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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,000

You know, I've been around for a while.

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

Met some interesting people.

3

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

Done some crazy things.

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

See, you just might think that there's not much

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00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:13,000

that can take me by surprise.

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

You'd be wrong.

7

00:00:19,000 --> 00:00:22,000

The world is full of stories,

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00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:26,000

science, and things that amaze and confound me.

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00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:29,000

Every single day, incredible mysteries that keep me awake at night,

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00:00:29,000 --> 00:00:31,000

some I can answer.

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00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:33,000

Oh, there's just...

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

Stifile logic.

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00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:42,000

Is there life after death?

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00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:46,000

In Connecticut, a man visits a Civil War battlefield

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

where he is suddenly overcome with emotion.

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00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:52,000

To this day, I don't understand what exactly happened.

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00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:56,000

Is he the reincarnation of a dead general?

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00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:02,000

In Haiti, 18 years after his death,

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00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:04,000

a man returns from the grave.

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00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:08,000

This individual had clearly been pronounced dead by the doctors.

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00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:11,000

Do zombies really exist?

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00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:15,000

An interremarkable experiment.

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:19,000

Scientists in England conduct a series of groundbreaking say-offs.

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:24,000

Is it our first genuine proof of the afterlife?

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00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:27,000

Yeah.

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00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:29,000

It's a weird world.

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00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:31,000

And I love it.

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00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:51,000

Death.

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00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:53,000

Not exactly pretty.

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00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:56,000

Especially when you consider that one day all of us

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00:01:56,000 --> 00:01:59,000

could end up looking like this.

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00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:03,000

But should we simply accept this as our fate,

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00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:06,000

or is there something else that awaits us?

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00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:10,000

Since the dawn of time, humans have been obsessed with the idea

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00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:13,000

that there's something more than...

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:16,000

this.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:18,000

Well...

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00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:20,000

Is there...

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:23,000

Do our lives go on, even if we die?

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00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:27,000

Can we return and communicate with our loved ones here on Earth?

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:35,000

Is there life after life?

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00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:39,000

And perhaps the most important question of all,

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00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:41,000

can we prove it?

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:46,000

Well, just maybe we can.

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:52,000

Jeffrey Keen is a retired firefighter.

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00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:57,000

In 1990, he decided to visit the site of the famous battle of Antietam,

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00:02:57,000 --> 00:03:00,000

one of the bloodiest encounters of the Civil War.

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00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:06,000

And a place where thousands died in just one day.

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00:03:08,000 --> 00:03:12,000

I was traveling down through Pennsylvania with my wife, antique hunting,

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00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:15,000

and I asked my wife if it was okay if I took a little side trip

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00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:17,000

over to Antietam to see the battlefield.

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00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:21,000

But what begins as a fun day out,

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00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:24,000

will soon turn into a nightmare.

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00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:27,000

My wife wasn't very much into history,

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00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:31,000

so she remained in the car, and I walked over to a battle had taken place

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00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:33,000

at the sunken road,

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:36,000

gone about 50 feet when it became very hard to breathe.

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00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:39,000

I started crying. I was very angry. I was very sad.

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:42,000

If you take the saddest you've ever been,

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00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:46,000

and magnify that by about a thousand times, that gets close.

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00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:48,000

I was exhausted.

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00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:51,000

I couldn't tell exactly what was going on.

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00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:54,000

I thought I was maybe having a heart attack, but I didn't have any pain.

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00:03:55,000 --> 00:03:58,000

Overcome by a wave of violent emotions,

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:03,000

Jeffrey then has a powerful urge to visit the gift shop.

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00:04:04,000 --> 00:04:06,000

I felt compelled to go there.

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00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:08,000

I threw a magazine on the counter.

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00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:12,000

I said, I want this, and it was a Civil War quarterly magazine on Antietam.

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00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:16,000

For this day, I don't understand what exactly happened.

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00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:21,000

For the next 18 months, Jeffrey's life returns to normal,

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00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:25,000

until one night, when he attends a Halloween party.

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:28,000

It was a really nice party.

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00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:30,000

They spent a lot of money on the decorations.

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00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:32,000

They had hired a palm reader,

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00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:35,000

and I sat down in front of this woman,

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00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:37,000

and she took my hands,

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00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:40,000

and I told her the story of what happened in Antietam.

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00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:42,000

As Jeff tells his story,

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00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:45,000

the palm reader suddenly becomes uneasy.

