507
00:53:27,750 --> 00:53:26,000
you've got science which is true that's

1508
00:53:30,549 --> 00:53:27,760
an incredibly naive view

1509
00:53:31,190 --> 00:53:30,559
and most scientists who believe science

1510
00:53:33,990 --> 00:53:31,200
is true

1511
00:53:35,990 --> 00:53:34,000
are incredibly naive um you know they

1512
00:53:37,510 --> 00:53:36,000
think they have a superior belief system

1513
00:53:39,190 --> 00:53:37,520

to everybody else in fact

1514

00:53:41,270 --> 00:53:39,200

they don't even recognize they have a

1515

00:53:43,750 --> 00:53:41,280

belief system they think they know the

1516

00:53:45,589 --> 00:53:43,760

truth everyone else has beliefs

1517

00:53:47,349 --> 00:53:45,599

right there's something called lobs

1518

00:53:48,710 --> 00:53:47,359

theorem which says that if you believe

1519

00:53:50,549 --> 00:53:48,720

in your own consistency you

1520

00:53:52,309 --> 00:53:50,559

automatically become inconsistent which

1521

00:53:53,270 --> 00:53:52,319

is related to girdles and completeness

1522

00:53:55,670 --> 00:53:53,280

theorem

1523

00:53:58,470 --> 00:53:55,680

so also what i was saying earlier about

1524

00:54:00,950 --> 00:53:58,480

the belief system of materialists

1525

00:54:02,870 --> 00:54:00,960

because their in-belief system actually

1526
00:54:05,109 --> 00:54:02,880
makes their own belief in materialism

1527
00:54:06,950 --> 00:54:05,119
highly problematic

1528
00:54:09,670 --> 00:54:06,960
there is something to be said about

1529
00:54:12,069 --> 00:54:09,680
scientists having their own

1530
00:54:13,750 --> 00:54:12,079
a sense dogmatism against religion and

1531
00:54:15,030 --> 00:54:13,760
what they consider to be supernatural so

1532
00:54:17,270 --> 00:54:15,040
if you say is there a creator

1533
00:54:18,790 --> 00:54:17,280
no no is there someone pretty much

1534
00:54:19,589 --> 00:54:18,800
watching us no are we in the mind of god

1535
00:54:21,430 --> 00:54:19,599
no

1536
00:54:22,870 --> 00:54:21,440
is there is it possible we're in a

1537
00:54:25,910 --> 00:54:22,880
simulation yes

1538
00:54:27,349 --> 00:54:25,920

well we're created by that simulation

1539

00:54:27,910 --> 00:54:27,359

and in a sense that simulation is

1540

00:54:31,430 --> 00:54:27,920

watching

1541

00:54:33,430 --> 00:54:31,440

well what's the difference between

1542

00:54:36,069 --> 00:54:33,440

they're willing to believe one because

1543

00:54:38,150 --> 00:54:36,079

it's more palatable to the scientists

1544

00:54:39,990 --> 00:54:38,160

and furthermore how do you decipher

1545

00:54:41,030 --> 00:54:40,000

between evidence that is credible and

1546

00:54:43,109 --> 00:54:41,040

evidence that is not

1547

00:54:44,630 --> 00:54:43,119

credible what is your epistemology in

1548

00:54:47,109 --> 00:54:44,640

all of this

1549

00:54:49,109 --> 00:54:47,119

okay well first the the the um the

1550

00:54:51,270 --> 00:54:49,119

worldview thing you see

1551
00:54:53,270 --> 00:54:51,280
i mean i personally find the simulation

1552
00:54:55,190 --> 00:54:53,280
theory pretty implausible because it

1553
00:54:57,349 --> 00:54:55,200
implies the universe is a gigantic

1554
00:54:58,630 --> 00:54:57,359
computer with some kind of programmers

1555
00:55:00,390 --> 00:54:58,640
simulating things

1556
00:55:01,829 --> 00:55:00,400
i think that's such an anthropocentric

1557
00:55:04,470 --> 00:55:01,839
metaphor um

1558
00:55:06,470 --> 00:55:04,480
i you know the whole mechanistic theory

1559
00:55:07,510 --> 00:55:06,480
is anthropocentric only humans make

1560
00:55:09,670 --> 00:55:07,520
machines

