



The UFO Rabbit Hole

THE EMERGENCE OF UFO LORE: UFOS & NAZIS [PT 1]

Episode 11

1
00:00:16,270 --> 00:00:16,010

[Music]

2
00:00:24,020 --> 00:00:16,280

[Applause]

3
00:00:32,630 --> 00:00:24,030

[Music]

4
00:00:35,670 --> 00:00:32,640
welcome back to the ufo rabbit hole

5
00:00:37,830 --> 00:00:35,680
podcast i'm your host kelly chase

6
00:00:40,229 --> 00:00:37,840
today we begin a three-part series

7
00:00:42,869 --> 00:00:40,239
exploring the complex and if we're being

8
00:00:45,029 --> 00:00:42,879
honest utterly bizarre ufo lore that has

9
00:00:45,910 --> 00:00:45,039
grown up out of the ashes of world war

10
00:00:48,069 --> 00:00:45,920

ii

11
00:00:49,750 --> 00:00:48,079
but before we dive into that i think

12
00:00:52,470 --> 00:00:49,760
it's important to take some time to

13
00:00:55,189 --> 00:00:52,480

understand both the emergence of ufo

14

00:00:56,310 --> 00:00:55,199

lore and how belief systems emerge in

15

00:00:58,709 --> 00:00:56,320

general

16

00:01:00,709 --> 00:00:58,719

and i'll be honest this episode is

17

00:01:03,189 --> 00:01:00,719

probably the most challenging thing that

18

00:01:05,350 --> 00:01:03,199

i've ever had to write i'll warn you now

19

00:01:08,149 --> 00:01:05,360

that there are no easy answers in what

20

00:01:09,670 --> 00:01:08,159

follows there's no way to wrap it all up

21

00:01:12,469 --> 00:01:09,680

neatly with a bow

22

00:01:15,670 --> 00:01:12,479

this topic is both full of tantalizing

23

00:01:18,630 --> 00:01:15,680

patterns and frustrating inconsistencies

24

00:01:20,789 --> 00:01:18,640

it's messy and incomplete absurd and

25

00:01:23,350 --> 00:01:20,799

impenetrable

26

00:01:25,590 --> 00:01:23,360

studying the ufo phenomenon reminds me

27

00:01:27,990 --> 00:01:25,600

of looking through a kaleidoscope with

28

00:01:30,149 --> 00:01:28,000

each twist and turn new colors and

29

00:01:31,670 --> 00:01:30,159

structures emerge before falling apart

30

00:01:33,910 --> 00:01:31,680

to form new ones

31

00:01:35,109 --> 00:01:33,920

it's a riot of both randomness and

32

00:01:36,870 --> 00:01:35,119

symmetry

33

00:01:39,350 --> 00:01:36,880

and through observation of these ever

34

00:01:41,910 --> 00:01:39,360

shifting forms we can begin to guess at

35

00:01:43,910 --> 00:01:41,920

the internal mechanism that creates them

36

00:01:46,469 --> 00:01:43,920

but until we can bust it open and see

37

00:01:48,389 --> 00:01:46,479

what really lies beneath we have no way

38

00:01:50,310 --> 00:01:48,399

of knowing for sure how closely the

39

00:01:51,670 --> 00:01:50,320

models that we form in our mind mirror

40

00:01:53,830 --> 00:01:51,680

reality

41

00:01:56,550 --> 00:01:53,840

we may never be able to bust open the

42

00:01:58,950 --> 00:01:56,560

ufo phenomenon we may never know what

43

00:02:00,709 --> 00:01:58,960

really lies beneath its utterly baffling

44

00:02:02,550 --> 00:02:00,719

manifestations

45

00:02:04,789 --> 00:02:02,560

but it's important to our understanding

46

00:02:06,870 --> 00:02:04,799

of it that we absorb as much of it as we

47

00:02:09,510 --> 00:02:06,880

can and allow ourselves to sit with the

48

00:02:11,990 --> 00:02:09,520

disquiet of not being able to fully

49

00:02:13,430 --> 00:02:12,000

resolve what we see into one consistent

50

00:02:15,589 --> 00:02:13,440

narrative

51
00:02:17,430 --> 00:02:15,599
but before we begin i'd like to take a

52
00:02:20,470 --> 00:02:17,440
moment to give credit and express

53
00:02:22,790 --> 00:02:20,480
gratitude to dr diana walsh basulka for

54
00:02:24,949 --> 00:02:22,800
her book american cosmic

55
00:02:26,150 --> 00:02:24,959
i really struggled as i began to work on

56
00:02:27,990 --> 00:02:26,160
this series

57
00:02:29,990 --> 00:02:28,000
in thinking about things like the rise

58
00:02:32,790 --> 00:02:30,000
of nazi germany and the emergence of

59
00:02:35,030 --> 00:02:32,800
modern ufo lore i found myself coming

60
00:02:37,910 --> 00:02:35,040
back again and again to the idea of

61
00:02:39,670 --> 00:02:37,920
belief systems both how we shape them

62
00:02:41,589 --> 00:02:39,680
and how they shape us

63
00:02:43,910 --> 00:02:41,599

i felt instinctively that there was a

64

00:02:45,830 --> 00:02:43,920

larger story that i wanted to tell but

65

00:02:47,509 --> 00:02:45,840

it was hard to put my finger on exactly

66

00:02:49,910 --> 00:02:47,519

how to express it

67

00:02:52,390 --> 00:02:49,920

american cosmic provided that framework

68

00:02:54,470 --> 00:02:52,400

and helped to contextualize analyze and

69

00:02:55,830 --> 00:02:54,480

interpret ufo lore in a way that i

70

00:02:57,430 --> 00:02:55,840

hadn't before

71

00:02:59,509 --> 00:02:57,440

i cite the book a couple of times

72

00:03:01,110 --> 00:02:59,519

throughout this episode but i wanted to

73

00:03:02,630 --> 00:03:01,120

acknowledge that it had a major

74

00:03:04,390 --> 00:03:02,640

influence on the shaping of my

75

00:03:06,390 --> 00:03:04,400

understanding of the topic and by

76

00:03:07,350 --> 00:03:06,400

extension in shaping this episode as a

77

00:03:09,910 --> 00:03:07,360

whole

78

00:03:12,390 --> 00:03:09,920

in my opinion american cosmic is one of

79

00:03:15,190 --> 00:03:12,400

two books alongside ross colt hearts in

80

00:03:17,350 --> 00:03:15,200

plain sight that are absolute must reads

81

00:03:19,589 --> 00:03:17,360

for anyone new to the topic who wants to

82

00:03:21,350 --> 00:03:19,599

understand modern ufology

83

00:03:23,750 --> 00:03:21,360

if you'd like to dive deeper into some

84

00:03:25,990 --> 00:03:23,760

of the ideas explored in this episode i

85

00:03:27,509 --> 00:03:26,000

can't recommend those two books enough

86

00:03:29,190 --> 00:03:27,519

they're both linked in the episode

87

00:03:30,949 --> 00:03:29,200

description if you haven't read them yet

88

00:03:33,990 --> 00:03:30,959

and would like to check them out

89

00:03:36,470 --> 00:03:34,000

alright so let's dive into the episode

90

00:03:38,470 --> 00:03:36,480

before we begin to deconstruct the ufo

91

00:03:39,509 --> 00:03:38,480

lore surrounding nazi germany and world

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00:03:41,430 --> 00:03:39,519