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00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:47,000

She's sitting there shaking her head,

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00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:49,000

and she dropped my hands a few times.

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:52,000

And then she drops a bombshell.

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:56,000

She believes Jeffrey was at Antietam in a previous life.

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00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:59,000

He said he died there,

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:02,000

but she was hung around for a long time.

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

I said, just let me ask you one question.

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00:05:05,000 --> 00:05:08,000

Are you sure he was dead?

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00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:10,000

She said he was full of holes.

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00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:13,000

That's one thing I'll never forget.

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00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:16,000

The bizarre encounter will lead Jeffrey

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00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:19,000

on a journey in search of the truth.

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00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:21,000

The next day, I took my wife to work,

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00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:23,000

and I remembered the magazine that I had to have.

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00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:26,000

I had it for a year and a half, and hadn't read it.

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00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:29,000

I opened it up to the section on Antietam,

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00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:31,000

where I had had the experience,

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00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:33,000

and I skimmed down the page,

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00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:37,000

and I see a photograph of a general.

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:39,000

As Jeffrey stares at the photo,

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00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:41,000

he is stunned by what he sees.

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00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:43,000

I look over and this picture says,

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00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:47,000

General John B. Gordon, and when I see the face,

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00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:49,000

I tell people I know the face very well.

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00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:51,000

I shave it every morning.

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00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:56,000

Unless you're unfeeling,

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00:05:56,000 --> 00:05:59,000

unthinking, completely drained of any type of emotion,

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00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:01,000

it's going to have a bit of an effect on you,

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00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:03,000

even if it's just awe and wonder.

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00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:08,000

Remarkably, Jeffrey is a double for General John B. Gordon,

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00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:12,000

but as he reads on, things get even weirder.

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00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:15,000

I read in a story, he had been wounded five times that day.

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00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:16,000

He was shot through the face,

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00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:18,000

and I figured he had probably been killed there.

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00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:22,000

John B. Gordon was a general of the 6th Alabama Regiment,

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00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:27,000

a hero who was shot in the bloody battle of Antietam.

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00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:32,000

Could there be a link between Jeffrey and a general

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00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:35,000

who had died nearly 200 years before him?

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00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:40,000

Suddenly, Jeffrey makes another startling connection.

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00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:42,000

It was on my 30th birthday.

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00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:47,000

At 12 midnight, I got such an horrendous pain in my jaw,

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00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:49,000

it radiated down into my neck.

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00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:51,000

I know what it feels like to be shot through the face.

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00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:52,000

That's how bad it hurt.

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00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:58,000

Was Jeffrey's mysterious pain somehow related to General Gordon's injuries?

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00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:01,000

Gordon was 30 years old when he was shot through the face.

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00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:03,000

Same age.

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00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:08,000

That was 10, 15 years before I ever heard Gordon's name.

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00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:11,000

It wasn't like this was worked backwards.

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00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:14,000

I heard about Gordon's wounding.

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00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:16,000

I went over to the hospital,

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00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:21,000

made him fudge up some documents that mimicked the wound that Gordon had

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00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:24,000

more than 100 years before.

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00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:26,000

Kind of hard to do.

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00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:31,000

And I have the documents that prove the hospital isn't.

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00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:35,000

Could all these remarkable similarities be explained by coincidence?

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00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:40,000

Jeffrey believes there's only one answer.

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00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:45,000

I don't need any more proof that there's reincarnation

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00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:47,000

because of all the things that happened to me.

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00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:49,000

We never die.

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00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:51,000

We're continuous.

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00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:53,000

We always have been, we always will be.

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00:07:53,000 --> 00:07:56,000

That's how Gordon found me at Antietam.

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

I always say it's the other way around from what people think.

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00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:03,000

I say Gordon, Gordon found me where our hearts touched at Antietam.

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

An extraordinary story.

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00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:12,000

To the Civil War general who died over a century ago,

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00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:18,000

reincarnate, jump into Jeffrey King's body

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00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:24,000

and continue his life through Jeffrey's eyes.

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00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:31,000

Are we all in a continual cycle of birth and rebirth,

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00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:34,000

simply interchanging bodies as we go?

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00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:37,000

And if so, this raises yet another question.

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00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:39,000

Do we get to choose?

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00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:43,000

I mean, who was I before I was, who I am now, and who will I be next?

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00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:45,000

Could I be you?

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00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:50,000

Now that is definitely weird from what?

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00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:54,000

Dr. Cynthia Myers-Burt is a Harvard psychologist.