1561
00:55:11,829 --> 00:55:09,680
and only modern industrial civilizations

1562
00:55:13,750 --> 00:55:11,839
are so obsessed with machinery

1563
00:55:15,589 --> 00:55:13,760

that they can assume that the whole of

1564

00:55:16,789 --> 00:55:15,599

the universe is nothing but machinery

1565

00:55:19,589 --> 00:55:16,799

it's unbelievably

1566

00:55:20,789 --> 00:55:19,599

provincial even though they supremely

1567

00:55:24,069 --> 00:55:20,799

objective

1568

00:55:25,270 --> 00:55:24,079

and so the um this world view of the

1569

00:55:28,470 --> 00:55:25,280

simulation

1570

00:55:30,309 --> 00:55:28,480

uh they it's plausible because to people

1571

00:55:32,309 --> 00:55:30,319

who believe in the mechanistic theory

1572

00:55:33,990 --> 00:55:32,319

because it sounds technological and

1573

00:55:37,190 --> 00:55:34,000

computer-based and they're in

1574

00:55:39,030 --> 00:55:37,200

favor of that but basically it's saying

1575

00:55:40,309 --> 00:55:39,040

the same thing as one of the ancient

1576

00:55:43,190 --> 00:55:40,319

hindu myths

1577

00:55:45,349 --> 00:55:43,200

the idea that vishnu lies down the god

1578

00:55:47,910 --> 00:55:45,359

vishnu lies down to sleep

1579

00:55:49,910 --> 00:55:47,920

and he has a dream and that dream is

1580

00:55:50,710 --> 00:55:49,920

this universe and we're within vishnu's

1581

00:55:53,030 --> 00:55:50,720

dream

1582

00:55:54,950 --> 00:55:53,040

and then eventually traditionally wakes

1583

00:55:55,589 --> 00:55:54,960

up this universe disappears and he lies

1584

00:55:58,230 --> 00:55:55,599

down

1585

00:55:59,829 --> 00:55:58,240

and dreams another universe i mean i

1586

00:56:03,030 --> 00:55:59,839

much prefer that myth

1587

00:56:05,109 --> 00:56:03,040

to the simulation myth and the vedas

1588

00:56:06,150 --> 00:56:05,119

start to interrupt but in the vedas it

1589

00:56:08,390 --> 00:56:06,160

is written

1590

00:56:09,670 --> 00:56:08,400

that that thing breathless breathed by

1591

00:56:12,150 --> 00:56:09,680

its own nature

1592

00:56:13,190 --> 00:56:12,160

right and that the idea that the gods

1593

00:56:15,030 --> 00:56:13,200

came after

1594

00:56:16,630 --> 00:56:15,040

this world's creation that they they

1595

00:56:18,710 --> 00:56:16,640

themselves not even know

1596

00:56:20,390 --> 00:56:18,720

this world's creation would you say that

1597

00:56:22,150 --> 00:56:20,400

this ties

1598

00:56:23,589 --> 00:56:22,160

well what i'd say is that the the

1599

00:56:26,950 --> 00:56:23,599

deepest views in

1600

00:56:30,390 --> 00:56:26,960

hindu and christian and islamic and

1601
00:56:33,270 --> 00:56:30,400
other traditions and jewish traditions

1602
00:56:33,990 --> 00:56:33,280
in buddhist traditions are that there's

1603
00:56:37,990 --> 00:56:34,000
a

1604
00:56:41,829 --> 00:56:38,000
things from which things

1605
00:56:42,870 --> 00:56:41,839
come and uh we connect with that through

1606
00:56:46,150 --> 00:56:42,880
meditation through

1607
00:56:46,549 --> 00:56:46,160
material altered states of consciousness

1608
00:56:48,789 --> 00:56:46,559
through

1609
00:56:50,150 --> 00:56:48,799
mystical experiences we can have a

1610
00:56:53,670 --> 00:56:50,160
direct connection

1611
00:56:57,109 --> 00:56:53,680
with that realm um

1612
00:56:58,390 --> 00:56:57,119
and that our models of reality if you

1613
00:57:00,710 --> 00:56:58,400

then say well

1614

00:57:01,990 --> 00:57:00,720

the sun is a god or the moon's goddess

1615

00:57:04,710 --> 00:57:02,000

or something like that

1616

00:57:05,910 --> 00:57:04,720