war ii

93

00:03:43,030 --> 00:03:41,440

i think it's important to first attempt

94

00:03:45,190 --> 00:03:43,040

to place it within its greater

95

00:03:46,789 --> 00:03:45,200

ontological context

96

00:03:48,869 --> 00:03:46,799

if you're not familiar with the term

97

00:03:50,630 --> 00:03:48,879

ontology is a branch of philosophy or

98

00:03:53,350 --> 00:03:50,640

metaphysics that deals with the nature

99

00:03:55,350 --> 00:03:53,360

of being it's the study of what is and

100

00:03:56,789 --> 00:03:55,360

of the underlying logical structure of

101
00:03:59,030 --> 00:03:56,799
reality

102
00:04:01,110 --> 00:03:59,040
we all exist and form our beliefs within

103
00:04:02,229 --> 00:04:01,120
the confines of different ontological

104
00:04:04,390 --> 00:04:02,239
frameworks

105
00:04:05,990 --> 00:04:04,400
what i mean by that is that we all have

106
00:04:07,910 --> 00:04:06,000
underlying beliefs that provide

107
00:04:09,190 --> 00:04:07,920
structure to our overall view of the

108
00:04:11,270 --> 00:04:09,200
world

109
00:04:14,070 --> 00:04:11,280
for instance you may or may not believe

110
00:04:15,350 --> 00:04:14,080
in god in the big bang in free will or

111
00:04:16,949 --> 00:04:15,360
in evolution

112
00:04:18,870 --> 00:04:16,959
and wherever you shake out on each of

113
00:04:20,469 --> 00:04:18,880

those things informs a lot about what

114

00:04:22,469 --> 00:04:20,479

you believe in general

115

00:04:23,990 --> 00:04:22,479

not to mention who you trust and who you

116

00:04:25,189 --> 00:04:24,000

hang out with and what you do with your

117

00:04:27,110 --> 00:04:25,199

life

118

00:04:29,030 --> 00:04:27,120

and your ontological framework isn't

119

00:04:31,590 --> 00:04:29,040

just formed by what you believe and

120

00:04:33,430 --> 00:04:31,600

don't believe but also by what you know

121

00:04:35,830 --> 00:04:33,440

and what you don't know

122

00:04:38,629 --> 00:04:35,840

the ontological framework of aristotle

123

00:04:41,270 --> 00:04:38,639

involved a created perfect static

124

00:04:43,430 --> 00:04:41,280

eternal universe with heavenly bodies

125

00:04:44,950 --> 00:04:43,440

that moved in perfectly circular orbits

126

00:04:47,270 --> 00:04:44,960

around the earth

127

00:04:49,749 --> 00:04:47,280

however modern ontological frameworks

128

00:04:51,990 --> 00:04:49,759

involve a messy heliocentric solar

129

00:04:54,790 --> 00:04:52,000

system on the far spiral arm of an

130

00:04:56,950 --> 00:04:54,800

unremarkable galaxy which itself is

131

00:04:59,270 --> 00:04:56,960

barely a grain of sand a near infinite

132

00:05:00,950 --> 00:04:59,280

universe that is hurtling at increasing

133

00:05:02,870 --> 00:05:00,960

speeds away from its center and

134

00:05:05,189 --> 00:05:02,880

expanding out into

135

00:05:07,029 --> 00:05:05,199

we don't know what exactly

136

00:05:08,790 --> 00:05:07,039

those are two very different reference

137

00:05:10,550 --> 00:05:08,800

points from which to decide what you

138

00:05:13,110 --> 00:05:10,560

believe about yourself and your place in

139

00:05:14,870 --> 00:05:13,120

the cosmos and based upon which one of

140

00:05:16,790 --> 00:05:14,880

those frameworks you're using you're

141

00:05:18,790 --> 00:05:16,800

likely to come up with a very different

142

00:05:20,310 --> 00:05:18,800

set of answers

143

00:05:22,710 --> 00:05:20,320

and that is the understanding that we

144

00:05:24,710 --> 00:05:22,720

need to bring to our exploration of ufo

145

00:05:26,870 --> 00:05:24,720

lore as we put it into cultural and

146

00:05:29,670 --> 00:05:26,880

historical context

147

00:05:31,830 --> 00:05:29,680

because to put it simply the 100 years

148

00:05:34,469 --> 00:05:31,840

leading up to world war ii were a time

149

00:05:35,749 --> 00:05:34,479

of unparalleled ontological chaos for

150

00:05:37,670 --> 00:05:35,759

humanity

151
00:05:40,070 --> 00:05:37,680
the events of this time period didn't

152
00:05:41,749 --> 00:05:40,080
just change the world but in many ways

153
00:05:43,430 --> 00:05:41,759
it fundamentally changed what it means

154
00:05:45,189 --> 00:05:43,440
to be human

155
00:05:47,590 --> 00:05:45,199
living in the new world that the 20th

156
00:05:49,909 --> 00:05:47,600
century created it can sometimes be hard

157
00:05:53,029 --> 00:05:49,919
to fully grasp how dramatically and

158
00:05:54,950 --> 00:05:53,039
quickly things changed in fewer than 100

159
00:05:56,950 --> 00:05:54,960
years we went from the earliest internal

160
00:05:58,150 --> 00:05:56,960
combustion engines to putting a man on

161
00:06:00,070 --> 00:05:58,160
the moon

162
00:06:01,990 --> 00:06:00,080
but this change isn't just about the

163
00:06:04,629 --> 00:06:02,000

rapid emergence of transformative

164

00:06:05,590 --> 00:06:04,639

technologies it's about something deeper

165

00:06:07,590 --> 00:06:05,600

as well

166

00:06:09,909 --> 00:06:07,600

it's not just about how we interact with

167

00:06:13,189 --> 00:06:09,919

our reality but what we think about it

168

00:06:15,830 --> 00:06:13,199

and about ourselves and about god

169

00:06:17,590 --> 00:06:15,840

in 1871 charles darwin published the

170

00:06:19,749 --> 00:06:17,600

descent of man which applied his

171

00:06:22,710 --> 00:06:19,759

revolutionary theory of evolution to

172

00:06:24,230 --> 00:06:22,720

humans describing how homo sapiens could

173

00:06:26,309 --> 00:06:24,240

have emerged naturally through

174

00:06:27,670 --> 00:06:26,319

biological adaptations and sexual

175

00:06:29,430 --> 00:06:27,680

selection

176

00:06:31,350 --> 00:06:29,440

but what does this mean for people who

177

00:06:34,150 --> 00:06:31,360

believe themselves to be intentionally

178

00:06:37,189 --> 00:06:34,160

and lovingly created in the image of god

179

00:06:40,070 --> 00:06:37,199

how does one even begin to process that

180

00:06:42,230 --> 00:06:40,080

then in 1916 einstein published his

181

00:06:43,670 --> 00:06:42,240

general theory of relativity effectively

182

00:06:46,710 --> 00:06:43,680

putting a nail in the coffin of

183

00:06:48,870 --> 00:06:46,720

traditional newtonian physics

184

00:06:51,110 --> 00:06:48,880

suddenly time and space weren't just the

185

00:06:53,270 --> 00:06:51,120

stage upon which we lived our lives but

186

00:06:54,870 --> 00:06:53,280

something bigger more complex and

187

00:06:56,870 --> 00:06:54,880

utterly foreign

188

00:06:59,990 --> 00:06:56,880

space and time we found were the same

189

00:07:01,749 --> 00:07:00,000

thing existing in one unified field

190

00:07:04,070 --> 00:07:01,759

composed of the very nothingness of

191

00:07:05,909 --> 00:07:04,080

empty space that is also somehow

192

00:07:07,270 --> 00:07:05,919

geometrically and predictably shaped by

193

00:07:09,909 --> 00:07:07,280

mass

194

00:07:12,469 --> 00:07:09,919

and in 1923 the world was introduced to

195

00:07:14,309 --> 00:07:12,479

the world of quantum strangeness causing

196

00:07:16,390 --> 00:07:14,319

us to question the very nature of our

197

00:07:18,790 --> 00:07:16,400

existence and showing us that at the

198

00:07:21,189 --> 00:07:18,800

most fundamental atomic level

199

00:07:23,110 --> 00:07:21,199

reality as we experience it is not

200

00:07:25,990 --> 00:07:23,120

always what it seems

201
00:07:27,830 --> 00:07:26,000
in only 52 years science had managed to

202
00:07:30,230 --> 00:07:27,840
seemingly pull the rug out from under

203
00:07:31,909 --> 00:07:30,240
the entire foundation of western thought

204
00:07:34,469 --> 00:07:31,919
and religious belief

205
00:07:36,469 --> 00:07:34,479
it's hard to truly grasp how strange and

206
00:07:38,309 --> 00:07:36,479
confronting these ideas must have been

207
00:07:40,070 --> 00:07:38,319
for the people at the time

208
00:07:41,749 --> 00:07:40,080
and though people today can certainly

209
00:07:44,070 --> 00:07:41,759
find a logical and coherent way to

210
00:07:46,790 --> 00:07:44,080
believe both in a loving creator god and

211
00:07:47,909 --> 00:07:46,800
an evolution the level of analysis and

212
00:07:49,830 --> 00:07:47,919
integration that would have been

213
00:07:52,550 --> 00:07:49,840

required from people of the time to get

214

00:07:54,950 --> 00:07:52,560

there would have been profound

215

00:07:57,270 --> 00:07:54,960

as a result many people looked on an

216

00:07:58,950 --> 00:07:57,280

alarm and dismay as science encroached

217

00:08:00,950 --> 00:07:58,960

further and further into the sacred

218

00:08:02,950 --> 00:08:00,960

realm of religion in explaining things

219

00:08:04,550 --> 00:08:02,960

that had once been the exclusive domain

220

00:08:06,309 --> 00:08:04,560

of the almighty

221

00:08:07,830 --> 00:08:06,319

while others when confronted with the

222

00:08:09,749 --> 00:08:07,840

seeming contradictions between

223

00:08:10,790 --> 00:08:09,759

scientific discovery and religious

224

00:08:13,029 --> 00:08:10,800

belief

225

00:08:14,790 --> 00:08:13,039

lost their faith entirely surrendering

226

00:08:16,309 --> 00:08:14,800

all that certainty to the new god of

227

00:08:18,550 --> 00:08:16,319

science

228

00:08:21,029 --> 00:08:18,560

and the more i learn the more i believe

229

00:08:23,029 --> 00:08:21,039

that it is this core ontological battle

230

00:08:25,830 --> 00:08:23,039

that is the true root of most of the

231

00:08:28,070 --> 00:08:25,840

conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries

232

00:08:29,510 --> 00:08:28,080

from the world wars to the cold war to

233

00:08:31,510 --> 00:08:29,520

the culture wars

234

00:08:33,750 --> 00:08:31,520

all because around 100 years ago our

235

00:08:35,350 --> 00:08:33,760

world got flipped upside down and we

236

00:08:37,589 --> 00:08:35,360

haven't collectively figured out how to

237

00:08:40,790 --> 00:08:37,599

put it back together again

238

00:08:42,550 --> 00:08:40,800

so what is this conflict about exactly

239

00:08:44,790 --> 00:08:42,560

that's hard to define

240

00:08:46,389 --> 00:08:44,800

the fundamental problems and paradoxes

241

00:08:48,150 --> 00:08:46,399

that have arisen in the wake of our

242

00:08:50,949 --> 00:08:48,160

accelerating technological and

243

00:08:53,110 --> 00:08:50,959

scientific breakthroughs are as complex

244

00:08:54,790 --> 00:08:53,120

as the times that created them

245

00:08:56,550 --> 00:08:54,800

but it's important that we try to wrap

246

00:08:59,509 --> 00:08:56,560

our minds around it anyway

247

00:09:01,910 --> 00:08:59,519

so let's dive into it

248

00:09:03,990 --> 00:09:01,920

as science began to unlock more and more

249

00:09:05,990 --> 00:09:04,000

of the secrets of the universe many

250

00:09:08,550 --> 00:09:06,000

people particularly in the scientific

251
00:09:10,949 --> 00:09:08,560
community began to ascribe to some

252
00:09:13,350 --> 00:09:10,959
version of positivism

253
00:09:15,590 --> 00:09:13,360
positivism is a philosophical system

254
00:09:18,470 --> 00:09:15,600
that holds that anything that is real is

255
00:09:22,389 --> 00:09:18,480
governed by the laws of science and as

256
00:09:25,030 --> 00:09:22,399
such it rejects theism and metaphysics

257
00:09:26,949 --> 00:09:25,040
for positivists only factual knowledge

258
00:09:28,870 --> 00:09:26,959
gained through observation with the five

259
00:09:30,949 --> 00:09:28,880
senses is trustworthy

260
00:09:33,509 --> 00:09:30,959
if it can't be measured or observed it

261
00:09:35,350 --> 00:09:33,519
can't be proven and therefore at least

262
00:09:37,670 --> 00:09:35,360
in the scientific sense it doesn't

263
00:09:39,590 --> 00:09:37,680

really matter

264

00:09:41,670 --> 00:09:39,600

as you might imagine there were a lot of

265

00:09:43,670 --> 00:09:41,680

people who took issue with this idea

266

00:09:45,269 --> 00:09:43,680

even as it rose to prominence among the

267

00:09:46,870 --> 00:09:45,279

academic elite

268

00:09:48,470 --> 00:09:46,880

suddenly science wasn't just a

269

00:09:50,630 --> 00:09:48,480

methodology that could be used to

270

00:09:52,790 --> 00:09:50,640

understand the world around us but was

271

00:09:54,710 --> 00:09:52,800

being positioned as the sole legitimate

272

00:09:56,710 --> 00:09:54,720

arbiter of truth

273

00:09:58,550 --> 00:09:56,720

and through some clever semantics

274

00:10:00,310 --> 00:09:58,560

positivists were able to elbow out

275

00:10:02,870 --> 00:10:00,320

anyone who argued that there were things

276

00:10:04,710 --> 00:10:02,880

that science couldn't explain because by

277

00:10:05,829 --> 00:10:04,720

their own definition those things don't

278

00:10:07,829 --> 00:10:05,839

matter

279

00:10:10,230 --> 00:10:07,839

for many this felt like science wasn't

280

00:10:11,110 --> 00:10:10,240

just trying to erase god but to usurp

281

00:10:13,030 --> 00:10:11,120

him

282

00:10:15,190 --> 00:10:13,040

the rejection of that idea and the

283

00:10:17,110 --> 00:10:15,200

hostility against science and academia

284

00:10:19,030 --> 00:10:17,120

that it cultivated in a large segment of

285

00:10:20,870 --> 00:10:19,040

the population is something that we're

286

00:10:24,470 --> 00:10:20,880

still dealing with today

287

00:10:26,710 --> 00:10:24,480

and listen i love science i'm a big fan

288

00:10:28,949 --> 00:10:26,720

i come from an academic family all four

289

00:10:30,710 --> 00:10:28,959

of my parents have terminal degrees when

290

00:10:32,870 --> 00:10:30,720

i was growing up it was just assumed

291

00:10:34,630 --> 00:10:32,880

that i would go to college anything else

292

00:10:36,230 --> 00:10:34,640

would have been blasphemy

293

00:10:38,630 --> 00:10:36,240

when talking about what i wanted to be

294

00:10:41,030 --> 00:10:38,640

when i grew up my dad used to not so

295

00:10:43,269 --> 00:10:41,040

jokingly told me that i could be any

296

00:10:44,790 --> 00:10:43,279

kind of doctor that i wanted to be

297

00:10:46,949 --> 00:10:44,800

and even though i ultimately

298

00:10:50,230 --> 00:10:46,959

disappointed him in that i've always

299

00:10:51,790 --> 00:10:50,240

been firmly on hashtag team science

300

00:10:54,230 --> 00:10:51,800

but even i can admit that the

301

00:10:56,870 --> 00:10:54,240

anti-positivists have a point

302

00:10:59,190 --> 00:10:56,880

let's look at gravity as an example

303

00:11:01,269 --> 00:10:59,200

we have very accurate models of gravity

304

00:11:03,110 --> 00:11:01,279

but allow us to predict how it works and

305

00:11:04,470 --> 00:11:03,120

what will happen when gravity acts upon

306

00:11:06,710 --> 00:11:04,480

a certain object

307

00:11:08,949 --> 00:11:06,720

and those models work so well that we

308

00:11:10,790 --> 00:11:08,959

know the exact angle and velocity that a

309

00:11:12,630 --> 00:11:10,800

spacecraft needs to attain as it

310

00:11:14,630 --> 00:11:12,640

approaches the moon so that it will

311

00:11:15,670 --> 00:11:14,640

slingshot around it and come back to

312

00:11:18,069 --> 00:11:15,680

earth

313

00:11:20,150 --> 00:11:18,079

the slightest miscalculation could send

314

00:11:22,150 --> 00:11:20,160

our astronauts spinning off into space

315

00:11:24,790 --> 00:11:22,160

with no way to return

316

00:11:27,910 --> 00:11:24,800

however while we know how gravity works

317

00:11:30,230 --> 00:11:27,920

we still don't know why it works we can

318

00:11:33,670 --> 00:11:30,240

explain how objects with mass attract

319

00:11:36,230 --> 00:11:33,680

each other but we don't know why they do

320

00:11:38,949 --> 00:11:36,240

and this is true about a lot of things

321

00:11:41,190 --> 00:11:38,959

we know how an acorn grows into a tree

322

00:11:43,910 --> 00:11:41,200

and how rna converts the information

323

00:11:46,150 --> 00:11:43,920

stored in dna into proteins and how our

324

00:11:48,389 --> 00:11:46,160

observation of subatomic particles

325

00:11:50,870 --> 00:11:48,399

influences their behavior but we don't

326

00:11:52,790 --> 00:11:50,880

know why these things happen

327

00:11:54,790 --> 00:11:52,800

the positivist interpretation of this

328

00:11:57,030 --> 00:11:54,800

would be that although we don't know why

329

00:11:59,509 --> 00:11:57,040

these things happen that they are acting

330

00:12:01,670 --> 00:11:59,519

in accordance to set universal laws that

331

00:12:03,750 --> 00:12:01,680

we just don't understand yet

332

00:12:06,710 --> 00:12:03,760

the answer to why these things happen is

333

00:12:08,829 --> 00:12:06,720

knowable rational and discrete there is

334

00:12:11,670 --> 00:12:08,839

no mystery only our own

335

00:12:13,750 --> 00:12:11,680