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00:08:54,000 --> 00:09:00,000

She believes reincarnation is simply a function of how we deal with memories.

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

Something odd happens and people go looking as we all do to make sense of their lives.

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00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:07,000

If you have a rich imagination of ability,

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00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:11,000

it becomes very difficult to distinguish between something with a record of perception

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00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:12,000

and a record of imagination.

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00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:14,000

Did I dream that or did it happen?

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00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:17,000

Did I hear about that or did I actually experience that?

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00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:19,000

It can be very difficult.

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00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:24,000

Cynthia believes that one way we do this is by creating false memories.

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00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:27,000

False memories are what they sound like.

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00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:30,000

They're recollections for either events that didn't take place

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00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:33,000

or didn't take place in the way in which they were remembered.

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00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:37,000

Are people like Jeffrey just making these stories up?

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00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:40,000

If so, why?

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00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:44,000

Memory, although it feels a lot of times like we're watching a film in our mind's eye,

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00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:46,000

that's not what's really happening.

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00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:49,000

We're always reconstructing it from little pieces that we have saved in a sense,

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00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:51,000

and we put it back together.

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00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:54,000

And our brain fills in for us the missing parts.

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00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:56,000

The way we measure false memory propensity in the labs,

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00:09:56,000 --> 00:10:00,000

we use something called the DRM, or Dease-Rodiger-McDermott paradigm.

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00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:04,000

What the paradigm consists of is we present people with lists of words.

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00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:06,000

In our lab, they listen to them.

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00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:08,000

Then they're asked to write down without guessing.

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00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:11,000

Only those words, they're certain they've heard.

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00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:13,000

What makes the task tricky is that each list of words,

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00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:17,000

there's a word that isn't on the list, but is related to all the words on the list.

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00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:25,000

So the words might be sour, bitter, sugar, honey, and so forth.

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00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:27,000

But the word sweet is never said.

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00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:33,000

In the lab, past-life memory participants were much more likely to endorse having heard words

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00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:35,000

that they didn't actually hear.

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00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:42,000

However, they were no different in terms of being able to correctly identify words that they did hear.

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00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:46,000

So they were more likely to have false memories of words they didn't hear.

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00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:50,000

But their true memory looked just like the control participants.

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00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:55,000

I interpret it to mean that although there's no difference in ability to form true recollections

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00:10:55,000 --> 00:11:01,000

and true memories, there's an increased vulnerability to form memories for events that perhaps did not occur.

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00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:05,000

An emotional collapse at the Civil War battleground

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00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:09,000

leads a man to believe he is the reincarnation of a dead general.

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00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:14,000

Is it possible we all have past lives?

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00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:19,000

Tariq Sator is a facilitator at the Ontario Hypnosis Centre.

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00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:23,000

He not only believes reincarnation is real,

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00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:28,000

he can demonstrate it using a process called past-life regression.

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00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:35,000

Past-life regression is a series of steps that you go through in order to access memories from previous lifetimes.

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00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:42,000

It is allowing the conscious mind to be put aside for a while as you access the subconscious mind.

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00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:45,000

Begin by just lightly closing your eyes now.

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00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:51,000

Tariq is preparing a patient, Karen, to travel back not only deep into her own past,

203

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:57,000

but to lives she may have lived before and from where he can access her memories.

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00:11:58,000 --> 00:12:05,000

Imagine if you will, above your head, is a point of absolutely pure white light.

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00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:10,000

It starts by first taking the client back through age regression,

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00:12:10,000 --> 00:12:14,000

and typically it's about 14 or 15 years old and then to three or four years old.

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00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:19,000

I'm on my mom's lap and I'm getting all of her attention.

208

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:22,000

Karen has now gone back over 30 years.

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00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:26,000

The next step will take her into what is known as blue mist.

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00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:31,000

A space in between her current life and the one she lived before.

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00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:39,000

Take a deep breath now and go beyond the blue mist, finding yourself at a still earlier time.

212

00:12:39,000 --> 00:12:45,000

Incredibly, it appears Karen has now entered a former life.

213

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:51,000

I am climbing rocks and there's a forest nearby.

214

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:53,000

Are you male or female?

215

00:12:53,000 --> 00:12:57,000

No. I think I'm hunting.

216

00:12:57,000 --> 00:12:58,000

Okay.

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00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:02,000

Tariq believes what Karen is seeing is real.

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00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:05,000

They're interacting, they're in the body of that past life.