these are human ways of modeling this

1617

00:57:08,710 --> 00:57:05,920

reality explaining

1618

00:57:09,990 --> 00:57:08,720

in terms of stories and myths and in

1619

00:57:11,829 --> 00:57:10,000

that sense the gods

1620

00:57:13,990 --> 00:57:11,839

in in a polytheistic system where you

1621

00:57:16,470 --> 00:57:14,000

have gods of weather and gods of wind

1622

00:57:18,630 --> 00:57:16,480

and gods of sea and gods of sky and gods

1623

00:57:22,390 --> 00:57:18,640

or goddesses of earth and so on

1624

00:57:26,230 --> 00:57:22,400

um these are all sort of projections

1625

00:57:27,349 --> 00:57:26,240

and and creations in our own mind but in

1626

00:57:29,349 --> 00:57:27,359

all these systems

1627

00:57:30,950 --> 00:57:29,359

the idea is that underlying all these is

1628

00:57:33,670 --> 00:57:30,960

a realm of consciousness

1629

00:57:35,190 --> 00:57:33,680

which you can call it god if you like or

1630

00:57:37,430 --> 00:57:35,200

you can call it

1631

00:57:39,589 --> 00:57:37,440

ultimate emptiness or nirvana or

1632

00:57:42,069 --> 00:57:39,599

whatever or bliss or joy

1633

00:57:44,309 --> 00:57:42,079

or i think the best way of thinking of

1634

00:57:48,390 --> 00:57:44,319

it in the hindu tradition is through

1635

00:57:51,990 --> 00:57:48,400

this threefold uh division ananda

1636

00:57:54,789 --> 00:57:52,000

being consciousness bliss um

1637

00:57:55,270 --> 00:57:54,799

and joseph campbell speaks about this

1638

00:57:57,670 --> 00:57:55,280

yes

1639

00:57:59,190 --> 00:57:57,680

well campbell speaks about a whole range

1640

00:58:03,510 --> 00:57:59,200

of different myths

1641

00:58:06,470 --> 00:58:03,520

and but sanchettananda is um

1642

00:58:08,069 --> 00:58:06,480

um a way of having a model of this

1643

00:58:10,549 --> 00:58:08,079

ultimate consciousness

1644

00:58:12,309 --> 00:58:10,559

without saying god's a creator or sort

1645

00:58:14,630 --> 00:58:12,319

of man with a white beard who makes

1646

00:58:17,349 --> 00:58:14,640

machinery that's obviously a naive

1647

00:58:18,470 --> 00:58:17,359

conception of god and most atheists

1648

00:58:20,069 --> 00:58:18,480

assume that

1649

00:58:21,589 --> 00:58:20,079

people who believe in god have

1650

00:58:24,390 --> 00:58:21,599

incredibly naive views

1651

00:58:25,990 --> 00:58:24,400

most of them don't have such naive views

1652

00:58:29,430 --> 00:58:26,000

and to add on to your point

1653

00:58:32,069 --> 00:58:29,440

uh in orthodox iconography uh

1654

00:58:34,549 --> 00:58:32,079

normally the father i.e goddess is

1655

00:58:36,150 --> 00:58:34,559

represented by a blue light

1656

00:58:37,750 --> 00:58:36,160

right there's this understanding that

1657

00:58:39,910 --> 00:58:37,760

you would never depict

1658

00:58:40,950 --> 00:58:39,920

a god as a man with a white beard that

1659

00:58:43,349 --> 00:58:40,960

this comes much

1660

00:58:45,390 --> 00:58:43,359

later in the western tradition around

1661

00:58:47,589 --> 00:58:45,400

the time of the renaissance this

1662

00:58:49,670 --> 00:58:47,599

anthropomorphization of god

1663

00:58:51,750 --> 00:58:49,680

yeah so i i couldn't agree more but

1664

00:58:53,430 --> 00:58:51,760

please continue and of course in judaism

1665

00:58:55,270 --> 00:58:53,440

there's a prohibition on making any

1666

00:58:57,270 --> 00:58:55,280

images of god or the divine because

1667

00:59:00,309 --> 00:58:57,280

god's beyond all images and

1668

00:59:00,630 --> 00:59:00,319

and in islam as well and so i think that

1669

00:59:03,910 --> 00:59:00,640