ignorance but also as long as those

336

00:12:14,949 --> 00:12:13,760

mysterious forces are not measurable or

337

00:12:16,629 --> 00:12:14,959

observable

338

00:12:19,030 --> 00:12:16,639

scientists are free to entirely

339

00:12:20,870 --> 00:12:19,040

disregard their existence and only focus

340

00:12:23,269 --> 00:12:20,880

on what can be measured

341

00:12:25,269 --> 00:12:23,279

and i gotta tell you that doesn't sound

342

00:12:26,949 --> 00:12:25,279

super scientific to me

343

00:12:28,870 --> 00:12:26,959

virtually all of our greatest

344

00:12:30,870 --> 00:12:28,880

discoveries and quantum leaps forward in

345

00:12:33,829 --> 00:12:30,880

our understanding of the universe have

346

00:12:35,430 --> 00:12:33,839

started out as an unanswerable question

347

00:12:37,350 --> 00:12:35,440

if we go around throwing out all the

348

00:12:39,350 --> 00:12:37,360

questions we can't answer we're

349

00:12:41,350 --> 00:12:39,360

inevitably missing a big piece of the

350

00:12:44,150 --> 00:12:41,360

puzzle

351
00:12:47,030 --> 00:12:44,160
and by the 1930s we see the emergence of

352
00:12:49,110 --> 00:12:47,040
physicalism another philosophy that was

353
00:12:51,750 --> 00:12:49,120
as popular among academics as it was

354
00:12:53,910 --> 00:12:51,760
generally reviled by the masses

355
00:12:56,069 --> 00:12:53,920
physicalism is a more extreme form of

356
00:12:58,230 --> 00:12:56,079
materialism which holds that everything

357
00:13:00,550 --> 00:12:58,240
in reality is physical and arises from

358
00:13:02,710 --> 00:13:00,560
physical matter and interactions

359
00:13:04,829 --> 00:13:02,720
so what does that mean exactly

360
00:13:07,750 --> 00:13:04,839
let's take the example of human

361
00:13:09,990 --> 00:13:07,760
consciousness mind-body dualists believe

362
00:13:12,230 --> 00:13:10,000
that mental processes are non-physical

363
00:13:14,069 --> 00:13:12,240

phenomena and that the physical body

364

00:13:16,150 --> 00:13:14,079

including the brain is distinct and

365

00:13:17,990 --> 00:13:16,160

separate from the mind itself

366

00:13:20,389 --> 00:13:18,000

for those who take this perspective the

367

00:13:22,389 --> 00:13:20,399

brain is the seat of consciousness but

368

00:13:24,389 --> 00:13:22,399

it behaves more like hardware or an

369

00:13:25,829 --> 00:13:24,399

antenna that allows the mind to interact

370

00:13:28,069 --> 00:13:25,839

with its surroundings through the

371

00:13:30,389 --> 00:13:28,079

physical body but consciousness doesn't

372

00:13:32,629 --> 00:13:30,399

need the body to exist

373

00:13:34,310 --> 00:13:32,639

physicalists on the other hand don't see

374

00:13:36,710 --> 00:13:34,320

any distinction between the mind and the

375

00:13:38,790 --> 00:13:36,720

body they believe that consciousness

376

00:13:40,870 --> 00:13:38,800

emerges from the physical and chemical

377

00:13:43,350 --> 00:13:40,880

interactions within the brain when the

378

00:13:45,189 --> 00:13:43,360

brain dies the consciousness dies they

379

00:13:47,350 --> 00:13:45,199

cannot exist without each other because

380

00:13:49,269 --> 00:13:47,360

they are the same thing

381

00:13:51,189 --> 00:13:49,279

so basically while positivists were

382

00:13:52,790 --> 00:13:51,199

making the argument that anything that

383

00:13:53,670 --> 00:13:52,800

can't be measured or observed doesn't

384

00:13:55,430 --> 00:13:53,680

matter

385

00:13:57,350 --> 00:13:55,440

physicalists argued that anything that

386

00:13:58,470 --> 00:13:57,360

can't be measured or observed doesn't

387

00:14:01,430 --> 00:13:58,480

exist

388

00:14:02,949 --> 00:14:01,440

and according to a 2009 study this is

389

00:14:05,990 --> 00:14:02,959

the view that is still held by the

390

00:14:07,910 --> 00:14:06,000

majority of philosophers today

391

00:14:10,310 --> 00:14:07,920

now who's right and who's wrong in this

392

00:14:12,310 --> 00:14:10,320

debate is a much larger conversation and

393

00:14:13,670 --> 00:14:12,320

honestly i'll probably devote an entire

394

00:14:14,629 --> 00:14:13,680

episode to this at some point in the

395

00:14:16,629 --> 00:14:14,639

future

396

00:14:18,389 --> 00:14:16,639

but for now all that really matters is

397

00:14:20,550 --> 00:14:18,399

that we understand the basics of the

398

00:14:23,030 --> 00:14:20,560

ideological battle that raged throughout

399

00:14:25,269 --> 00:14:23,040

the 20th century and that in many ways

400

00:14:27,350 --> 00:14:25,279

continues to this day

401
00:14:29,189 --> 00:14:27,360
i think it's also important to recognize

402
00:14:31,430 --> 00:14:29,199
in all of this that the questions at the

403
00:14:32,230 --> 00:14:31,440
heart of this conflict aren't modern at

404
00:14:33,750 --> 00:14:32,240
all

405
00:14:35,990 --> 00:14:33,760
rather they are the questions that

406
00:14:38,069 --> 00:14:36,000
humanity has always asked going back as

407
00:14:40,230 --> 00:14:38,079
far as we've kept records and probably

408
00:14:42,470 --> 00:14:40,240
from millennia before that

409
00:14:44,310 --> 00:14:42,480
in many ways the ability to formulate

410
00:14:46,230 --> 00:14:44,320
these questions and our never-ending

411
00:14:48,710 --> 00:14:46,240
quest for the answers are central to

412
00:14:50,069 --> 00:14:48,720
what it means to be human

413
00:14:52,150 --> 00:14:50,079

questions like

414

00:14:54,870 --> 00:14:52,160

was the universe created intentionally

415

00:14:56,790 --> 00:14:54,880

or did all of this arise by chance

416

00:14:59,590 --> 00:14:56,800

is there something after this life or do

417

00:15:01,670 --> 00:14:59,600

we cease to exist when our body dies

418

00:15:03,670 --> 00:15:01,680

is there such a thing as absolute right

419

00:15:05,590 --> 00:15:03,680

and wrong or is that just an illusion

420

00:15:07,750 --> 00:15:05,600

that makes it easier for us to coexist

421

00:15:09,509 --> 00:15:07,760

with each other in large groups

422

00:15:11,189 --> 00:15:09,519

do our lives have meaning or is that

423

00:15:12,790 --> 00:15:11,199

just the wishful thinking of beings

424

00:15:14,550 --> 00:15:12,800

unfortunate enough to be aware of their

425

00:15:16,790 --> 00:15:14,560

own mortality

426

00:15:18,550 --> 00:15:16,800

and while these questions aren't new the

427

00:15:20,069 --> 00:15:18,560

rapid progression of scientific

428

00:15:22,310 --> 00:15:20,079

breakthroughs that occurred in the

429

00:15:24,230 --> 00:15:22,320

lead-up to the 20th century and which

430

00:15:25,990 --> 00:15:24,240

reached a decisive crescendo by the

431

00:15:27,910 --> 00:15:26,000

mid-century with the splitting of the

432

00:15:30,629 --> 00:15:27,920

atom and the beginning of space

433

00:15:33,509 --> 00:15:30,639

exploration brought these long-simmering

434

00:15:34,949 --> 00:15:33,519

ideological battles to a boil

435

00:15:37,350 --> 00:15:34,959

riding high on all of these

436

00:15:39,350 --> 00:15:37,360

paradigm-shattering discoveries many in

437

00:15:41,189 --> 00:15:39,360

the scientific community and the public

438

00:15:43,110 --> 00:15:41,199

at large began to believe that it was

439

00:15:45,269 --> 00:15:43,120

only a matter of time before science was

440

00:15:46,710 --> 00:15:45,279

able to lay bare all of the mysteries of

441

00:15:49,749 --> 00:15:46,720

the universe

442

00:15:51,829 --> 00:15:49,759

in 1897 the physicist william thompson

443

00:15:53,910 --> 00:15:51,839

lord kelvin looked at all of the

444

00:15:56,069 --> 00:15:53,920

tremendous advancements in electricity

445

00:15:58,710 --> 00:15:56,079

astronomy and biology that marked his

446

00:16:00,949 --> 00:15:58,720

age and concluded there is nothing new

447

00:16:02,790 --> 00:16:00,959

to be discovered in physics now all that

448

00:16:04,550 --> 00:16:02,800

remains is more and more precise

449

00:16:06,389 --> 00:16:04,560

measurement

450

00:16:08,150 --> 00:16:06,399

which is a little embarrassing for him

451

00:16:09,990 --> 00:16:08,160

considering all of the breathtaking

452

00:16:12,230 --> 00:16:10,000

scientific discoveries from general

453

00:16:14,870 --> 00:16:12,240

relativity to quantum mechanics that

454

00:16:17,189 --> 00:16:14,880

would occur just a few short years later

455

00:16:19,749 --> 00:16:17,199

and yet despite the fact that each new

456

00:16:22,550 --> 00:16:19,759

discovery seemed to open a pandora's box

457

00:16:25,910 --> 00:16:22,560

of new questions this mindset remains

458

00:16:27,350 --> 00:16:25,920

the default for many people even today

459

00:16:29,189 --> 00:16:27,360

and although we've hopefully been

460

00:16:31,030 --> 00:16:29,199

humbled enough to recognize that the

461

00:16:33,350 --> 00:16:31,040

discoveries that we've made thus far are

462

00:16:35,269 --> 00:16:33,360

but a single drop in a universe full of

463

00:16:36,389 --> 00:16:35,279

oceans compared to what there still is

464

00:16:38,230 --> 00:16:36,399

to know

465

00:16:40,230 --> 00:16:38,240

many of us operate under the assumption

466

00:16:42,870 --> 00:16:40,240

that the ultimate nature of our reality

467

00:16:44,310 --> 00:16:42,880

is scientifically measurable or will be

468

00:16:47,269 --> 00:16:44,320

at some point

469

00:16:49,030 --> 00:16:47,279

and maybe it is i honestly don't know

470

00:16:52,150 --> 00:16:49,040

i don't think it's an inherently crazy

471

00:16:54,790 --> 00:16:52,160

assumption but it is undeniably an

472

00:16:57,030 --> 00:16:54,800

assumption and a big one at that

473

00:16:59,670 --> 00:16:57,040

and that assumption lies at the heart of

474

00:17:01,749 --> 00:16:59,680

this ideological conflict

475

00:17:03,110 --> 00:17:01,759

on the one side you have people who

476

00:17:05,270 --> 00:17:03,120

believe that we are more than our

477

00:17:07,669 --> 00:17:05,280

physical bodies that there is a divine

478

00:17:10,230 --> 00:17:07,679

order to the universe that our lives are

479

00:17:13,029 --> 00:17:10,240

inherently meaningful and that good and

480

00:17:15,270 --> 00:17:13,039

evil aren't philosophical abstractions

481

00:17:17,029 --> 00:17:15,280

but fundamental realities

482

00:17:18,789 --> 00:17:17,039

and on the other side are people who

483

00:17:20,630 --> 00:17:18,799

believe that we are no more than the

484

00:17:23,029 --> 00:17:20,640

chemical processes that take place in

485

00:17:24,710 --> 00:17:23,039

our brain that the universe arose out of

486

00:17:26,630 --> 00:17:24,720

randomness shaped by nothing but the

487

00:17:28,309 --> 00:17:26,640

fundamental laws of physics

488

00:17:30,549 --> 00:17:28,319

that our lives only have whatever

489

00:17:33,029 --> 00:17:30,559

meaning we give them and that good and

490

00:17:35,190 --> 00:17:33,039

evil are culturally relative constructs

491

00:17:37,669 --> 00:17:35,200

without inherent meaning

492

00:17:39,669 --> 00:17:37,679

the former is horrified by the emergence

493

00:17:41,750 --> 00:17:39,679

of a worldview that seems increasingly

494

00:17:44,070 --> 00:17:41,760

invested in denying the most essential

495

00:17:46,070 --> 00:17:44,080

aspects of our humanity based on a

496

00:17:47,510 --> 00:17:46,080

faulty assumption and a staggering level

497

00:17:50,070 --> 00:17:47,520

of hubris

498

00:17:51,590 --> 00:17:50,080

the latter is disdainful of what it sees

499

00:17:53,990 --> 00:17:51,600

as a dangerous attachment to

500

00:17:56,390 --> 00:17:54,000

superstition and religious thinking that

501
00:17:57,750 --> 00:17:56,400
they believe humanity must move past for

502
00:17:59,750 --> 00:17:57,760
the survival and advancement of our

503
00:18:01,510 --> 00:17:59,760
species

504
00:18:03,669 --> 00:18:01,520
and all you have to do is turn on the

505
00:18:05,430 --> 00:18:03,679
news to recognize that this is a war

506
00:18:07,830 --> 00:18:05,440
that still rages on in the form of the

507
00:18:09,510 --> 00:18:07,840
culture wars of our modern day

508
00:18:11,909 --> 00:18:09,520
but i'd caution you against thinking

509
00:18:14,390 --> 00:18:11,919
about this conflict in terms of sides or

510
00:18:17,110 --> 00:18:14,400
in terms of specific groups even as our

511
00:18:19,350 --> 00:18:17,120
minds automatically jump to do so just

512
00:18:21,190 --> 00:18:19,360
evoking the culture wars likely has many

513
00:18:23,590 --> 00:18:21,200

of you already choosing sides in your

514

00:18:25,669 --> 00:18:23,600

mind or at the very least knowing which

515

00:18:27,830 --> 00:18:25,679

side you'd be on by default

516

00:18:30,549 --> 00:18:27,840

but not only will this kind of tribalist

517

00:18:33,029 --> 00:18:30,559

thinking compromise our objectivity but

518

00:18:36,150 --> 00:18:33,039

as we'll see this collective crisis of

519

00:18:38,870 --> 00:18:36,160

faith is so pervasive so tenacious and

520

00:18:40,710 --> 00:18:38,880

so slippery that it defies all labels

521

00:18:42,710 --> 00:18:40,720

and boundaries

522

00:18:45,029 --> 00:18:42,720

this isn't about the conflict between

523

00:18:47,990 --> 00:18:45,039

any particular group or religion or

524

00:18:49,990 --> 00:18:48,000

ideology against any other it's about a

525

00:18:52,470 --> 00:18:50,000

collective set of questions that we keep

526

00:18:55,029 --> 00:18:52,480

asking ourselves frantically seeking to

527

00:18:57,430 --> 00:18:55,039

bridge the gap of this aching divide

528

00:18:59,430 --> 00:18:57,440

shouting all at once screaming over each

529

00:19:00,870 --> 00:18:59,440

other until no one can even remember the

530

00:19:04,230 --> 00:19:00,880

question anymore

531

00:19:06,150 --> 00:19:04,240

much less pause to hear the answer

532

00:19:08,789 --> 00:19:06,160

and in the midst of this ontological

533

00:19:11,830 --> 00:19:08,799

chaos something entirely new began to

534

00:19:14,710 --> 00:19:11,840

take shape a modern myth that was both

535

00:19:17,270 --> 00:19:14,720

technological and otherworldly

536

00:19:18,630 --> 00:19:17,280

both apparently physical yet somehow

537

00:19:21,029 --> 00:19:18,640

divine

538

00:19:23,029 --> 00:19:21,039

a new paradigm that challenges all of

539

00:19:25,110 --> 00:19:23,039

our preconceived notions about the very

540

00:19:27,270 --> 00:19:25,120

nature of our reality and our place

541

00:19:29,590 --> 00:19:27,280

within what feels like an increasingly

542

00:19:32,150 --> 00:19:29,600

infinite cosmos

543

00:19:34,630 --> 00:19:32,160

appearing in the skies revealing itself

544

00:19:37,110 --> 00:19:34,640

to common people from pilots to ranch

545

00:19:39,430 --> 00:19:37,120

hands while confounding all attempts at

546

00:19:41,590 --> 00:19:39,440

categorization or understanding by the

547

00:19:43,270 --> 00:19:41,600

brave few willing to climb down out of

548

00:19:44,950 --> 00:19:43,280

their ivory towers to confront the

549

00:19:46,870 --> 00:19:44,960

mystery head-on

550

00:19:50,070 --> 00:19:46,880

the events surrounding the emergence of

551
00:19:52,789 --> 00:19:50,080
the ufo phenomenon feel both undeniably

552
00:19:55,110 --> 00:19:52,799
modern and yet somehow ancient

553
00:19:57,270 --> 00:19:55,120
it speaks to us in riddles and allegory

554
00:19:59,430 --> 00:19:57,280
like the scriptures of old

555
00:20:01,909 --> 00:19:59,440
in many ways the phenomenon is like a

556
00:20:04,070 --> 00:20:01,919
rorschach test taking the shape of the

557
00:20:07,510 --> 00:20:04,080
mind that considers it

558
00:20:09,830 --> 00:20:07,520
some see our salvation others are doomed

559
00:20:12,149 --> 00:20:09,840
some see high technology while others

560
00:20:14,470 --> 00:20:12,159
see a psychological construct worn like

561
00:20:16,470 --> 00:20:14,480
a costume by a metaphysical intelligence

562
00:20:18,470 --> 00:20:16,480
beyond our understanding

563
00:20:20,789 --> 00:20:18,480

some see nothing at all

564

00:20:23,270 --> 00:20:20,799

and yet as the evidence mounts that this

565

00:20:25,990 --> 00:20:23,280

phenomenon is not just a projection or a

566

00:20:27,830 --> 00:20:26,000

fantasy but a reality that our species

567

00:20:28,870 --> 00:20:27,840

has been grappling with since the dawn

568

00:20:31,029 --> 00:20:28,880

of time

569

00:20:34,149 --> 00:20:31,039

we're left to wonder what all this might

570

00:20:36,470 --> 00:20:34,159

mean and what role humanity might play

571

00:20:38,070 --> 00:20:36,480

in a larger cosmic reality

572

00:20:40,549 --> 00:20:38,080

the shape of which we have yet to

573

00:20:46,800 --> 00:20:40,559

glimpse but which calls to us from just

574

00:23:37,909 --> 00:20:57,270

[Music]