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00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:09,000

They can see out of that person's eyes. It's very, very personal.

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00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:18,000

To complete the session, Tariq must reverse the process and bring Karen back into her current life and present age.

221

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:23,000

And one eyes open back.

222

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:31,000

Did Karen actually visit her former life?

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00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:36,000

Is past life regression evidence that reincarnation is real?

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00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:40,000

Dr. Stuart Haneroff is a scientist.

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00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:46,000

He believes the only way to find real proof of reincarnation is by using science.

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00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:55,000

There's a lot of anecdotal evidence for apparent reincarnation, but it's been dismissed because it seems irrational.

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00:13:55,000 --> 00:14:02,000

Now we have a theory, a possible explanation, so I think all this evidence needs to be re-evaluated and considered seriously.

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00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:09,000

Haneroff's theory concerns one of the greatest mysteries of both religion and science.

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00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:10,000

The soul.

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00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:15,000

I think the soul is our consciousness, the sum total of our memories and conscious awareness,

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00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:20,000

and I think it can exist outside the body after life and possibly in reincarnation.

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00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:27,000

But even more remarkable is that Haneroff thinks the soul exists as a series of information.

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00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:34,000

Quantifiable by physics, many scientists believe consciousness exists with cells in the brain.

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00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:42,000

But Haneroff thinks it exists on a subatomic level in quantum particles that can stay connected and survive death.

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00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:50,000

It's conceivable that this quantum information, the quantum soul if you will, could re-enter an embryo which would be reincarnation.

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00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:56,000

Do our souls consist of information that can travel even into an embryo?

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00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:01,000

Have we solved one of the greatest mysteries in the universe?

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00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:09,000

The first scientific experiment

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00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:14,000

Scientists in England conduct a series of groundbreaking experiments.

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00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:18,000

Did they find the first genuine proof of the afterlife?

241

00:15:22,000 --> 00:15:23,000

Hello.

242

00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:26,000

Hello.

243

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:32,000

I don't know about you, but I've always been scared of things that go bump in the night.

244

00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:38,000

Fred, most of them we can explain, but what about those we can't?

245

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:46,000

Are we surrounded by spiritual entities, the remains of those that have passed from this life?

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00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:51,000

Are they what we call ghosts?

247

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:56,000

And if they are there, are they friendly?

248

00:15:56,000 --> 00:16:02,000

And can we communicate with them?

249

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Fred!

250

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:17,000

In 1993, a team of researchers in the town of Secold, United Kingdom, set out to find indisputable evidence of life after death.

251

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:25,000

Conducting a series of extraordinary seances,

252

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:31,000

they witnessed paranormal events that would mystify science.

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00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:34,000

They called it the Skoll experiment.

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00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:43,000

What we didn't know was that it was going to become very, very special and work in a pioneering way to provide proof of life after death.

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00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:46,000

Robin Foy led the seances.

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00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:53,000

He believes the experiment was unique because of their attempts to make sure it was credible.

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00:16:53,000 --> 00:17:02,000

It was important for us to show to the outside world that we'd taken every security precaution that we could to ensure that the work was fraud-proof.

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00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:09,000

To conquer the skeptics, the seances were held in the supposedly impenetrable cellar of a suburban

house.

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00:17:09,000 --> 00:17:16,000

The whole place was brick. There were no trap doors. The only door into the cellar was locked internally.

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00:17:17,000 --> 00:17:24,000

Each one of us would wear luminous armbands so that everybody who was present could see that no one moved.

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00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:34,000

After a short while, the spirit lights come. Little lights about the size of a pea or slightly larger, very bright, and they would sort of perform aerobatics.

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00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:39,000

Later on, there were spirit voices speaking from mid-air.

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00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:44,000

We were able to hear on a one-to-one basis all of the spirit people.

264

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:49,000

Everybody in that room would be regularly touched by spirit hands.

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00:17:53,000 --> 00:17:59,000

As the experiment continues, the team is amazed as the paranormal activity becomes more intense.

266

00:18:00,000 --> 00:18:05,000

All sorts of different things, but materializing mid-air and then fall down onto the table.

267

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:12,000

We would hear the bangers that hit the table. We may actually have solid spirit personalities moving around in the room.

268

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:20,000

We were pushing the bounds of psychic research further forward than anyone enabled to produce or witness anywhere in the past.

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00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:30,000

Encouraged by the success, Foy decided to try something extraordinary. Something that would prove they had made contact with the afterlife.

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00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:36,000

We were doing an experiment with a film that was still in its plastic container.