the

1670

00:59:04,870 --> 00:59:03,920

um if we actually take seriously what

1671

00:59:06,789 --> 00:59:04,880

serious

1672

00:59:08,710 --> 00:59:06,799

theologians and mystics within the

1673

00:59:09,430 --> 00:59:08,720

world's religious traditions think about

1674

00:59:11,829 --> 00:59:09,440

god

1675

00:59:14,069 --> 00:59:11,839

then it's nothing like what atheists

1676

00:59:15,990 --> 00:59:14,079

portray them as thinking about god

1677

00:59:19,109 --> 00:59:16,000

um you know the god atheist i'm a

1678

00:59:21,670 --> 00:59:19,119

christian i'm you know

1679

00:59:23,910 --> 00:59:21,680

i'm fine rooted in the mystical

1680

00:59:27,190 --> 00:59:23,920

traditions of christianity in my own

1681

00:59:29,750 --> 00:59:27,200

thinking and world view um

1682

00:59:31,270 --> 00:59:29,760

but when i meet atheists and they tell

1683

00:59:33,430 --> 00:59:31,280

me what they think i think

1684

00:59:34,390 --> 00:59:33,440

if there's no relation at all they've

1685

00:59:35,910 --> 00:59:34,400

got some kind of

1686

00:59:37,430 --> 00:59:35,920

something they heard at sunday school

1687

00:59:38,069 --> 00:59:37,440

when they were 10 and they think that's

1688

00:59:40,870 --> 00:59:38,079

what

1689

00:59:41,190 --> 00:59:40,880

serious people think about god um it's

1690

00:59:43,109 --> 00:59:41,200

like

1691

00:59:44,789 --> 00:59:43,119

sort of dismissing science on the basis

1692

00:59:46,470 --> 00:59:44,799

of a misunderstanding of something you

1693

00:59:49,750 --> 00:59:46,480

heard in primary school

1694

00:59:51,750 --> 00:59:49,760

it's just it is not even

1695

00:59:52,950 --> 00:59:51,760

so it doesn't even start as a serious

1696

00:59:55,990 --> 00:59:52,960

discussion

1697

00:59:56,950 --> 00:59:56,000

um so look oh sorry very quickly when

1698

01:00:00,230 --> 00:59:56,960

you look at

1699

01:00:01,990 --> 01:00:00,240

these the new atheist movement and their

1700

01:00:04,309 --> 01:00:02,000

critiques of the divine

1701

01:00:05,750 --> 01:00:04,319

their critiques of god would you say

1702

01:00:08,309 --> 01:00:05,760

that the misle

1703

01:00:10,069 --> 01:00:08,319

the misleading or the misunderstanding

1704

01:00:11,589 --> 01:00:10,079

is based on this natural there's a

1705

01:00:14,630 --> 01:00:11,599

supernatural divide

1706

01:00:15,109 --> 01:00:14,640

i.e we're in the material world where

1707

01:00:18,230 --> 01:00:15,119

there's

1708

01:00:20,950 --> 01:00:18,240

toast and mycorrhizal fungi and people

1709

01:00:23,109 --> 01:00:20,960

and then there's this supernatural place

1710

01:00:24,710 --> 01:00:23,119

with god and demons and angels and

1711

01:00:26,069 --> 01:00:24,720

werewolves and vampires and all the

1712

01:00:29,109 --> 01:00:26,079

ludicrous nonsense

1713

01:00:30,789 --> 01:00:29,119

that we can just sort of shove away and

1714

01:00:31,589 --> 01:00:30,799

that there is a fundamentally true

1715

01:00:33,589 --> 01:00:31,599

reality

1716

01:00:35,990 --> 01:00:33,599

yeah i think it's for it's partly based

1717

01:00:37,910 --> 01:00:36,000

on that disastrous division of the

1718

01:00:40,549 --> 01:00:37,920

natural and supernatural

1719

01:00:41,589 --> 01:00:40,559

it's partly based on that it's partly

1720

01:00:44,150 --> 01:00:41,599

based on

1721

01:00:45,910 --> 01:00:44,160

historical arguments you know religions

1722

01:00:47,589 --> 01:00:45,920

have caused war and conflict

1723

01:00:50,549 --> 01:00:47,599

like the inquisition and that sort of

1724

01:00:53,589 --> 01:00:50,559