575

00:23:42,070 --> 00:23:40,390

as we've discussed in previous episodes

576

00:23:44,310 --> 00:23:42,080

there is considerable evidence to

577

00:23:46,149 --> 00:23:44,320

suggest that the ufo phenomenon has been

578

00:23:48,310 --> 00:23:46,159

a part of the human experience for

579

00:23:49,510 --> 00:23:48,320

thousands of years and perhaps even

580

00:23:51,510 --> 00:23:49,520

longer

581

00:23:53,990 --> 00:23:51,520

and yet although the phenomenon itself

582

00:23:56,070 --> 00:23:54,000

may be ancient it's hard to deny that

583

00:23:58,310 --> 00:23:56,080

ufo lore as we know it today has a

584

00:24:00,710 --> 00:23:58,320

definitive beginning

585

00:24:02,789 --> 00:24:00,720

at some point the stories of mysterious

586

00:24:04,950 --> 00:24:02,799

lights and objects in the sky and of

587

00:24:07,190 --> 00:24:04,960

encounters with angelic or otherwise

588

00:24:08,870 --> 00:24:07,200

otherworldly beings shook off the

589

00:24:11,350 --> 00:24:08,880

interpretations of the past and

590

00:24:13,430 --> 00:24:11,360

coalesced around a new paradigm

591

00:24:15,510 --> 00:24:13,440

that of the ufo

592

00:24:18,230 --> 00:24:15,520

and although that sea change occurred

593

00:24:20,390 --> 00:24:18,240

over a number of years if not decades it

594

00:24:22,390 --> 00:24:20,400

all seems to be tightly centered around

595

00:24:24,630 --> 00:24:22,400

the events that occurred over just a few

596

00:24:26,470 --> 00:24:24,640

months in 1947

597

00:24:28,310 --> 00:24:26,480

just two years after the end of world

598

00:24:29,750 --> 00:24:28,320

war ii

599

00:24:31,590 --> 00:24:29,760

and it all began with what is

600

00:24:33,430 --> 00:24:31,600

traditionally considered to be the first

601
00:24:37,190 --> 00:24:33,440
modern ufo sighting

602
00:24:38,950 --> 00:24:37,200
on june 24th 1947 pilot kenneth arnold

603
00:24:40,470 --> 00:24:38,960
was flying in washington state on a

604
00:24:43,190 --> 00:24:40,480
business trip

605
00:24:44,870 --> 00:24:43,200
at that time a 5 000 reward was being

606
00:24:46,710 --> 00:24:44,880
offered in the search for a marine

607
00:24:48,070 --> 00:24:46,720
transport plane that had crashed near

608
00:24:49,909 --> 00:24:48,080
mount rainier

609
00:24:52,230 --> 00:24:49,919
five thousand dollars was equivalent to

610
00:24:54,230 --> 00:24:52,240
sixty five thousand dollars today so he

611
00:24:55,669 --> 00:24:54,240
decided to make a quick detour to fly

612
00:24:57,510 --> 00:24:55,679
through the area to see what he might

613
00:24:59,190 --> 00:24:57,520

find

614

00:25:01,669 --> 00:24:59,200

arnold's search didn't prove to be

615

00:25:03,750 --> 00:25:01,679

fruitful but as he was heading back east

616

00:25:05,269 --> 00:25:03,760

toward yakima washington he saw

617

00:25:07,510 --> 00:25:05,279

something strange

618

00:25:11,190 --> 00:25:07,520

a few minutes before 3 p.m as he was

619

00:25:13,190 --> 00:25:11,200

flying at around 9200 feet arnold saw a

620

00:25:15,750 --> 00:25:13,200

bright flashing light like the glint of

621

00:25:18,230 --> 00:25:15,760

sunlight reflecting off of a mirror

622

00:25:20,149 --> 00:25:18,240

30 seconds later he saw another series

623

00:25:23,190 --> 00:25:20,159

of bright flashes in the distance about

624

00:25:24,549 --> 00:25:23,200

20 to 25 miles away just north of mount

625

00:25:25,990 --> 00:25:24,559

rainier

626
00:25:27,510 --> 00:25:26,000
arnold initially thought that these

627
00:25:29,430 --> 00:25:27,520
flashing lights were some kind of

628
00:25:31,269 --> 00:25:29,440
reflection on his airplane's windows

629
00:25:33,350 --> 00:25:31,279
that were causing an illusion

630
00:25:35,430 --> 00:25:33,360
however he tried rocking his plane from

631
00:25:37,269 --> 00:25:35,440
side to side removing his glasses and

632
00:25:39,830 --> 00:25:37,279
even rolling down his side window and

633
00:25:41,110 --> 00:25:39,840
was quickly able to rule that out

634
00:25:43,029 --> 00:25:41,120
arnold saw that the lights were

635
00:25:45,750 --> 00:25:43,039
reflections glinting off what appeared

636
00:25:47,750 --> 00:25:45,760
to be metallic flying objects they flew

637
00:25:50,230 --> 00:25:47,760
in a long chain almost like a flock of

638
00:25:52,390 --> 00:25:50,240

geese but not only were they at too high

639

00:25:54,549 --> 00:25:52,400

in altitude for that to be plausible

640

00:25:56,549 --> 00:25:54,559

they were also flying far too fast to be

641

00:25:58,070 --> 00:25:56,559

geese or anything else that arnold had

642

00:25:59,830 --> 00:25:58,080

ever encountered

643

00:26:01,510 --> 00:25:59,840

doing some quick measurements arnold

644

00:26:03,190 --> 00:26:01,520

conservatively estimated that the

645

00:26:05,830 --> 00:26:03,200

objects were flying at speeds of at

646

00:26:07,990 --> 00:26:05,840

least 1200 miles per hour or nearly

647

00:26:09,830 --> 00:26:08,000

twice the speed of sound something that

648

00:26:11,669 --> 00:26:09,840

would have been impossible for any known

649

00:26:13,430 --> 00:26:11,679

aircraft at the time

650

00:26:15,909 --> 00:26:13,440

and they didn't look like any aircraft

651
00:26:19,830 --> 00:26:15,919
familiar to arnold either he described

652
00:26:22,390 --> 00:26:19,840
the craft as saucers discs pie pans or

653
00:26:23,350 --> 00:26:22,400
half moons as they were generally convex

654
00:26:25,430 --> 00:26:23,360
and thin

655
00:26:27,430 --> 00:26:25,440
they darted swiftly between the mountain

656
00:26:29,750 --> 00:26:27,440
peaks moving at speeds that would crush

657
00:26:31,669 --> 00:26:29,760
a human and flipped around erratically

658
00:26:33,430 --> 00:26:31,679
as they flew sometimes flipping up on

659
00:26:35,190 --> 00:26:33,440
their side so that they became almost

660
00:26:37,750 --> 00:26:35,200
invisible

661
00:26:39,990 --> 00:26:37,760
within days the story of arnold sighting

662
00:26:41,750 --> 00:26:40,000
was in newspapers around the world and

663
00:26:43,750 --> 00:26:41,760

while there is considerable debate about

664

00:26:45,909 --> 00:26:43,760

the true origins of the term flying

665

00:26:48,070 --> 00:26:45,919

saucer it's clear that the arnold

666

00:26:49,909 --> 00:26:48,080

sighting and the subsequent media blitz

667

00:26:51,909 --> 00:26:49,919

that ensued were responsible for

668

00:26:53,110 --> 00:26:51,919

popularizing both the term and the

669

00:26:54,710 --> 00:26:53,120

concept

670

00:26:57,269 --> 00:26:54,720

but it wouldn't take long for flying

671

00:27:01,190 --> 00:26:57,279

saucers to be back in the news

672

00:27:03,269 --> 00:27:01,200

just two weeks later on july 8 1947 the

673

00:27:05,669 --> 00:27:03,279

public information officer for the army

674

00:27:07,510 --> 00:27:05,679

airfield in roswell new mexico issued a

675

00:27:10,390 --> 00:27:07,520

press release stating that personnel

676
00:27:12,950 --> 00:27:10,400
from the 509th operations group had

677
00:27:15,590 --> 00:27:12,960
recovered a flying disc which had landed

678
00:27:17,590 --> 00:27:15,600
on a ranch near roswell new mexico

679
00:27:19,430 --> 00:27:17,600
that press release read

680
00:27:21,669 --> 00:27:19,440
the many rumors regarding the flying

681
00:27:24,230 --> 00:27:21,679
disc became a reality yesterday when the

682
00:27:26,549 --> 00:27:24,240
intelligence office of the 509th bomb

683
00:27:28,630 --> 00:27:26,559
group of the eighth air force roswell

684
00:27:30,710 --> 00:27:28,640
army airfield was fortunate enough to

685
00:27:32,950 --> 00:27:30,720
gain possession of a disc through the

686
00:27:34,710 --> 00:27:32,960
cooperation of one of the local ranchers

687
00:27:35,750 --> 00:27:34,720
and the sheriff's office of chavez

688
00:27:37,990 --> 00:27:35,760

county

689

00:27:40,310 --> 00:27:38,000

the flying object landed on a ranch near

690

00:27:42,630 --> 00:27:40,320

roswell sometime last week

691

00:27:44,549 --> 00:27:42,640

not having phone facilities the rancher

692

00:27:46,870 --> 00:27:44,559

stored the disk until such time as he

693

00:27:49,269 --> 00:27:46,880

was able to contact the sheriff's office

694

00:27:51,510 --> 00:27:49,279

who in turn notified major jessie a

695

00:27:53,750 --> 00:27:51,520

marcel of the 509th bomb group

696

00:27:55,510 --> 00:27:53,760

intelligence office

697

00:27:57,669 --> 00:27:55,520

action was immediately taken and the

698

00:27:59,590 --> 00:27:57,679

disc was picked up at the ranchers home

699

00:28:01,909 --> 00:27:59,600

it was inspected at the roswell army

700

00:28:04,789 --> 00:28:01,919

airfield and subsequently loaned out by

701
00:28:07,510 --> 00:28:04,799
major marcel to higher headquarters

702
00:28:09,590 --> 00:28:07,520
however by the next day the army had

703
00:28:11,669 --> 00:28:09,600
changed their story they claimed that

704
00:28:13,510 --> 00:28:11,679
what had been found wasn't a flying disc

705
00:28:15,750 --> 00:28:13,520
at all in fact it wasn't even an

706
00:28:18,630 --> 00:28:15,760
aircraft it was a weather balloon made

707
00:28:20,470 --> 00:28:18,640
of tin foil rubber scotch tape and thin

708
00:28:22,389 --> 00:28:20,480
wooden beams that had crash-landed at

709
00:28:24,389 --> 00:28:22,399
the ranch in roswell

710
00:28:26,630 --> 00:28:24,399
now i personally don't find it to be

711
00:28:28,710 --> 00:28:26,640
particularly plausible that high-ranking

712
00:28:30,149 --> 00:28:28,720
military officers would confuse a pile

713
00:28:32,470 --> 00:28:30,159

of materials that you could buy at a

714

00:28:33,430 --> 00:28:32,480

craft store for the wreckage of a flying

715

00:28:35,110 --> 00:28:33,440

disk

716

00:28:37,590 --> 00:28:35,120

and certainly if you dig into the

717

00:28:39,350 --> 00:28:37,600

roswell case there is so much smoke that

718

00:28:41,909 --> 00:28:39,360

it feels impossible to believe that

719

00:28:43,590 --> 00:28:41,919

there isn't some sort of a fire here

720

00:28:45,590 --> 00:28:43,600

and yet i don't think that there is

721

00:28:46,789 --> 00:28:45,600

enough clear evidence to say for sure

722

00:28:48,870 --> 00:28:46,799

what happened

723

00:28:51,029 --> 00:28:48,880

what we can be relatively certain about

724

00:28:54,389 --> 00:28:51,039

is that something crashed in the desert

725

00:28:56,230 --> 00:28:54,399

outside roswell in july of 1947 and that

726

00:28:58,389 --> 00:28:56,240

the army has not been honest with the

727

00:28:59,909 --> 00:28:58,399

public about what that was and the

728

00:29:02,149 --> 00:28:59,919

reason that we can be so certain about

729

00:29:04,149 --> 00:29:02,159

that is that in the decades since the

730

00:29:06,310 --> 00:29:04,159

government has changed its story no

731

00:29:07,990 --> 00:29:06,320

fewer than three times about what really

732

00:29:10,070 --> 00:29:08,000

happened on that day

733

00:29:12,630 --> 00:29:10,080

whether any of those explanations is the

734

00:29:14,549 --> 00:29:12,640

actual truth is impossible to say

735

00:29:17,510 --> 00:29:14,559

but the changing story alone is enough

736

00:29:19,510 --> 00:29:17,520

to confirm a cover-up of something

737

00:29:22,230 --> 00:29:19,520

whatever happened at roswell it wasn't

738

00:29:24,149 --> 00:29:22,240

the end of the flying saucer craze

739

00:29:25,909 --> 00:29:24,159

thousands more sightings were reported

740

00:29:28,950 --> 00:29:25,919

in the months and years that followed

741

00:29:31,510 --> 00:29:28,960

and by 1950 just three short years after

742

00:29:33,750 --> 00:29:31,520

kenneth arnold made his report the first

743

00:29:36,310 --> 00:29:33,760

major motion picture about ufos was

744

00:29:38,549 --> 00:29:36,320

released titled the flying saucer

745

00:29:41,830 --> 00:29:38,559

solidifying the new paradigm of the disc

746

00:29:44,149 --> 00:29:41,840

shaped ufo in the public zeitgeist

747

00:29:46,310 --> 00:29:44,159

i find it strange not just that all of

748

00:29:48,470 --> 00:29:46,320

this happened so quickly but that it

749

00:29:52,070 --> 00:29:48,480

happened at all because as we've

750

00:29:54,149 --> 00:29:52,080

discussed this phenomenon was not new

751
00:29:56,230 --> 00:29:54,159
people had been reporting strange lights

752
00:29:58,789 --> 00:29:56,240
and craft in the skies from the very

753
00:30:00,789 --> 00:29:58,799
first sumerian texts up through the

754
00:30:02,630 --> 00:30:00,799
reports of the mysterious foo fighters

755
00:30:05,750 --> 00:30:02,640
during world war ii

756
00:30:08,310 --> 00:30:05,760
so what happened in 1947 wasn't a

757
00:30:10,870 --> 00:30:08,320
beginning so much as a seismic paradigm

758
00:30:13,430 --> 00:30:10,880
shift within an existing mythology

759
00:30:16,230 --> 00:30:13,440
in a very short period of time the very

760
00:30:19,510 --> 00:30:16,240
concept of unidentified aerial phenomena

761
00:30:22,070 --> 00:30:19,520
became synonymous with flying saucers

762
00:30:24,149 --> 00:30:22,080
this shift also seemed to cement another

763
00:30:27,190 --> 00:30:24,159

realignment that was already in process

764

00:30:28,549 --> 00:30:27,200

at the time which was equating ufos with

765

00:30:30,789 --> 00:30:28,559

technology

766

00:30:32,549 --> 00:30:30,799

whereas in the past people tended to

767

00:30:35,190 --> 00:30:32,559

assume that the bizarre things that they

768

00:30:37,190 --> 00:30:35,200

saw in the sky were gods angels or other

769

00:30:38,789 --> 00:30:37,200

mystical manifestations

770

00:30:41,110 --> 00:30:38,799

now they were presumed to be highly

771

00:30:42,710 --> 00:30:41,120

advanced technology whether it be human

772

00:30:47,510 --> 00:30:42,720

or otherwise

773

00:30:50,230 --> 00:30:47,520

it's also interesting to note that the

774

00:30:52,070 --> 00:30:50,240

rapid emergence of the flying saucer ufo

775

00:30:53,909 --> 00:30:52,080

into the public consciousness

776

00:30:55,430 --> 00:30:53,919

didn't necessarily coincide with the

777

00:30:57,830 --> 00:30:55,440

belief that these craft were

778

00:31:00,870 --> 00:30:57,840

extraterrestrial in origin

779

00:31:03,110 --> 00:31:00,880

in fact that idea tended to lag behind

780

00:31:04,950 --> 00:31:03,120

often being applied retroactively to

781

00:31:07,269 --> 00:31:04,960

sightings later on

782

00:31:09,750 --> 00:31:07,279

for example when kenneth arnold first

783

00:31:11,269 --> 00:31:09,760

saw the flying saucers at mount rainier

784

00:31:13,509 --> 00:31:11,279

he thought that they were most likely

785

00:31:15,350 --> 00:31:13,519

some sort of secret military technology

786

00:31:16,549 --> 00:31:15,360

belonging either to the us or the

787

00:31:18,549 --> 00:31:16,559

soviets