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00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:43,000

We would have this locked into a security box to ensure that nothing was ever done by us to that film.

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00:18:44,000 --> 00:18:52,000

It was a remarkable and ambitious idea. The team hoped a spirit might somehow implant an image on the film inside the box.

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00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:57,000

If so, it could be the proof they were looking for.

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00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:03,000

When they finally checked the film, they couldn't believe their eyes.

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00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:05,000

That was quite amazing.

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00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:12,000

We had hundreds of photographs that were produced to show us various aspects of the spirit world

itself.

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00:19:12,000 --> 00:19:16,000

Some of them were so fantastic they really would knock its ups off.

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00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:20,000

But there was one photograph that was different from the rest.

279

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:26,000

A haunting image of what seemed to be a woman's face.

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00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:30,000

You actually see on this one areas of this person's face.

281

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:35,000

Who is the woman? And how did her image appear on the film?

282

00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:44,000

Foy believes this chilling incident makes the Skoll experiment the definitive exploration into the presence of the afterlife.

283

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:52,000

Brian Dunning is a scientific journalist. He believes the events of Skoll were nothing more than an illusion.

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00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:59,000

Here's the problem with seances is that seances have existed as a magic trick for 200 years.

285

00:20:00,000 --> 00:20:05,000

They are an illusionist giving the impression that spirits are in the room. They are a magic trick.

286

00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:12,000

It's almost impossible to envision a seance being done seriously by people. They're always performances.

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00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:16,000

So that's why it's hard to take a seance seriously.

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00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:22,000

What we are trying to recreate are the famous Skoll experiments.

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00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:27,000

Was the Skoll experiment a magic trick? To test Dunning's theory.

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00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:31,000

We've set up a fake seance using a professional illusionist.

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00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:36,000

To create the conditions at Skoll, the participants are sitting in pitch darkness.

292

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:41,000

Using night vision cameras, we can see them, but they can see nothing at all.

293

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:45,000

The session begins with everyone holding hands.

294

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:53,000

Give me your hand here and your hand here. Please do not break the psychic circle at any time during the seance.

295

00:20:54,000 --> 00:20:59,000

Spirits, are you with us tonight?

296

00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:05,000

The Skoll experiment claimed that spirit voices seemed to come from mid-air.

297

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:14,000

The illusionists will attempt to recreate them with an assistant using a cardboard tube as a megaphone.

298

00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:21,000

Speak to us. Your love is love you.

299

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

What?

300

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:27,000

Faking disembodied voices seemed simple.

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00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:29,000

Charles, the name Charles.

302

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:32,000

But can they convince these participants?

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00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:33,000

That was close.

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00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:37,000

They are being physically touched by spirits as claimed by the people at Skoll.

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00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:45,000

My spirit guide, I'm going to ask my spirit guide, Francine, will you give us a physical manifestation?

306

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:48,000

I want Francine to come towards the center of the table.

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00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:51,000

What? What happened?

308

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:52,000

I can't touch you.

309

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:54,000

You're about to die!

310

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:56,000

Whoa, whoa, whoa!

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00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:02,000

The final trick, centers around the claim that objects materialized out of thin air.

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00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:06,000

Is this so easy to disprove?

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00:22:07,000 --> 00:22:11,000

Leave us now! Leave us!

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00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:16,000

The experiment is over.

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00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:22,000

Even though his seance was badly faked, the participants are left visibly shaken.

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00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:25,000

Nobody's laughing. Everybody took that completely seriously.

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00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:28,000

It was a very powerful experience for these people.

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00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:34,000

Although the participants were fooled, Brian believes this proves the Skoll experiment was a hoax.

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00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:37,000

We saw a few of the things today that were reported from the Skoll experiment.

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00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:40,000

We've seen that those can be easily faked.

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00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:42,000

Do we know that they faked them at Skoll?

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00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:44,000

No, of course not, because no controls were applied.

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00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:46,000

We don't know what actually happened.

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00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:51,000

But when we see how easy it is to fake it, how can we know that these could have been real?

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00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:57,000

Could the greatest experiment into the existence of the afterlife be just an illusionist's game?

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00:22:57,000 --> 00:22:58,000

No doubt.

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00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:07,000

Magic tricks are easy to perform, and many of the claims made at Skoll have been dismissed out of hand.

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00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:13,000

But the biggest mystery of all still remains unanswered.

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00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:17,000

Who is this woman?