thing um but they conveniently ignore

1725

01:00:55,510 --> 01:00:53,599

the fact that in the 20th century

1726
01:00:57,349 --> 01:00:55,520
states that had atheist governments as

1727
01:00:59,510 --> 01:00:57,359
their official policy and believed in

1728
01:01:02,470 --> 01:00:59,520
science and reasons soviet russia

1729
01:01:04,309 --> 01:01:02,480
maoris china pol pots cambodia were

1730
01:01:05,750 --> 01:01:04,319
responsible for a sort of death on an

1731
01:01:08,630 --> 01:01:05,760
industrial scale

1732
01:01:13,349 --> 01:01:08,640
unimaginable to the inquisition and the

1733
01:01:16,870 --> 01:01:15,910
aspect of the historical argument it's a

1734
01:01:22,069 --> 01:01:16,880
polemical

1735
01:01:24,789 --> 01:01:22,079
arguments which are easy to refute

1736
01:01:26,870 --> 01:01:24,799
um and uh which are spoken with the

1737
01:01:29,990 --> 01:01:26,880
further of kind of

1738
01:01:31,910 --> 01:01:30,000

evangelical creatures um

1739

01:01:34,309 --> 01:01:31,920

i just can't take that kind of atheism

1740

01:01:35,990 --> 01:01:34,319

seriously there is a kind that i can

1741

01:01:37,750 --> 01:01:36,000

take seriously there are some atheists

1742

01:01:40,230 --> 01:01:37,760

who say that

1743

01:01:42,470 --> 01:01:40,240

god is beyond the ultimate reality is

1744

01:01:44,789 --> 01:01:42,480

beyond all human conception

1745

01:01:45,910 --> 01:01:44,799

because we have limited minds live on a

1746

01:01:48,470 --> 01:01:45,920

small planet in

1747

01:01:50,710 --> 01:01:48,480

one galaxy etc therefore ultimate

1748

01:01:51,670 --> 01:01:50,720

reality has to be beyond our conceptions

1749

01:01:53,829 --> 01:01:51,680

therefore any of our

1750

01:01:54,870 --> 01:01:53,839

ideas we may form of god or ultimate

1751
01:01:58,069 --> 01:01:54,880
reality

1752
01:01:59,829 --> 01:01:58,079
uh ultimately misleading and the truth

1753
01:02:02,150 --> 01:01:59,839
goes far beyond them

1754
01:02:03,910 --> 01:02:02,160
that's a kind of mystical atheism which

1755
01:02:07,589 --> 01:02:03,920
actually is very similar

1756
01:02:08,950 --> 01:02:07,599
to mystical theology and in the orthodox

1757
01:02:11,750 --> 01:02:08,960
tradition

1758
01:02:13,829 --> 01:02:11,760
they the the mainstream theology there

1759
01:02:14,950 --> 01:02:13,839
is you probably know is called apophatic

1760
01:02:18,789 --> 01:02:14,960
theology

1761
01:02:20,630 --> 01:02:18,799
and it's about not saying what god is it

1762
01:02:22,309 --> 01:02:20,640
says we can't say what god is we can

1763
01:02:24,069 --> 01:02:22,319

only say what god is not

1764

01:02:25,510 --> 01:02:24,079

because god's so far beyond our

1765

01:02:28,789 --> 01:02:25,520

conception that

1766

01:02:31,829 --> 01:02:28,799

uh we can't form a clear image

1767

01:02:33,829 --> 01:02:31,839

and so they say there's a certain kind

1768

01:02:35,910 --> 01:02:33,839

of atheist which is very close to

1769

01:02:38,789 --> 01:02:35,920

apathetic theology and it would

1770

01:02:40,549 --> 01:02:38,799

john gray the english atheist writer i

1771

01:02:42,549 --> 01:02:40,559

would say was in that category he wrote

1772

01:02:43,829 --> 01:02:42,559

an excellent book called seven types of

1773

01:02:45,910 --> 01:02:43,839

atheism

1774

01:02:47,589 --> 01:02:45,920

which makes it much easier to understand

1775

01:02:49,589 --> 01:02:47,599

where the different kinds of atheists

1776

01:02:52,630 --> 01:02:49,599

are coming from

1777

01:02:54,870 --> 01:02:52,640

and the most superficial and and

1778

01:02:57,349 --> 01:02:54,880