788

00:31:21,590 --> 00:31:18,559

it wasn't until a couple of weeks later

789

00:31:23,669 --> 00:31:21,600

that a man by the name of lg bernier

790

00:31:25,830 --> 00:31:23,679

became the first witness to publicly

791

00:31:28,630 --> 00:31:25,840

raise the possibility that these craft

792

00:31:29,990 --> 00:31:28,640

may be of extraterrestrial origin

793

00:31:32,149 --> 00:31:30,000

in a letter that he wrote to the

794

00:31:34,310 --> 00:31:32,159

portland oregon journal claiming to have

795

00:31:36,789 --> 00:31:34,320

seen similar craft flying near mount

796

00:31:39,110 --> 00:31:36,799

rainier just half an hour before arnold

797

00:31:41,269 --> 00:31:39,120

he said i believe it may be a visitor

798

00:31:43,350 --> 00:31:41,279

from another planet

799

00:31:45,430 --> 00:31:43,360

it wasn't until later that mr arnold was

800

00:31:47,509 --> 00:31:45,440

willing to admit his belief that if the

801
00:31:49,110 --> 00:31:47,519
flying saucers he saw weren't a secret

802
00:31:51,190 --> 00:31:49,120
military project

803
00:31:52,389 --> 00:31:51,200
then they were likely extraterrestrial

804
00:31:54,070 --> 00:31:52,399
in origin

805
00:31:55,669 --> 00:31:54,080
and while there were certainly many who

806
00:31:57,269 --> 00:31:55,679
shared that belief i think it's

807
00:32:00,149 --> 00:31:57,279
important to recognize that that

808
00:32:02,070 --> 00:32:00,159
correlation wasn't a given it took time

809
00:32:05,110 --> 00:32:02,080
for it to evolve into the de facto

810
00:32:07,750 --> 00:32:05,120
explanation for the ufo phenomenon

811
00:32:09,909 --> 00:32:07,760
even in the 1950 film the flying saucer

812
00:32:12,149 --> 00:32:09,919
the first ever film about the topic the

813
00:32:15,029 --> 00:32:12,159

disc shaped craft being pursued by both

814

00:32:17,029 --> 00:32:15,039

soviet and u.s spies is the invention of

815

00:32:20,070 --> 00:32:17,039

an american scientist

816

00:32:22,310 --> 00:32:20,080

so even as disc shaped ufos captured the

817

00:32:24,950 --> 00:32:22,320

public consciousness they still weren't

818

00:32:27,509 --> 00:32:24,960

synonymous with aliens and even once

819

00:32:29,830 --> 00:32:27,519

they became so it took even more time

820

00:32:31,509 --> 00:32:29,840

for the full ufo paradigm as we know it

821

00:32:34,470 --> 00:32:31,519

to take shape

822

00:32:36,310 --> 00:32:34,480

in fact it wasn't until 14 years later

823

00:32:38,710 --> 00:32:36,320

that what is widely considered to be the

824

00:32:40,389 --> 00:32:38,720

first reported alien abduction case

825

00:32:44,149 --> 00:32:40,399

occurred

826
00:32:45,909 --> 00:32:44,159
on september 19 1961 betty and barney

827
00:32:47,590 --> 00:32:45,919
hill were driving down a dark county

828
00:32:49,909 --> 00:32:47,600
road in new hampshire on their way home

829
00:32:52,789 --> 00:32:49,919
from a vacation in niagara falls when

830
00:32:54,710 --> 00:32:52,799
they noticed a strange light in the sky

831
00:32:56,950 --> 00:32:54,720
after stopping for a moment to observe

832
00:32:58,470 --> 00:32:56,960
it with binoculars it descended quickly

833
00:33:01,269 --> 00:32:58,480
and seemed to follow them as they got

834
00:33:03,110 --> 00:33:01,279
back into their car and began to drive

835
00:33:05,110 --> 00:33:03,120
the light came to hover just a hundred

836
00:33:06,070 --> 00:33:05,120
feet above them and the hills began to

837
00:33:07,830 --> 00:33:06,080
panic

838
00:33:10,470 --> 00:33:07,840

they heard a series of odd buzzing

839

00:33:12,870 --> 00:33:10,480

noises and then nothing when they came

840

00:33:14,870 --> 00:33:12,880

back to awareness they were 35 miles

841

00:33:16,710 --> 00:33:14,880

down the road with no recollection of

842

00:33:18,710 --> 00:33:16,720

how they'd gotten there

843

00:33:20,870 --> 00:33:18,720

the betty and barney hill case wasn't

844

00:33:22,950 --> 00:33:20,880

just the first alien abduction case but

845

00:33:24,549 --> 00:33:22,960

it seemingly set the blueprint for many

846

00:33:26,549 --> 00:33:24,559

of the abduction encounters that would

847

00:33:29,110 --> 00:33:26,559

follow as well as the public's

848

00:33:31,430 --> 00:33:29,120

perception of the phenomenon

849

00:33:33,350 --> 00:33:31,440

their reports of bright lights a disc

850

00:33:35,750 --> 00:33:33,360

shaped craft carrying humanoid yet

851

00:33:37,830 --> 00:33:35,760

distinctly otherworldly beings and

852

00:33:40,310 --> 00:33:37,840

missing time are some of the most common

853

00:33:42,149 --> 00:33:40,320

hallmarks of the phenomenon

854

00:33:44,070 --> 00:33:42,159

and after later undergoing hypnotic

855

00:33:46,630 --> 00:33:44,080

regression in an attempt to recover

856

00:33:48,230 --> 00:33:46,640

their lost memories the hills also claim

857

00:33:50,070 --> 00:33:48,240

to recall details of what you would

858

00:33:52,630 --> 00:33:50,080

immediately recognize as a typical

859

00:33:54,710 --> 00:33:52,640

abduction case including lying on a

860

00:33:56,870 --> 00:33:54,720

table or bed surrounded by strange

861

00:33:58,789 --> 00:33:56,880

beings and being forced to undergo

862

00:34:01,029 --> 00:33:58,799

medical procedures many of which were

863

00:34:02,149 --> 00:34:01,039

bizarrely and undeniably sexual in

864

00:34:04,630 --> 00:34:02,159

nature

865

00:34:06,710 --> 00:34:04,640

and so here again with alien abduction

866

00:34:09,030 --> 00:34:06,720

we have this case where a phenomenon

867

00:34:10,710 --> 00:34:09,040

seemingly springs out of nowhere with

868

00:34:12,470 --> 00:34:10,720

one reported incident quickly

869

00:34:14,629 --> 00:34:12,480

multiplying into hundreds and then

870

00:34:17,270 --> 00:34:14,639

thousands until it becomes a modern day

871

00:34:19,589 --> 00:34:17,280

myth an archetype that is woven into our

872

00:34:21,990 --> 00:34:19,599

shared memory and consciousness

873

00:34:24,869 --> 00:34:22,000

but like with ufos if you break the

874

00:34:27,270 --> 00:34:24,879

phenomenon down into its component parts

875

00:34:30,550 --> 00:34:27,280

what we now commonly refer to as alien

876

00:34:32,869 --> 00:34:30,560

abduction wasn't a new phenomenon either

877

00:34:35,669 --> 00:34:32,879

though it had undeniably taken on a new

878

00:34:38,069 --> 00:34:35,679

shape stories of bright lights that come

879

00:34:40,230 --> 00:34:38,079

down from the sky being taken by strange

880

00:34:42,310 --> 00:34:40,240

beings being subjected to strange

881

00:34:43,829 --> 00:34:42,320

tortures and procedures that were often

882

00:34:46,310 --> 00:34:43,839

sexual in nature

883

00:34:47,990 --> 00:34:46,320

being returned having lost time

884

00:34:50,790 --> 00:34:48,000

all of these are stories that we can

885

00:34:52,950 --> 00:34:50,800

find throughout recorded human history

886

00:34:55,829 --> 00:34:52,960

so the betty and barney hill incident in

887

00:34:58,390 --> 00:34:55,839

1961 didn't mark the beginning of a new

888

00:34:59,829 --> 00:34:58,400

phenomenon but rather was the moment

889

00:35:02,470 --> 00:34:59,839

when the paradigm shift in our

890

00:35:04,550 --> 00:35:02,480

interpretation of these events occurred

891

00:35:07,109 --> 00:35:04,560

from that point forward what was once

892

00:35:09,430 --> 00:35:07,119

commonly attributed to demons angels

893

00:35:11,750 --> 00:35:09,440

fairies and other supernatural beings

894

00:35:13,270 --> 00:35:11,760

was now ascribed to flesh and blood

895

00:35:15,190 --> 00:35:13,280

extraterrestrials

896

00:35:17,109 --> 00:35:15,200

and the nature of this phenomenon went

897

00:35:19,589 --> 00:35:17,119

from one that was metaphysical in nature

898

00:35:22,310 --> 00:35:19,599

to one that was technological

899

00:35:24,470 --> 00:35:22,320

so why do i bring all of this up i bring

900

00:35:27,510 --> 00:35:24,480

it up because as we talk about the lore

901
00:35:29,109 --> 00:35:27,520
surrounding ufos and nazi germany what

902
00:35:30,950 --> 00:35:29,119
we're really talking about is the

903
00:35:32,790 --> 00:35:30,960
emergence of a myth

904
00:35:34,630 --> 00:35:32,800
which to be clear doesn't mean that

905
00:35:35,510 --> 00:35:34,640
we're not also talking about something

906
00:35:37,670 --> 00:35:35,520
real

907
00:35:40,710 --> 00:35:37,680
i'd argue that most if not all of our

908
00:35:42,390 --> 00:35:40,720
myths are based in some kind of reality

909
00:35:44,950 --> 00:35:42,400
there's a reason that these stories are

910
00:35:47,510 --> 00:35:44,960
recorded and passed down there's reasons

911
00:35:49,990 --> 00:35:47,520
why they endure for millennia

912
00:35:51,750 --> 00:35:50,000
and in the case of ufos we have plenty

913
00:35:54,230 --> 00:35:51,760

of evidence to suggest that something

914

00:35:56,230 --> 00:35:54,240

significant did happen during world war

915

00:35:59,349 --> 00:35:56,240

ii and in the lead-up to the emergence

916

00:36:01,109 --> 00:35:59,359

of the modern ufo phenomenon in 1947 and

917

00:36:03,190 --> 00:36:01,119

that the united states government was

918

00:36:05,270 --> 00:36:03,200

taking this very seriously as an issue

919

00:36:09,109 --> 00:36:05,280

of national security

920

00:36:11,190 --> 00:36:09,119

on july 26 1947 just weeks after the

921

00:36:13,190 --> 00:36:11,200

arnold and roswell incidents the

922

00:36:14,390 --> 00:36:13,200

national security act was signed into

923

00:36:16,710 --> 00:36:14,400

law

924

00:36:17,990 --> 00:36:16,720

this monumental piece of legislation

925

00:36:19,910 --> 00:36:18,000

called for the restructuring of the

926

00:36:21,589 --> 00:36:19,920

department of defense including the

927

00:36:23,990 --> 00:36:21,599

creation of the national security

928

00:36:26,230 --> 00:36:24,000

council the creation of the air force as

929

00:36:28,950 --> 00:36:26,240

its own entity separate from the army

930

00:36:31,030 --> 00:36:28,960

and the creation of the cia

931

00:36:33,829 --> 00:36:31,040

granted this was at the dawn of the cold

932

00:36:35,829 --> 00:36:33,839

war and in the aftermath of world war ii

933

00:36:36,950 --> 00:36:35,839

from which a host of airborne technology

934

00:36:39,030 --> 00:36:36,960

had been born

935

00:36:41,030 --> 00:36:39,040

and so one doesn't really need the

936

00:36:43,030 --> 00:36:41,040

sudden appearance of flying saucers to

937

00:36:44,950 --> 00:36:43,040

plausibly explain the national security

938

00:36:46,390 --> 00:36:44,960

act of 1947.

939

00:36:48,550 --> 00:36:46,400

it makes a lot of sense within the

940

00:36:50,069 --> 00:36:48,560

context of its day and these are moves

941

00:36:52,950 --> 00:36:50,079

that the united states likely would have

942

00:36:55,190 --> 00:36:52,960

made regardless and yet the timing does

943

00:36:57,030 --> 00:36:55,200

feel a bit fortuitous

944

00:36:58,870 --> 00:36:57,040

however regardless of whether or not the

945

00:37:01,430 --> 00:36:58,880

signing of the national security act was

946

00:37:04,310 --> 00:37:01,440

a direct reaction to the ufo phenomenon

947

00:37:06,150 --> 00:37:04,320

just two months later in september 1947

948

00:37:08,550 --> 00:37:06,160

general nathan twinning penned a now

949

00:37:09,910 --> 00:37:08,560

famous letter about the flying discs

950

00:37:12,390 --> 00:37:09,920

that were being reported around the

951
00:37:14,550 --> 00:37:12,400
country writing that the craft were

952
00:37:15,829 --> 00:37:14,560
something real and not visionary or

953
00:37:17,990 --> 00:37:15,839
fictitious

954
00:37:19,829 --> 00:37:18,000
he described them as being metal discs

955
00:37:21,990 --> 00:37:19,839
and said that they displayed astounding

956
00:37:23,430 --> 00:37:22,000
capabilities such as seemingly

957
00:37:25,910 --> 00:37:23,440
impossible rates of climb and

958
00:37:28,150 --> 00:37:25,920
maneuverability and the ability to evade

959
00:37:30,150 --> 00:37:28,160
when detected leading him to believe

960
00:37:32,630 --> 00:37:30,160
that they were being controlled manually

961
00:37:36,230 --> 00:37:32,640
or remotely with the strong implication

962
00:37:37,990 --> 00:37:36,240
being that this was intelligent control

963
00:37:39,990 --> 00:37:38,000

general twinning was a former combat

964

00:37:41,270 --> 00:37:40,000

pilot and a world war ii commander as

965

00:37:43,750 --> 00:37:41,280

well as serving as the head of the

966

00:37:45,349 --> 00:37:43,760

united states air material command

967

00:37:47,349 --> 00:37:45,359

it would be hard to think of a source

968

00:37:49,910 --> 00:37:47,359

that could be more credible or less

969

00:37:52,150 --> 00:37:49,920

given to flights of fancy or hysteria

970

00:37:54,230 --> 00:37:52,160

it's very difficult to make the argument

971

00:37:56,069 --> 00:37:54,240

that this letter represents anything

972

00:37:58,310 --> 00:37:56,079

less than his best understanding of the

973

00:38:00,230 --> 00:37:58,320

situation based on the data that would

974

00:38:01,910 --> 00:38:00,240

have been available to an officer of his

975

00:38:03,829 --> 00:38:01,920

rankin station

976

00:38:05,829 --> 00:38:03,839

and it was this letter from twinning

977

00:38:08,390 --> 00:38:05,839

that recommended a detailed study of

978

00:38:11,349 --> 00:38:08,400

ufos leading to the beginning of project

979

00:38:13,349 --> 00:38:11,359

sign in december of that same year

980

00:38:15,190 --> 00:38:13,359

less than six months after the arnold

981

00:38:17,270 --> 00:38:15,200

and roswell incidents we have the

982

00:38:19,030 --> 00:38:17,280

creation of the first official program

983

00:38:21,349 --> 00:38:19,040

to study ufos

984

00:38:23,829 --> 00:38:21,359

so despite the overall context of the

985

00:38:25,670 --> 00:38:23,839

cold war it's hard to deny that at least

986

00:38:27,750 --> 00:38:25,680

some of the major moves that the united

987

00:38:29,829 --> 00:38:27,760

states government was making was in

988

00:38:32,470 --> 00:38:29,839

direct response to the emergence of the

989

00:38:34,950 --> 00:38:32,480

ufo phenomenon

990

00:38:37,109 --> 00:38:34,960

project sign became project grudge which

991

00:38:39,829 --> 00:38:37,119

became project blue book but their

992

00:38:41,510 --> 00:38:39,839

mission remained the same to investigate

993

00:38:44,710 --> 00:38:41,520

and many would argue to intentionally

994

00:38:47,430 --> 00:38:44,720

debunk reported ufo encounters

995

00:38:50,230 --> 00:38:47,440

the program went on to study over 12 000

996

00:38:53,349 --> 00:38:50,240

cases in the years between 1947 and its

997

00:38:55,910 --> 00:38:53,359

termination in december of 1969.