330

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:21,000

How did her image appear in a rule of film that was locked inside a box?

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00:23:21,000 --> 00:23:25,000

Even Houdini would have trouble with that one.

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00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:29,000

Peter Schrumick is a photography expert.

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00:23:30,000 --> 00:23:37,000

We asked him to examine images from the Skoll experiment and try to unlock one of its biggest mysteries.

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00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:45,000

As I understand it, the film was put into this box and locked away in the exposure.

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00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:50,000

The effect on the film was supposed to have happened while the film was locked up in this box.

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00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:55,000

My first reaction was, this is an interesting manipulation.

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00:23:55,000 --> 00:23:58,000

I assumed it was something that would have been done in the dark room.

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00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:07,000

It looks very similar to the kinds of distortions, collages, manipulations that people have done in the dark room, because it's fun to do.

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00:24:07,000 --> 00:24:09,000

But there was no dark room at Skoll.

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00:24:10,000 --> 00:24:13,000

Was this photograph created by the spirit of a woman?

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00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:19,000

Peter believes the answer to the mystery lies in the type of film they used.

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00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:23,000

With Polaroid you have the direct development, so there's no dark room involved.

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00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:32,000

When you process it, you actually put it into a container that is full of gelatinous chemical that gets spread onto the film evenly.

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00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:40,000

And that is the chemical that develops the film, contains the dyes that causes the color and so on.

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00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:44,000

And so you have this jelly-like substance that's being spread over the film to develop it.

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00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:47,000

You're cranking that through by hand or sometimes by motor.

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00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:55,000

And depending on how you crank it, you can get different kinds of distortions and effects simply because of chemical reasons.

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00:24:55,000 --> 00:24:58,000

And that, in my mind, is what's happened in these photographs.

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00:24:58,000 --> 00:25:03,000

All you're seeing are the chemicals that are the way that they've affected the film as it's gone through.

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00:25:04,000 --> 00:25:07,000

What is harder to explain are the actual faces of the images.

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00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:13,000

They're not light effects. They're not chemical effects. They actually are images of faces.

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

So how was this haunting image created?

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00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:29,000

My explanation for that would be that the film has been tampered with and the film has been put through the camera and these faces have been exposed into it prior to the supposed experiment.

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00:25:29,000 --> 00:25:36,000

And then when it's processed, these show up, but they show up in distorted fashion because of the chemical processing distortion.

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00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:42,000

And that actually is quite easy. You can take a roll of film.

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00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:47,000

I can take this sort of brand new roll of film. No one's ever done anything with it.

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00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:55,000

I can take it. I can put this film in the camera. I can shoot the roll of film. I can wind it back.

358

00:25:55,000 --> 00:26:01,000

And as I wind it back, I can leave the leader sticking out like this.

359

00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:04,000

And no one knows whether this film is exposed or not.

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00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:07,000

Peter believes he has solved the mystery.

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00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:11,000

But what if the Skull researchers were telling the truth?

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00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:22,000

I don't think while the film was in the box that any of the effects that we're seeing could have been created unless one believes in some sort of supernatural explanation.

363

00:26:23,000 --> 00:26:25,000

Is this a woman from the spirit world?

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00:26:26,000 --> 00:26:31,000

Did Robin Foy's research team find proof of life after death at Skull?

365

00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:34,000

Or was it an ingenious hoax?

366

00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:42,000

Whatever the truth is, this is... weird or what?

367

00:26:50,000 --> 00:26:53,000

In Haiti, a man dies after a sudden and mysterious illness.

368

00:26:55,000 --> 00:27:02,000

18 years later, he returns from the grave. Could this prove that zombies exist?

369

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:12,000

When it comes to the mysteries of the afterlife, perhaps, there's nothing weirder than zombies.

370

00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:15,000

The dictionary describes a zombie like this.

371

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:23,000

The body of a dead person given the semblance of life, but made mute and willed by a supernatural force, usually for some evil purpose.

372

00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:25,000

Sounds like my bank manager.

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00:27:25,000 --> 00:27:27,000

But could it be true?

374

00:27:27,000 --> 00:27:33,000

Could mindless, shuffling cannibals actually exist outside of Hollywood?

375

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:38,000

The tiny nation of Haiti is home to many mysteries.

376

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:44,000

But none weirder than the tale of a man named Clavius Narcisse.

377

00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:48,000

Wade Davis is an explorer and author.

378

00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:55,000

He investigated the case which began in 1962, when Narcisse suddenly became violently ill.