and and trivial kind is the kind of

1779

01:02:59,029 --> 01:02:57,359

richard dawkins new atheist type

1780

01:03:00,470 --> 01:02:59,039

but there are more serious atheist

1781

01:03:02,549 --> 01:03:00,480

arguments and um

1782

01:03:03,589 --> 01:03:02,559

his book is wonderful introduction to

1783

01:03:07,510 --> 01:03:03,599

them

1784

01:03:09,109 --> 01:03:07,520

before i pass to uh kirk i just have

1785

01:03:11,349 --> 01:03:09,119

one quick thing to say this type of

1786

01:03:13,029 --> 01:03:11,359

atheism does have ancient roots right

1787

01:03:15,109 --> 01:03:13,039

like protagoras said

1788

01:03:16,870 --> 01:03:15,119

as for the gods i cannot say either that

1789

01:03:18,870 --> 01:03:16,880

they are or that they are not

1790

01:03:20,789 --> 01:03:18,880

or how they are constituted in shape

1791

01:03:21,910 --> 01:03:20,799

there's so much that prevents knowledge

1792

01:03:23,750 --> 01:03:21,920

of this kind

1793

01:03:25,510 --> 01:03:23,760

and clarity of the subject and the

1794

01:03:28,710 --> 01:03:25,520

shortness of human life

1795

01:03:30,069 --> 01:03:28,720

so before the kind of mystical type of

1796

01:03:32,870 --> 01:03:30,079

atheist that there's

1797

01:03:34,950 --> 01:03:32,880

our limits of our own minds i mean that

1798

01:03:36,390 --> 01:03:34,960

we can't form an adequate conception of

1799

01:03:39,109 --> 01:03:36,400

the ultimate

1800

01:03:40,390 --> 01:03:39,119

yes yes that has ancient roots and as i

1801

01:03:43,430 --> 01:03:40,400

say

1802

01:03:43,990 --> 01:03:43,440

in buddhism um the buddha makes the

1803

01:03:46,630 --> 01:03:44,000

buddhists

1804

01:03:48,470 --> 01:03:46,640

refuse to talk about cosmology and stuff

1805

01:03:50,470 --> 01:03:48,480

the idea is the ultimate reality is

1806

01:03:52,230 --> 01:03:50,480

beyond all our conceptions

1807

01:03:54,630 --> 01:03:52,240

and therefore the only thing to do is to

1808

01:03:56,150 --> 01:03:54,640

meditate and experience it directly

1809

01:03:58,390 --> 01:03:56,160

rather than just talk about it that

1810

01:04:01,430 --> 01:03:58,400

won't get you anywhere so

1811

01:04:03,670 --> 01:04:01,440

some people call buddhism atheistic um

1812

01:04:05,750 --> 01:04:03,680

and but it's not atheistic in the new

1813

01:04:07,510 --> 01:04:05,760

atheist sense it's atheistic in a sense

1814

01:04:09,829 --> 01:04:07,520

that goes beyond

1815

01:04:11,349 --> 01:04:09,839

the limitations of human thought one of

1816

01:04:12,309 --> 01:04:11,359

the most interesting aspects that i find

1817

01:04:14,309 --> 01:04:12,319

about

1818

01:04:15,829 --> 01:04:14,319

jordan peterson is that he's made

1819

01:04:19,029 --> 01:04:15,839

religion sapid

1820

01:04:20,470 --> 01:04:19,039

and and intelligible and to the to

1821

01:04:24,069 --> 01:04:20,480

people who are formerly or

1822

01:04:25,589 --> 01:04:24,079

even current atheists what do you see as

1823

01:04:27,589 --> 01:04:25,599

how do you view that and what do you

1824

01:04:28,549 --> 01:04:27,599

like about the petersonian approach and

1825

01:04:31,270 --> 01:04:28,559

what do you not like

1826

01:04:33,029 --> 01:04:31,280

i'm curious to know your thoughts i

1827

01:04:35,349 --> 01:04:33,039

think peterson's done a great job

1828

01:04:37,109 --> 01:04:35,359

in in bringing up questions serious

1829

01:04:38,710 --> 01:04:37,119

important questions and making them

1830

01:04:40,789 --> 01:04:38,720

things that a lot of people

1831

01:04:42,630 --> 01:04:40,799

see his questions and want to talk about