998

00:38:58,069 --> 00:38:55,920

given those facts i personally don't

999

00:39:00,230 --> 00:38:58,079

find it to be at all plausible that the

1000

00:39:02,710 --> 00:39:00,240

emergence of the modern ufo phenomenon

1001
00:39:04,390 --> 00:39:02,720
was just mass hysteria fueled by cold

1002
00:39:06,550 --> 00:39:04,400
war paranoia

1003
00:39:08,470 --> 00:39:06,560
something real was going on

1004
00:39:10,470 --> 00:39:08,480
but as we try to understand what that

1005
00:39:13,750 --> 00:39:10,480
was we need to put everything that we

1006
00:39:15,670 --> 00:39:13,760
know about it into its proper context

1007
00:39:18,069 --> 00:39:15,680
over these next couple of episodes we'll

1008
00:39:18,950 --> 00:39:18,079
be talking about ufo lore from world war

1009
00:39:20,550 --> 00:39:18,960
ii

1010
00:39:22,710 --> 00:39:20,560
but what we would consider to be the

1011
00:39:24,870 --> 00:39:22,720
first modern ufo sighting didn't happen

1012
00:39:28,069 --> 00:39:24,880
until almost two years after the end of

1013
00:39:30,069 --> 00:39:28,079

the war and happened 5 000 miles away

1014

00:39:32,310 --> 00:39:30,079

and even then it took time for this new

1015

00:39:34,470 --> 00:39:32,320

paradigm to fully develop and coalesce

1016

00:39:36,470 --> 00:39:34,480

around the popular concept of ufos that

1017

00:39:39,349 --> 00:39:36,480

we're familiar with today

1018

00:39:41,109 --> 00:39:39,359

so major themes and narratives of ufo

1019

00:39:43,589 --> 00:39:41,119

lore from world war ii

1020

00:39:45,430 --> 00:39:43,599

sprung up years and even decades later

1021

00:39:48,230 --> 00:39:45,440

and then were retroactively applied to

1022

00:39:50,069 --> 00:39:48,240

the interpretation of historical events

1023

00:39:52,390 --> 00:39:50,079

which doesn't mean that there is no

1024

00:39:53,430 --> 00:39:52,400

correlation between that lore and actual

1025

00:39:54,950 --> 00:39:53,440

events

1026

00:39:56,790 --> 00:39:54,960

it just means that when we're talking

1027

00:39:59,349 --> 00:39:56,800

about confronting a phenomenon that is

1028

00:40:01,430 --> 00:39:59,359

so far outside of our understanding

1029

00:40:03,349 --> 00:40:01,440

we need time to process and interpret

1030

00:40:05,670 --> 00:40:03,359

those things before we're able to attach

1031

00:40:07,430 --> 00:40:05,680

labels and narratives to them

1032

00:40:09,750 --> 00:40:07,440

and this is typical of the way that

1033

00:40:11,349 --> 00:40:09,760

major paradigm shifts occur

1034

00:40:12,309 --> 00:40:11,359

going back to an example that we've used

1035

00:40:13,990 --> 00:40:12,319

before

1036

00:40:16,069 --> 00:40:14,000

even though albert einstein was the

1037

00:40:18,470 --> 00:40:16,079

singular mind behind his general theory

1038

00:40:20,790 --> 00:40:18,480

of relativity the model of the universe

1039

00:40:23,670 --> 00:40:20,800

that it suggested was such a paradigm

1040

00:40:25,670 --> 00:40:23,680

shift that einstein refused for years to

1041

00:40:27,670 --> 00:40:25,680

accept the full implications of what his

1042

00:40:29,670 --> 00:40:27,680

own math suggested

1043

00:40:32,069 --> 00:40:29,680

this was because for basically all of

1044

00:40:34,150 --> 00:40:32,079

recorded human history up to that point

1045

00:40:36,829 --> 00:40:34,160

humans believed themselves to be living

1046

00:40:39,349 --> 00:40:36,839

in a static never-changing and eternal

1047

00:40:41,510 --> 00:40:39,359

universe and yet the general theory of

1048

00:40:43,349 --> 00:40:41,520

relativity predicted a universe that was

1049

00:40:44,470 --> 00:40:43,359

expanding rapidly outward from its

1050

00:40:45,910 --> 00:40:44,480

center

1051

00:40:47,670 --> 00:40:45,920

refusing to believe this could be

1052

00:40:49,670 --> 00:40:47,680

possible einstein created the

1053

00:40:51,349 --> 00:40:49,680

cosmological constant which was

1054

00:40:53,190 --> 00:40:51,359

basically just a method to fudge the

1055

00:40:54,790 --> 00:40:53,200

numbers to make them conform to what he

1056

00:40:56,950 --> 00:40:54,800

thought was true

1057

00:40:58,630 --> 00:40:56,960

it wasn't until edwin hubble showed that

1058

00:41:01,030 --> 00:40:58,640

the light from distant galaxies was

1059

00:41:02,790 --> 00:41:01,040

redshifted away from the earth proving

1060

00:41:05,109 --> 00:41:02,800

once and for all that the universe was

1061

00:41:07,589 --> 00:41:05,119

expanding but he realized he'd been

1062

00:41:09,270 --> 00:41:07,599

wrong all along

1063

00:41:11,030 --> 00:41:09,280

when humans are confronted with

1064

00:41:12,950 --> 00:41:11,040

challenging new ideas that shake the

1065

00:41:15,109 --> 00:41:12,960

very foundations of our existing belief

1066

00:41:17,510 --> 00:41:15,119

structures we can't absorb it all at

1067

00:41:19,829 --> 00:41:17,520

once there is a period of adjustment

1068

00:41:21,829 --> 00:41:19,839

discovery and interpretation that occurs

1069

00:41:23,910 --> 00:41:21,839

as our entire ontological framework

1070

00:41:25,349 --> 00:41:23,920

realigns itself to allow for this new

1071

00:41:27,109 --> 00:41:25,359

information

1072

00:41:29,030 --> 00:41:27,119

and when we're talking about a case like

1073

00:41:31,990 --> 00:41:29,040

that of einstein and the cosmological

1074

00:41:33,829 --> 00:41:32,000

constant that process can be tough

1075

00:41:35,670 --> 00:41:33,839

but at least in that case there was some

1076

00:41:36,550 --> 00:41:35,680

kind of solid foundation from which to

1077

00:41:38,230 --> 00:41:36,560

work

1078

00:41:40,630 --> 00:41:38,240

there was einstein's theory as a

1079

00:41:43,270 --> 00:41:40,640

theoretical and mathematical basis which

1080

00:41:45,750 --> 00:41:43,280

predicted an expanding universe and then

1081

00:41:49,349 --> 00:41:45,760

eventually we had solid observable data

1082

00:41:51,349 --> 00:41:49,359

from hubble to back it up with ufos we

1083

00:41:53,589 --> 00:41:51,359

have no such thing

1084

00:41:54,710 --> 00:41:53,599

we have myths and legends we have

1085

00:41:57,270 --> 00:41:54,720

stories

1086

00:41:59,750 --> 00:41:57,280

we have an excruciatingly slow trickle

1087

00:42:01,430 --> 00:41:59,760

of heavily redacted and incomplete data

1088

00:42:03,829 --> 00:42:01,440

from world governments that have

1089

00:42:06,069 --> 00:42:03,839

maintained a strict code of secrecy and

1090

00:42:08,150 --> 00:42:06,079

outright lies around this topic that

1091

00:42:09,510 --> 00:42:08,160

they've gone to extremes to keep hidden

1092

00:42:11,589 --> 00:42:09,520

from the public

1093

00:42:12,870 --> 00:42:11,599

and we have the rising tide of voices

1094

00:42:14,230 --> 00:42:12,880

from people claiming to have had

1095

00:42:16,309 --> 00:42:14,240

encounters with these strange

1096

00:42:19,349 --> 00:42:16,319

technological objects and mysterious

1097

00:42:21,510 --> 00:42:19,359

humanoid beings that come from the sky

1098

00:42:23,349 --> 00:42:21,520

to really examine the ufo lore

1099

00:42:25,750 --> 00:42:23,359

surrounding world war ii

1100

00:42:27,589 --> 00:42:25,760

we need to be able to hold two seemingly

1101
00:42:28,710 --> 00:42:27,599
conflicting realities in our mind at

1102
00:42:31,349 --> 00:42:28,720
once

1103
00:42:34,150 --> 00:42:31,359
we need to recognize both these stories

1104
00:42:36,470 --> 00:42:34,160
likely have some basis in reality

1105
00:42:38,950 --> 00:42:36,480
and that the stories themselves are by

1106
00:42:40,230 --> 00:42:38,960
their very nature partially or entirely

1107
00:42:42,710 --> 00:42:40,240
fabricated

1108
00:42:44,790 --> 00:42:42,720
an amalgamation of various ideas

1109
00:42:47,109 --> 00:42:44,800
interpretations and narratives that were

1110
00:42:48,390 --> 00:42:47,119
applied retroactively to historical

1111
00:42:50,950 --> 00:42:48,400
events

1112
00:42:53,750 --> 00:42:50,960
i'd argue that this lore is both true

1113
00:42:55,829 --> 00:42:53,760

and not true it points us toward the

1114

00:42:57,190 --> 00:42:55,839

truth but provides no way for us to

1115

00:42:59,510 --> 00:42:57,200

arrive there

1116

00:43:01,510 --> 00:42:59,520

and the stories it contains reveal as

1117

00:43:03,589 --> 00:43:01,520

much about the people telling them as it

1118

00:43:05,270 --> 00:43:03,599

does about the phenomenon itself

1119

00:43:07,910 --> 00:43:05,280

perhaps more so

1120

00:43:11,190 --> 00:43:07,920

and so that's why i refer to world war

1121

00:43:13,829 --> 00:43:11,200

ii ufo lore and ufo lore in general as a

1122

00:43:15,430 --> 00:43:13,839

myth while also firmly believing that it

1123

00:43:18,309 --> 00:43:15,440

correlates to real world events and

1124

00:43:20,069 --> 00:43:18,319

phenomena and that ufos are quite

1125

00:43:21,670 --> 00:43:20,079

literally real

1126

00:43:23,270 --> 00:43:21,680

both can be true

1127

00:43:25,030 --> 00:43:23,280

and i believe that it's critically

1128

00:43:28,550 --> 00:43:25,040

important that we bring this level of

1129

00:43:30,390 --> 00:43:28,560

nuance to our understanding of the topic

1130

00:43:33,030 --> 00:43:30,400

and then there are those who go a step

1131

00:43:34,630 --> 00:43:33,040

further from regarding ufo lora's myth

1132

00:43:36,870 --> 00:43:34,640

and question whether the emergence of

1133

00:43:39,109 --> 00:43:36,880

the modern ufo phenomenon might be the

1134

00:43:41,109 --> 00:43:39,119

beginning of a new religion

1135

00:43:42,309 --> 00:43:41,119

i'll admit to initially struggling with

1136

00:43:44,309 --> 00:43:42,319

this idea

1137

00:43:46,390 --> 00:43:44,319

after all if there's anything that

1138

00:43:48,710 --> 00:43:46,400

modern ufology has attempted to do it's

1139

00:43:50,069 --> 00:43:48,720

to distance itself from the tinfoil hat

1140

00:43:52,309 --> 00:43:50,079

stereotypes

1141

00:43:54,710 --> 00:43:52,319

the stigma attached to the topic causes

1142

00:43:57,190 --> 00:43:54,720

many to steer clear of the more woo and

1143

00:43:59,190 --> 00:43:57,200

mystical aspects of the phenomenon for

1144

00:44:00,710 --> 00:43:59,200

fear of being seen as crazy

1145

00:44:02,390 --> 00:44:00,720

i'll admit to falling prey to that

1146

00:44:05,270 --> 00:44:02,400

instinct myself

1147

00:44:07,430 --> 00:44:05,280

after all here i am for the second time

1148

00:44:10,069 --> 00:44:07,440

starting off a new series with an entire

1149

00:44:12,390 --> 00:44:10,079

episode focused solely on offering

1150

00:44:14,390 --> 00:44:12,400

evidence in context not just to frame

1151

00:44:15,589 --> 00:44:14,400

the topic that is the actual subject of

1152

00:44:17,510 --> 00:44:15,599

the series

1153

00:44:19,030 --> 00:44:17,520

but to justify talking about that

1154

00:44:21,109 --> 00:44:19,040

subject at all

1155

00:44:23,589 --> 00:44:21,119

yes we're going to talk about nazis and

1156

00:44:26,230 --> 00:44:23,599

ufos in antarctica and atlantis and

1157

00:44:28,230 --> 00:44:26,240

secret alien bases and the moon landing

1158

00:44:30,950 --> 00:44:28,240

but i'm not crazy guys i swear and

1159

00:44:33,190 --> 00:44:30,960

here's a 10 000 word essay on why so

1160

00:44:35,510 --> 00:44:33,200

yeah i wasn't crazy about the idea of

1161

00:44:38,390 --> 00:44:35,520

the ufo phenomenon being the basis of a

1162

00:44:40,470 --> 00:44:38,400

new religion it smacks a bit too much of

1163

00:44:42,470 --> 00:44:40,480

cults and whatever it is that dr stephen

1164

00:44:45,109 --> 00:44:42,480

greer is peddling these days

1165

00:44:47,589 --> 00:44:45,119

however after reading dw pisoka's

1166

00:44:48,829 --> 00:44:47,599

spectacular book american cosmic i've

1167

00:44:51,829 --> 00:44:48,839

come around on that

1168

00:44:53,349 --> 00:44:51,839

idea pasulka is a professor of religious

1169

00:44:55,349 --> 00:44:53,359

studies at the university of north

1170

00:44:57,750 --> 00:44:55,359

carolina wilmington and chair of the

1171

00:44:59,829 --> 00:44:57,760

department of philosophy and religion

1172

00:45:01,510 --> 00:44:59,839

so as you might expect she approached

1173

00:45:03,670 --> 00:45:01,520

her investigation into the ufo

1174

00:45:05,190 --> 00:45:03,680

phenomenon as an academic looking to

1175

00:45:06,710 --> 00:45:05,200

understand the appearance of a new

1176

00:45:08,230 --> 00:45:06,720

belief system

1177

00:45:10,950 --> 00:45:08,240

she wasn't looking to assess the

1178

00:45:12,870 --> 00:45:10,960

validity of the belief in ufos itself