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00:27:56,000 --> 00:28:05,000

I mean, the kind of the constellation of symptoms that he reported were so strange, that you initially thought this had to be coming from the realm of science fiction.

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00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:11,000

Although doctors work feverishly, it's too late to save the stricken Narcisse.

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00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:22,000

The death was witnessed by both the physicians and nurses and his own family members, and his sister had actually affixed her thumbprint to the death certificate,

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00:28:22,000 --> 00:28:25,000

verifying that this was her brother or brother had died.

383

00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:30,000

Devastate. Family members say they're finally goodbyes.

384

00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:34,000

And Clavius is finally late to rest.

385

00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:42,000

You could go to his grave site where the slab of cement had been placed upon his grave shortly after his demise.

386

00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:46,000

It should have been the last anyone heard of Clavius Narcisse.

387

00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:51,000

But 18 years later, something incredible will happen.

388

00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:55,000

That ensures no one forgets his name.

389

00:28:56,000 --> 00:29:02,000

In 1980, Clavius' sister is going about daily chores in her family village.

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00:29:03,000 --> 00:29:06,000

Suddenly, she sees something beyond comprehension.

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00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:10,000

Standing before her is her deceased brother.

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00:29:11,000 --> 00:29:15,000

Clavius Narcisse has risen from the dead.

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00:29:15,000 --> 00:29:20,000

He claimed that he was buried. He claimed that he was magically resuscitated by a sorcerer.

394

00:29:21,000 --> 00:29:26,000

And that led off to the north of the country where he had been working as a sort of a zombie slave for 18 years.

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00:29:27,000 --> 00:29:36,000

Now, clearly there's no incentive, economic incentive, to create an indentured force of labor in a country where costs of labor are trivial.

396

00:29:37,000 --> 00:29:44,000

I think the idea of slavery ties into a deeper concept, which is that the essence of a zombie is someone who has lost their soul.

397

00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:54,000

But in addition to being cast in perpetuity into the state of kind of limbo, you're also said to be made a slave.

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00:29:55,000 --> 00:30:03,000

And of course, given the colonial history, that combines to create a kind of a phenomenon that's almost worse than death.

399

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:06,000

Because you lose your personal willpower and your physical freedom.

400

00:30:06,000 --> 00:30:22,000

And together that combines to make the plight of a zombie the worst possible fate of the individual, which is precisely why in Haiti the fear is not of zombies as the movies imply the bad movies, but of becoming a zombie.

401

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:28,000

Did Clavius Narcisse return from the dead? A zombie.

402

00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:38,000

There was no question that this individual had clearly been pronounced dead by the doctors. And then the question became why, how, what happened to him?

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00:30:39,000 --> 00:30:46,000

This incredible story attracts the attention of a team of scientists who are keen to examine the case and uncover the truth.

404

00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:54,000

They investigated all these lines of evidence, analysis of the fingerprints by forensic experts, testimony of family members and the doctors.

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00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:59,000

After months of searching, the investigators come to a remarkable conclusion.

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00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:07,000

Really led two very reputable scientists to go public saying they had found the first provable instance of a zombie.

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00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:09,000

What did the scientists find?

408

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:17,000

Did Clavius Narcisse rise from the dead? Do zombies exist?

409

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:26,000

Stephen Schlossman is a Harvard psychiatrist. Incredibly, he believes the answer could be yes.

410

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:34,000

When I started thinking about how I would explain zombies medically, it was kind of a lark and then it ended up getting a little creepy.

411

00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:44,000

The typical zombie, in my view, is slow, shambling, can't figure even the simplest of dilemmas out, wants to eat you in flesh.

412

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:48,000

There is ways you can medically explain the behavior.

413

00:31:50,000 --> 00:32:00,000

Remarkably, Schlossman believes just a few changes in the human brain could turn one of us into one of them. It starts with the cerebellum.

414

00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:05,000

This is a sheep brain, but imagine this is a human brain, which looks an awful lot like this, just bigger.

415

00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:08,000

The function of the cerebellum is to help us maintain balance.

416

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:15,000

In zombies, we've got to think that there's something not right with their cerebellum because zombies are really not balanced well.

417

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:24,000

They hold their hands out so they can maintain balance. They've got that wide-based gait. They've got truncal ataxia, which is when the trunk of the body moves back and forth and up and down.

418

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:32,000

That's all cerebellar disease, and it's easy to sort of think that whatever causes the zombie plague must take a whack at the cerebellum.