1832

01:04:44,789 --> 01:04:42,640

and discuss

1833

01:04:46,230 --> 01:04:44,799

and he's also done a great job in

1834

01:04:48,390 --> 01:04:46,240

reaching out to people who

1835

01:04:49,990 --> 01:04:48,400

identify as atheists and even

1836

01:04:54,150 --> 01:04:50,000

materialists

1837

01:04:56,150 --> 01:04:54,160

um i think

1838

01:04:58,390 --> 01:04:56,160

so i think that's a tremendous triumph

1839

01:05:00,069 --> 01:04:58,400

making intellectual arguments

1840

01:05:02,950 --> 01:05:00,079

intellectual discussions

1841

01:05:04,630 --> 01:05:02,960

part of popular culture um rather than

1842

01:05:06,150 --> 01:05:04,640

just being confined to university

1843

01:05:09,349 --> 01:05:06,160

seminar rooms because

1844

01:05:12,230 --> 01:05:09,359

he makes the questions real and relevant

1845

01:05:12,870 --> 01:05:12,240

i think when it comes to his views on

1846

01:05:15,589 --> 01:05:12,880

god

1847

01:05:17,510 --> 01:05:15,599

and it's i find it rather hard to know

1848

01:05:19,910 --> 01:05:17,520

what he's actually saying i mean he's

1849

01:05:21,190 --> 01:05:19,920

talking about young and about archetypes

1850

01:05:23,990 --> 01:05:21,200

all very clever

1851
01:05:25,990 --> 01:05:24,000
um but you know i'd like to know whether

1852
01:05:26,950 --> 01:05:26,000
he goes to church whether he prays and

1853
01:05:30,230 --> 01:05:26,960
that sort of thing

1854
01:05:31,430 --> 01:05:30,240
i mean i go to church i pray i'm i'm a

1855
01:05:34,549 --> 01:05:31,440
practicing anglican

1856
01:05:35,349 --> 01:05:34,559
i so you know i don't try to pretend i'm

1857
01:05:38,390 --> 01:05:35,359
not

1858
01:05:40,870 --> 01:05:38,400
and by just and he may want to

1859
01:05:42,150 --> 01:05:40,880
not to say that maybe he doesn't go to

1860
01:05:43,670 --> 01:05:42,160
church doesn't pray

1861
01:05:45,990 --> 01:05:43,680
maybe he doesn't have any personal

1862
01:05:47,829 --> 01:05:46,000
religious faith or practice

1863
01:05:50,150 --> 01:05:47,839

maybe he just thinks religion is a good

1864

01:05:52,069 --> 01:05:50,160

thing in the abstract or in or

1865

01:05:53,510 --> 01:05:52,079

good for people's psyche or fits with

1866

01:05:55,750 --> 01:05:53,520

the right archetypes

1867

01:05:57,109 --> 01:05:55,760

it's awfully hard i mean i know there

1868

01:05:58,549 --> 01:05:57,119

are people who've watched hundreds of

1869

01:06:01,029 --> 01:05:58,559

hours of jordan peterson

1870

01:06:02,230 --> 01:06:01,039

i'm i've only watched it much less than

1871

01:06:04,470 --> 01:06:02,240

that so

1872

01:06:06,150 --> 01:06:04,480

it may be he clarifies this somewhere

1873

01:06:09,190 --> 01:06:06,160

but the ones i've seen i found a bit

1874

01:06:15,510 --> 01:06:12,390

well what's next for you and where can

1875

01:06:17,510 --> 01:06:15,520

our audience find out more about you

1876

01:06:19,150 --> 01:06:17,520

well they can find anyone can find out

1877

01:06:20,309 --> 01:06:19,160

more about me on my website

1878

01:06:22,390 --> 01:06:20,319

sheldrake.org

1879

01:06:24,710 --> 01:06:22,400

which links to my youtube channel where

1880

01:06:27,190 --> 01:06:24,720

there are many videos and dialogues and

1881

01:06:30,309 --> 01:06:27,200

discussions and

1882

01:06:33,670 --> 01:06:30,319

so there's plenty of information there

1883

01:06:34,470 --> 01:06:33,680

my book sounds set free it summarizes my

1884

01:06:37,829 --> 01:06:34,480

views about

1885

01:06:40,549 --> 01:06:37,839

the need to go beyond materialistic uh

1886