1179

00:45:15,030 --> 00:45:12,880

but instead was focused on how it

1180

00:45:17,750 --> 00:45:15,040

emerged and how this emergence mirrored

1181

00:45:20,230 --> 00:45:17,760

the emergence of traditional religions

1182

00:45:22,710 --> 00:45:20,240

in american cosmic she draws a powerful

1183

00:45:24,870 --> 00:45:22,720

parallel between ufos and the mystical

1184

00:45:26,710 --> 00:45:24,880

encounters between humans and the divine

1185

00:45:27,910 --> 00:45:26,720

which serve as the basis of belief

1186

00:45:30,550 --> 00:45:27,920

systems

1187

00:45:32,390 --> 00:45:30,560

these encounters called hierophanies

1188

00:45:34,550 --> 00:45:32,400

occur when the world of the sacred the

1189

00:45:36,550 --> 00:45:34,560

mystical and the unknown breaks through

1190

00:45:38,470 --> 00:45:36,560

the veil of our reality

1191

00:45:40,470 --> 00:45:38,480

the burning bush from the story of mooses

1192

00:45:41,910 --> 00:45:40,480

and the star of bethlehem are examples

1193

00:45:43,670 --> 00:45:41,920

of hierophanies with which you are

1194

00:45:45,750 --> 00:45:43,680

probably already familiar

1195

00:45:47,750 --> 00:45:45,760

but the term can refer to any instance

1196

00:45:49,109 --> 00:45:47,760

of the sacred being made manifest in the

1197

00:45:51,109 --> 00:45:49,119

physical realm

1198

00:45:53,510 --> 00:45:51,119

and within that manifestation is an

1199

00:45:55,030 --> 00:45:53,520

incomprehensible paradox created by the

1200

00:45:56,550 --> 00:45:55,040

fact that the sacred has been made

1201

00:45:58,710 --> 00:45:56,560

manifest at all

1202

00:46:01,030 --> 00:45:58,720

and in manifesting itself the sacred

1203

00:46:03,430 --> 00:46:01,040

becomes in many ways limited taking on

1204

00:46:06,309 --> 00:46:03,440

the shape of its physical conduit and in

1205

00:46:08,309 --> 00:46:06,319

doing so it both reveals and obscures

1206

00:46:10,309 --> 00:46:08,319

its own divine nature

1207

00:46:11,750 --> 00:46:10,319

and so while i may have been initially

1208

00:46:13,990 --> 00:46:11,760

resistant to the framing of the

1209

00:46:15,670 --> 00:46:14,000

emergence of ufo lore as the emergence

1210

00:46:18,069 --> 00:46:15,680

of a new religion

1211

00:46:19,990 --> 00:46:18,079

once i let go of my preconceived notions

1212

00:46:21,670 --> 00:46:20,000

about what that might mean and just

1213

00:46:23,750 --> 00:46:21,680

looked at the argument from a purely

1214

00:46:24,790 --> 00:46:23,760

academic point of view i could see our

1215

00:46:27,589 --> 00:46:24,800

point

1216

00:46:30,150 --> 00:46:27,599

especially writes an american cosmic

1217

00:46:32,550 --> 00:46:30,160

the history of religion is among other

1218

00:46:35,109 --> 00:46:32,560

things a record of perceived contact

1219

00:46:37,190 --> 00:46:35,119

with supernatural beings many of which

1220

00:46:40,150 --> 00:46:37,200

descend from the skies as beings of

1221

00:46:41,670 --> 00:46:40,160

light or on light or amid light

1222

00:46:43,430 --> 00:46:41,680

when you strip away the different layers

1223

00:46:45,670 --> 00:46:43,440

of meaning and interpretation from the

1224

00:46:47,270 --> 00:46:45,680

events themselves and just look at how

1225

00:46:48,870 --> 00:46:47,280

they are described by those who bear

1226

00:46:51,030 --> 00:46:48,880

witness there isn't much to

1227

00:46:52,710 --> 00:46:51,040

differentiate the modern ufo phenomenon

1228

00:46:54,630 --> 00:46:52,720

from the ancient experience of gods

1229

00:46:56,790 --> 00:46:54,640

descending from the heavens

1230

00:46:59,670 --> 00:46:56,800

and pasulka is not alone in framing the

1231

00:47:02,550 --> 00:46:59,680

ufo phenomenon in this way

1232

00:47:04,790 --> 00:47:02,560

in 1959 famed swiss psychiatrist and

1233

00:47:07,750 --> 00:47:04,800

founder of analytical psychology carl

1234

00:47:09,510 --> 00:47:07,760

young published his book flying saucers

1235

00:47:12,069 --> 00:47:09,520

a modern myth of things seen in the

1236

00:47:14,630 --> 00:47:12,079

skies on this very topic

1237

00:47:16,950 --> 00:47:14,640

in it he wrote we have here a golden

1238

00:47:17,990 --> 00:47:16,960

opportunity of seeing how a legend is

1239

00:47:21,510 --> 00:47:18,000

formed

1240

00:47:23,589 --> 00:47:21,520

and in 1969 godfather of modern ufology

1241

00:47:27,109 --> 00:47:23,599

jacques villa published passport to

1242

00:47:30,230 --> 00:47:27,119

magonia on ufos folklore and parallel

1243

00:47:32,069 --> 00:47:30,240

worlds in which he examined over 900

1244

00:47:34,549 --> 00:47:32,079

credible sightings of unidentified

1245

00:47:36,630 --> 00:47:34,559

aerial phenomena over the previous 100

1246

00:47:38,710 --> 00:47:36,640

years and made the case that these

1247

00:47:41,430 --> 00:47:38,720

encounters follow the same patterns as

1248

00:47:43,510 --> 00:47:41,440

folklore and religious tradition

1249

00:47:46,549 --> 00:47:43,520

so if we're willing to look at the ufo

1250

00:47:48,630 --> 00:47:46,559

phenomenon as a hierophany it gives us a

1251
00:47:50,870 --> 00:47:48,640
new way to understand the emergence of

1252
00:47:52,950 --> 00:47:50,880
modern ufo lore and how these

1253
00:47:55,670 --> 00:47:52,960
bewildering encounters with mysterious

1254
00:47:57,990 --> 00:47:55,680
objects in the sky transform into more

1255
00:48:00,150 --> 00:47:58,000
complex belief structures

1256
00:48:02,390 --> 00:48:00,160
in her book basulka writes

1257
00:48:04,150 --> 00:48:02,400
in the history of religions a contact

1258
00:48:06,630 --> 00:48:04,160
event is followed by a series of

1259
00:48:09,430 --> 00:48:06,640
interpretations and these usually are

1260
00:48:11,510 --> 00:48:09,440
followed by the creation of institutions

1261
00:48:13,030 --> 00:48:11,520
such interpretive communities are often

1262
00:48:15,030 --> 00:48:13,040
called religions or religious

1263
00:48:16,790 --> 00:48:15,040

denominations

1264

00:48:18,950 --> 00:48:16,800

let's take the example of the emergence

1265

00:48:20,790 --> 00:48:18,960

of christianity to better understand how

1266

00:48:22,710 --> 00:48:20,800

this looks in practice

1267

00:48:24,470 --> 00:48:22,720

for literally hundreds of years after

1268

00:48:26,790 --> 00:48:24,480

the events of the new testament

1269

00:48:28,470 --> 00:48:26,800

christianity existed primarily as an

1270

00:48:30,630 --> 00:48:28,480

underground movement

1271

00:48:33,190 --> 00:48:30,640

it was actively suppressed by elites of

1272

00:48:35,030 --> 00:48:33,200

the time who saw the fantastical claims

1273

00:48:37,510 --> 00:48:35,040

of these radical new believers as being

1274

00:48:39,750 --> 00:48:37,520

both too bizarre to be believed and also

1275

00:48:41,430 --> 00:48:39,760

fundamentally dangerous

1276

00:48:43,430 --> 00:48:41,440

the result was a splintering of

1277

00:48:45,430 --> 00:48:43,440

communities and interpretations of the

1278

00:48:47,349 --> 00:48:45,440

events as secretive and insular

1279

00:48:48,870 --> 00:48:47,359

christian sex emerge

1280

00:48:50,870 --> 00:48:48,880

these interpretations were then

1281

00:48:52,630 --> 00:48:50,880

retroactively applied by the writers of

1282

00:48:54,790 --> 00:48:52,640

the gospels the earliest of which

1283

00:48:55,910 --> 00:48:54,800

weren't written until 50 to 100 years

1284

00:48:57,750 --> 00:48:55,920

later

1285

00:48:59,270 --> 00:48:57,760

it wasn't until the year 380 that

1286

00:49:01,270 --> 00:48:59,280

christianity became the official

1287

00:49:02,750 --> 00:49:01,280

religion of the roman empire

1288

00:49:05,030 --> 00:49:02,760

as the religion became more

1289

00:49:06,870 --> 00:49:05,040

institutionalized it began to coalesce

1290

00:49:08,790 --> 00:49:06,880

around the ideas that we would recognize

1291

00:49:10,630 --> 00:49:08,800

as modern christianity

1292

00:49:12,549 --> 00:49:10,640

up until that time there are a wide

1293

00:49:13,670 --> 00:49:12,559

variety of beliefs and interpretations

1294

00:49:16,309 --> 00:49:13,680

of the stories surrounding the

1295

00:49:18,470 --> 00:49:16,319

historical jesus that differed wildly

1296

00:49:20,390 --> 00:49:18,480

across different faith communities

1297

00:49:22,390 --> 00:49:20,400

even the divinity of jesus was not

1298

00:49:23,990 --> 00:49:22,400

universally agreed upon until hundreds

1299

00:49:26,150 --> 00:49:24,000

of years later

1300

00:49:27,990 --> 00:49:26,160

but even the institutionalization of

1301

00:49:30,470 --> 00:49:28,000

christianity didn't stop it from

1302

00:49:32,470 --> 00:49:30,480

continuing to shift and evolve its

1303

00:49:34,870 --> 00:49:32,480

doctrines were shaped and influenced by

1304

00:49:37,270 --> 00:49:34,880

the church by governments and kings by

1305

00:49:39,510 --> 00:49:37,280

philosophers and poets and through the

1306

00:49:41,670 --> 00:49:39,520

emergence of new media technologies from

1307

00:49:43,990 --> 00:49:41,680

the printing press to the internet

1308

00:49:45,430 --> 00:49:44,000

wherever one finds religious belief

1309

00:49:47,750 --> 00:49:45,440

you'll find people with a vested

1310

00:49:49,510 --> 00:49:47,760

interest in shaping it with motivations

1311

00:49:51,750 --> 00:49:49,520

ranging from the altruistic to the

1312

00:49:54,309 --> 00:49:51,760

downright evil

1313

00:49:56,150 --> 00:49:54,319

in many ways modern ufology looks a lot

1314

00:49:58,069 --> 00:49:56,160

like early christianity

1315

00:50:00,390 --> 00:49:58,079

it's a movement that exists mostly

1316

00:50:01,990 --> 00:50:00,400

underground those who take the ufo

1317

00:50:03,829 --> 00:50:02,000

phenomenon seriously have been

1318

00:50:05,750 --> 00:50:03,839

stigmatized and marginalized by the

1319

00:50:06,950 --> 00:50:05,760

government the media and mainstream

1320

00:50:09,109 --> 00:50:06,960

academia

1321

00:50:10,309 --> 00:50:09,119

who see their beliefs as both dangerous

1322

00:50:12,390 --> 00:50:10,319

and absurd

1323

00:50:13,829 --> 00:50:12,400

and just like with early christian sex

1324

00:50:15,750 --> 00:50:13,839

there are seemingly infinite

1325

00:50:17,349 --> 00:50:15,760

interpretations of exactly what the

1326

00:50:20,069 --> 00:50:17,359

phenomenon might be

1327

00:50:21,990 --> 00:50:20,079

interpretations that continue to evolve

1328

00:50:25,030 --> 00:50:22,000

being informed by everything from pop

1329

00:50:26,710 --> 00:50:25,040

culture to the emergence of new data

1330

00:50:28,790 --> 00:50:26,720

of the early ufologists who were

1331

00:50:30,950 --> 00:50:28,800

studying this phenomenon at a high level

1332

00:50:33,030 --> 00:50:30,960

during the mid-20th century as it was

1333

00:50:35,190 --> 00:50:33,040

emerging in its modern form

1334

00:50:37,750 --> 00:50:35,200

few are still with us

1335

00:50:39,950 --> 00:50:37,760

like the apostles their testimony is a

1336

00:50:41,670 --> 00:50:39,960

rare yet imperfect glimpse into the

1337

00:50:43,990 --> 00:50:41,680

incomprehensible events that they

1338

00:50:45,109 --> 00:50:44,000

observed first second and even third

1339

00:50:47,030 --> 00:50:45,119

hand

1340

00:50:49,109 --> 00:50:47,040

and despite their outward rejection of

1341

00:50:51,829 --> 00:50:49,119

it the government and by extension the

1342

00:50:54,230 --> 00:50:51,839

media has shown a vested interest in

1343

00:50:55,990 --> 00:50:54,240

shaping the narrative of ufo lore

1344

00:50:57,910 --> 00:50:56,000

presenting alternate theories and

1345

00:51:00,230 --> 00:50:57,920

explanations for the phenomenon from

1346

00:51:02,309 --> 00:51:00,240

swamp gas to little green men

1347

00:51:05,030 --> 00:51:02,319

many of which bear little resemblance to

1348

00:51:06,470 --> 00:51:05,040

the actual records of these events

1349

00:51:08,069 --> 00:51:06,480

and with the slow trickle of

1350

00:51:09,750 --> 00:51:08,079

acknowledgement coming from the highest

1351
00:51:11,829 --> 00:51:09,760
levels of our government over the last

1352
00:51:14,630 --> 00:51:11,839
few years acknowledging the reality of

1353
00:51:16,630 --> 00:51:14,640
the ufo phenomenon it feels as though we

1354
00:51:19,030 --> 00:51:16,640
may be moving into a new phase in the

1355
00:51:20,950 --> 00:51:19,040
emergence of this belief system

1356
00:51:22,630 --> 00:51:20,960
similar to the adoption of christianity

1357
00:51:24,950 --> 00:51:22,640
is the official religion of the roman

1358
00:51:27,510 --> 00:51:24,960
empire it appears that the government

1359
00:51:30,390 --> 00:51:27,520
may be realigning itself after years of

1360
00:51:32,230 --> 00:51:30,400
denial and secrecy to finally say yes

1361
00:51:33,670 --> 00:51:32,240
this is real

1362
00:51:35,829 --> 00:51:33,680
there are lots of different theories

1363
00:51:37,910 --> 00:51:35,839

about why they may be doing this but

1364

00:51:40,230 --> 00:51:37,920

without getting too conspiratorial about

1365

00:51:42,230 --> 00:51:40,240

it i think it's reasonable to assume

1366

00:51:44,710 --> 00:51:42,240

that at least part of the motivation for

1367

00:51:46,710 --> 00:51:44,720

doing so is to take a more active role

1368

00:51:49,270 --> 00:51:46,720

in the shaping of how this phenomenon is

1369

00:51:51,510 --> 00:51:49,280

interpreted by the public at large

1370

00:51:53,750 --> 00:51:51,520

after all wherever you find a potent

1371

00:51:55,349 --> 00:51:53,760

belief system there are powerful forces

1372

00:51:56,309 --> 00:51:55,359

that have a vested interest in shaping

1373

00:51:58,150 --> 00:51:56,319

it

1374

00:52:00,630 --> 00:51:58,160

but i want to be clear that what i'm

1375

00:52:02,950 --> 00:52:00,640

arguing here is not the idea that either

1376

00:52:04,630 --> 00:52:02,960

christianity or modern ufo lore are

1377

00:52:06,309 --> 00:52:04,640

entirely fabricated

1378

00:52:08,390 --> 00:52:06,319

i only want to make the point that

1379

00:52:10,390 --> 00:52:08,400

encounters with the sacred the divine

1380

00:52:13,270 --> 00:52:10,400

and the unknown can have a profound and

1381

00:52:15,190 --> 00:52:13,280

transformational effect on humanity both

1382

00:52:17,190 --> 00:52:15,200

individually to those who experience it

1383

00:52:18,950 --> 00:52:17,200

directly and then eventually on the

1384

00:52:21,109 --> 00:52:18,960

greater public consciousness as these

1385

00:52:23,670 --> 00:52:21,119

events are interpreted and reinterpreted

1386

00:52:25,829 --> 00:52:23,680

over hundreds if not thousands of years

1387

00:52:28,150 --> 00:52:25,839

and understanding the processes by which

1388

00:52:31,190 --> 00:52:28,160

this happens gets us a little bit closer

1389

00:52:34,069 --> 00:52:31,200

to understanding the phenomenon itself

1390

00:52:35,829 --> 00:52:34,079

and speaking of the phenomenon itself

1391

00:52:38,710 --> 00:52:35,839

there's something about the reframing of

1392

00:52:41,109 --> 00:52:38,720

the ufo phenomenon as a hierophany that

1393

00:52:42,549 --> 00:52:41,119

once i fully absorbed it about knocked

1394

00:52:44,950 --> 00:52:42,559

me off my feet

1395

00:52:46,790 --> 00:52:44,960

and that is the fact that unlike the

1396

00:52:49,910 --> 00:52:46,800

events which lit the spark of early

1397

00:52:52,390 --> 00:52:49,920

christianity with the ufo phenomenon we

1398

00:52:54,470 --> 00:52:52,400

are beginning to have actual data that

1399

00:52:56,870 --> 00:52:54,480

speaks directly to both the reality of

1400

00:52:58,950 --> 00:52:56,880

the events and their inscrutable and

1401
00:53:02,069 --> 00:52:58,960
profound effects on those experiencing

1402
00:53:04,549 --> 00:53:02,079
them in april of this year the pentagon

1403
00:53:06,630 --> 00:53:04,559
declassified and released over 1500

1404
00:53:07,750 --> 00:53:06,640
pages of documents related to ufo

1405
00:53:10,470 --> 00:53:07,760
research

1406
00:53:11,990 --> 00:53:10,480
and their contents were startling even

1407
00:53:13,190 --> 00:53:12,000
for many of those within the ufo

1408
00:53:15,510 --> 00:53:13,200
community

1409
00:53:17,910 --> 00:53:15,520
according to these documents encounters

1410
00:53:20,390 --> 00:53:17,920
with ufos have reportedly left americans

1411
00:53:23,270 --> 00:53:20,400
suffering from radiation burns

1412
00:53:25,589 --> 00:53:23,280
brain and nervous system damage and even

1413
00:53:28,230 --> 00:53:25,599

unaccounted for pregnancy

1414

00:53:29,829 --> 00:53:28,240

i know dude let's just take a minute to

1415

00:53:33,990 --> 00:53:29,839

breathe and acknowledge the what the

1416

00:53:38,230 --> 00:53:35,589

okay

1417

00:53:40,870 --> 00:53:38,240

and lou elizondo the former director of

1418

00:53:42,790 --> 00:53:40,880

the pentagon's shadowy ufo program has

1419

00:53:44,950 --> 00:53:42,800

begun talking about these biological

1420

00:53:47,270 --> 00:53:44,960

effects which he calls the sixth

1421

00:53:49,510 --> 00:53:47,280

observable in more detail

1422

00:53:50,630 --> 00:53:49,520

and what he has to say is equally

1423

00:53:52,630 --> 00:53:50,640

stunning

1424

00:53:55,670 --> 00:53:52,640

on a recent episode of earth files with

1425

00:53:57,829 --> 00:53:55,680

linda molten howe he said the following

1426

00:53:59,829 --> 00:53:57,839

quote it's not at all surprising to me

1427

00:54:01,670 --> 00:53:59,839

that the human organism if it gets too

1428

00:54:03,430 --> 00:54:01,680

close to something can absolutely

1429

00:54:04,870 --> 00:54:03,440

experience adverse biological

1430

00:54:07,270 --> 00:54:04,880

consequences

1431

00:54:09,589 --> 00:54:07,280

now here's the interesting part there is

1432

00:54:11,910 --> 00:54:09,599

also some preliminary data to suggest

1433

00:54:13,190 --> 00:54:11,920

that some individuals actually report

1434

00:54:15,109 --> 00:54:13,200

the opposite

1435

00:54:17,750 --> 00:54:15,119

so rather than having some negative

1436

00:54:19,910 --> 00:54:17,760

biological consequence now you suddenly

1437

00:54:21,430 --> 00:54:19,920

have someone who is a piano virtuoso

1438

00:54:24,710 --> 00:54:21,440

who's never sat in front of a piano

1439

00:54:26,710 --> 00:54:24,720

before or who now becomes super artistic

1440

00:54:29,030 --> 00:54:26,720

or seems to have some sort of extra

1441

00:54:31,109 --> 00:54:29,040

sensory capabilities or talents now if

1442

00:54:33,190 --> 00:54:31,119

you will a sixth sense

1443

00:54:34,870 --> 00:54:33,200

whereas before they didn't

1444

00:54:36,230 --> 00:54:34,880

i'll link that episode up in the episode

1445

00:54:38,710 --> 00:54:36,240

description

1446

00:54:41,270 --> 00:54:38,720

so what's clear is that we're not just

1447

00:54:43,510 --> 00:54:41,280

talking about visions or sleep paralysis

1448

00:54:45,910 --> 00:54:43,520

here we're not talking about a purely

1449

00:54:47,670 --> 00:54:45,920

psychological phenomenon we're talking

1450

00:54:51,349 --> 00:54:47,680

about something that has real and

1451
00:54:53,030 --> 00:54:51,359
measurable effects in the physical world

1452
00:54:55,349 --> 00:54:53,040
interestingly one of the things that

1453
00:54:57,750 --> 00:54:55,359
originally got dr pasulka interested in

1454
00:54:59,829 --> 00:54:57,760
the ufo phenomenon was her previous work

1455
00:55:02,470 --> 00:54:59,839
focused on the history and metaphysics

1456
00:55:04,470 --> 00:55:02,480
of the catholic concept of purgatory for

1457
00:55:06,390 --> 00:55:04,480
those who aren't familiar purgatory is

1458
00:55:08,950 --> 00:55:06,400
where souls go who aren't perfect enough

1459
00:55:11,270 --> 00:55:08,960
to get into heaven in purgatory these

1460
00:55:12,950 --> 00:55:11,280
souls go through a state of purification

1461
00:55:14,789 --> 00:55:12,960
that allows them to eventually gain

1462
00:55:16,950 --> 00:55:14,799
entrance into heaven

1463
00:55:18,829 --> 00:55:16,960

in the 12th and 13th centuries

1464

00:55:21,349 --> 00:55:18,839

philosophers debated the existence of

1465

00:55:23,270 --> 00:55:21,359

purgatory they spoke of highly credible

1466

00:55:25,430 --> 00:55:23,280

witnesses who claimed to have seen these

1467

00:55:27,109 --> 00:55:25,440

trapped souls as well as producing

1468

00:55:28,950 --> 00:55:27,119

physical evidence of their presence

1469

00:55:29,990 --> 00:55:28,960

including things like burn marks on

1470

00:55:32,470 --> 00:55:30,000

tables

1471

00:55:34,549 --> 00:55:32,480

basulka began to recognize parallels

1472

00:55:37,190 --> 00:55:34,559

between these testimonies and not of

1473

00:55:38,950 --> 00:55:37,200

people who claim to have ufo encounters

1474

00:55:41,349 --> 00:55:38,960

after attending a conference featuring

1475

00:55:42,390 --> 00:55:41,359

speakers who were ufo experiencers she

1476

00:55:44,390 --> 00:55:42,400

writes

1477

00:55:46,230 --> 00:55:44,400

they described some of the same things

1478

00:55:49,030 --> 00:55:46,240

that i had observed in my research in

1479

00:55:51,670 --> 00:55:49,040

catholic history shining aerial discs

1480

00:55:54,470 --> 00:55:51,680

flames and orbs and especially how these

1481

00:55:56,870 --> 00:55:54,480

experiences transformed their lives

1482

00:55:59,270 --> 00:55:56,880

these experiencers interpreted these as

1483

00:56:00,950 --> 00:55:59,280

spiritual or religious events

1484

00:56:03,030 --> 00:56:00,960

they either fractured their traditional

1485

00:56:05,270 --> 00:56:03,040

religious belief systems or more

1486

00:56:07,430 --> 00:56:05,280

commonly caused them to reinterpret

1487

00:56:09,349 --> 00:56:07,440

their traditions through a biblical ufo

1488

00:56:11,829 --> 00:56:09,359

framework in which they viewed biblical

1489

00:56:13,349 --> 00:56:11,839

and historical religious events as ufo

1490

00:56:14,309 --> 00:56:13,359

events

1491

00:56:16,470 --> 00:56:14,319

so

1492

00:56:18,950 --> 00:56:16,480

where does all of this leave us

1493

00:56:21,270 --> 00:56:18,960

what are we to make of all of it

1494

00:56:23,109 --> 00:56:21,280

to be honest i don't know

1495

00:56:25,270 --> 00:56:23,119

and as we look back through the long

1496

00:56:27,510 --> 00:56:25,280

sweep of human history we begin to

1497

00:56:30,470 --> 00:56:27,520

recognize that the ufo phenomenon though

1498

00:56:33,750 --> 00:56:30,480

undeniably modern appears to be in many

1499

00:56:35,349 --> 00:56:33,760

ways the continuation and evolution of a

1500

00:56:38,390 --> 00:56:35,359

phenomenon that has been part of the

1501
00:56:40,950 --> 00:56:38,400
human experience for thousands of years

1502
00:56:43,670 --> 00:56:40,960
but did it evolve or did we

1503
00:56:46,069 --> 00:56:43,680
again i don't know and i often wonder if

1504
00:56:48,150 --> 00:56:46,079
we as humans get to know

1505
00:56:50,390 --> 00:56:48,160
perhaps our utter bewilderment in the

1506
00:56:52,710 --> 00:56:50,400
face of this phenomenon is intrinsic in

1507
00:56:54,950 --> 00:56:52,720
some way to the human condition or to

1508
00:56:56,630 --> 00:56:54,960
the phenomenon itself

1509
00:56:59,349 --> 00:56:56,640
jacques-vallee has argued that the

1510
00:57:01,430 --> 00:56:59,359
absurdity and impenetrability of the ufo

1511
00:57:03,990 --> 00:57:01,440
phenomenon is an intrinsic part of its

1512
00:57:05,190 --> 00:57:04,000
very nature and that it may in fact have

1513
00:57:08,309 --> 00:57:05,200

a purpose

1514

00:57:11,190 --> 00:57:08,319

in other words it's a feature not a bug

1515

00:57:13,750 --> 00:57:11,200

he writes quote contact between human

1516

00:57:15,430 --> 00:57:13,760

recipients and the ufo phenomenon occurs

1517

00:57:16,309 --> 00:57:15,440

under conditions controlled by the

1518

00:57:18,630 --> 00:57:16,319

latter

1519

00:57:20,870 --> 00:57:18,640

its characteristic feature is a constant

1520

00:57:22,789 --> 00:57:20,880

factor of absurdity that leads to

1521

00:57:25,030 --> 00:57:22,799

rejection of the story by the upper

1522

00:57:27,270 --> 00:57:25,040

layers of a target society and an

1523

00:57:30,230 --> 00:57:27,280

absorption at a deep unconscious level

1524

00:57:32,470 --> 00:57:30,240

of the symbols conveyed by the encounter

1525

00:57:35,030 --> 00:57:32,480

so is this the control mechanism of

1526

00:57:37,349 --> 00:57:35,040

which ville writes and what is the

1527

00:57:39,910 --> 00:57:37,359

nature of the intelligence behind it is

1528

00:57:41,349 --> 00:57:39,920

it divine extraterrestrial or something

1529

00:57:44,069 --> 00:57:41,359

else entirely

1530

00:57:46,069 --> 00:57:44,079

and what are its intentions for humanity

1531

00:57:47,990 --> 00:57:46,079

again i don't know

1532

00:57:50,390 --> 00:57:48,000

but what's clear is that there are no

1533

00:57:52,950 --> 00:57:50,400

easy answers here and to get at the

1534

00:57:55,510 --> 00:57:52,960

truth of the ufo phenomenon we must be

1535

00:57:57,270 --> 00:57:55,520

willing to dive ever more deeply into

1536

00:57:58,920 --> 00:57:57,280

the heart of the mystery

1537

00:58:04,720 --> 00:57:58,930

until next time