01:06:42,549 --> 01:06:40,559

science into a wider more inclusive and

1887

01:06:45,990 --> 01:06:42,559

holistic paradigm

1888

01:06:49,430 --> 01:06:46,000

my two most recent books um where

1889

01:06:50,630 --> 01:06:49,440

i try to bring together my scientific

1890

01:06:52,150 --> 01:06:50,640

understanding of the world with

1891

01:06:54,230 --> 01:06:52,160

spiritual practices

1892

01:06:56,230 --> 01:06:54,240

but one is called science and spiritual

1893

01:06:58,950 --> 01:06:56,240

practices deals with seven different

1894

01:07:01,910 --> 01:06:58,960

spiritual practices including meditation

1895

01:07:03,349 --> 01:07:01,920

gratitude connecting with nature and

1896

01:07:05,990 --> 01:07:03,359

pilgrimage

1897

01:07:07,750 --> 01:07:06,000

and as the most recent book ways to go

1898

01:07:09,990 --> 01:07:07,760

beyond and why they work

1899

01:07:11,750 --> 01:07:10,000

is about seven more spiritual practices

1900

01:07:14,950 --> 01:07:11,760

including sports

1901

01:07:16,470 --> 01:07:14,960

learning from animals fasting

1902

01:07:18,950 --> 01:07:16,480

and spiritual openings through

1903

01:07:20,710 --> 01:07:18,960

psychedelics

1904

01:07:23,510 --> 01:07:20,720

and the celebration of holy days and

1905

01:07:25,589 --> 01:07:23,520

festivals all of these are practices

1906

01:07:29,270 --> 01:07:25,599

which can be done within or outside the

1907

01:07:30,870 --> 01:07:29,280

framework of any particular religion

1908

01:07:32,710 --> 01:07:30,880

and now all of them are being studied

1909

01:07:36,230 --> 01:07:32,720

scientifically

1910

01:07:38,630 --> 01:07:36,240

in a way that um brings science and

1911

01:07:40,789 --> 01:07:38,640

spirituality into a complementary and

1912

01:07:43,510 --> 01:07:40,799

mutually helpful relationship

1913

01:07:44,950 --> 01:07:43,520

rather than some kind of antagonistic

1914

01:07:47,029 --> 01:07:44,960

slanging match

1915

01:07:48,470 --> 01:07:47,039

um and that's much more constructive and

1916

01:07:51,510 --> 01:07:48,480

helpful anyway that's

1917

01:07:53,670 --> 01:07:51,520

that's the theme of my most recent books

1918

01:07:56,390 --> 01:07:53,680

and as for what comes next i'm using

1919

01:08:00,549 --> 01:07:56,400

this period of enforced

1920

01:08:03,589 --> 01:08:00,559

grounding in in my home in in in london

1921

01:08:05,829 --> 01:08:03,599

um as

1922

01:08:08,630 --> 01:08:05,839

actually i see it as a wonderful

1923

01:08:10,630 --> 01:08:08,640

blessing because

1924

01:08:12,950 --> 01:08:10,640

i'm writing scientific papers now i've

1925

01:08:16,229 --> 01:08:12,960

got about seven or eight papers

1926

01:08:18,789 --> 01:08:16,239

based on data from my experiments um and

1927

01:08:20,390 --> 01:08:18,799

uh other ideas which i've wanted to

1928

01:08:22,390 --> 01:08:20,400

write out for years and have never had

1929

01:08:24,709 --> 01:08:22,400

the time and now i have so

1930

01:08:26,950 --> 01:08:24,719

um talking of peer-reviewed journals i'm

1931

01:08:30,229 --> 01:08:26,960

now in full peer-reviewed journal

1932

01:08:32,470 --> 01:08:30,239

mode um i'm writing finished one last

1933

01:08:36,309 --> 01:08:32,480

week i'm writing another right now

1934

01:08:38,070 --> 01:08:36,319

um so um that that's what i'm up to at

1935

01:08:39,669 --> 01:08:38,080

the moment

1936

01:08:42,309 --> 01:08:39,679

rupert your pleasure to talk to a

1937

01:08:44,630 --> 01:08:42,319

pleasure to listen to thank you so much

1938

01:08:45,910 --> 01:08:44,640

right well good luck good luck to both