419

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:42,000

There's a number of diseases that can affect the cerebellum. In those cases, you have exactly the shambling gait that you see in the zombie movies.

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00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:48,000

The shuffling is one thing, but what explains a zombie's mindless violence?

421

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:57,000

The amygdala is the most primitive part of the brain. It's the region of the brain that has very base emotions.

422

00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:07,000

Our amygdala is the source of all anger and rage, but it's kept in check by our frontal lobes, the most advanced part of our brain.

423

00:33:07,000 --> 00:33:13,000

So we might have an impulse when somebody cuts us off on the road to yell at them, to tailgate them, to do something not nice.

424

00:33:13,000 --> 00:33:16,000

The frontal lobe jumps in and stops you from doing that.

425

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:23,000

We watch zombie movies. We can guess that zombie frontal lobes are pretty much gone. They can't hold back their impulses.

426

00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:33,000

A Haitian man dies from mysterious illness, then returns from the grave 18 years later. Is he proof that zombies exist?

427

00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:44,000

In 1982, David's made a breakthrough. He discovered that Haitian voodoo priests were rumored to be using a special poison to turn people into zombies.

428

00:33:45,000 --> 00:33:47,000

Was this the drug he was looking for?

429

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:51,000

He decided to visit Haiti and see for himself.

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00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:58,000

Through a series of negotiations, I was able to get a local priest to make this poison for me.

431

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:07,000

I collected all the raw ingredients, which ranged from dried toads to dried fish, dried snakes, plants, human remains.

432

00:34:07,000 --> 00:34:14,000

I came through for the first day on Easter Sunday, 1982, Kennedy Airport.

433

00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:22,000

I had no permits whatsoever. I had the suitcase made of surplus 7-up cans that had been printed in Saudi Arabia.

434

00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:28,000

You could see the Arabic script. It was filled to the gunnels with all these ingredients, including human remains, a human skull,

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00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:37,000

I had a live buffo marinus toe, the biggest toe, this big, in my backpack, and no permits whatsoever.

436

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:46,000

I opened this up and the customs guy in New York just slammed it shut and he said, and I quote,

437

00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:57,000

Look, it's Easter Sunday. I don't know who the f*** you are. I didn't even want to have to work today. Just get the f*** out of here.

438

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:10,000

Back in the U.S. Davis takes the poison to be tested in a lab. He finds something extraordinary. It contains a chemical more deadly than cyanide.

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00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:21,000

Tetrodotoxin acts by physically blocking nerves, but it brings on a state of apparent death so profound that it has many times full physicians.

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00:35:21,000 --> 00:35:29,000

Had the Haitian priests discovered a drug that could replicate death? If so, where did they get it?

441

00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:35,000

In Haiti, there's this famous puffer fish, which inflates like a big porcupine.

442

00:35:35,000 --> 00:35:44,000

Without doubt, the Haitian sorcerers had identified a natural product that contained a toxin that could make something appear to be dead.

443

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:49,000

Could this powerful drug produce the symptoms Narcisse experienced?

444

00:35:49,000 --> 00:36:00,000

He said he was paralyzed. He could hear himself pronounced dead. He could sense the sheet pulled over his eyes. He heard his sister begin to wail, but he could not respond.

445

00:36:00,000 --> 00:36:11,000

Was an instant man turned into a zombie? The evidence seems undeniable, except for one thing.

446

00:36:11,000 --> 00:36:20,000

No one knows if Narcisse was administered the poison. What we do know is that he was pronounced dead when he turned back into the realm of the living.

447

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:28,000

So presumably, if any of this is accurate, somehow he received the poison. According to what he said, he had the poison rubbed into his skin.

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00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:35,000

And this would be important because the effective way for this powder to be administered would be through the blood.

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00:36:35,000 --> 00:36:42,000

All right, let's think about this for a second.

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00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:52,000

We know that a certain set of brain alterations, diseases, or injuries could cause the zombie-like symptoms you see in the movies.

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00:36:52,000 --> 00:37:03,000

That a mysterious poison has the power to mimic death, but is there any real proof that we can return from the dead?

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Well, let me tell you something. The living dead are living monks, and they are in Detroit.

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At a warehouse in Detroit, something remarkable is happening. Inside these containers, 103 people are waiting to return from the dead.

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This is a cryonic center. The people entombed here have made an incredible choice to have their bodies frozen after death with the hope that science will one day bring them back to life.

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Ben Best is the president of the Cryonics Institute. He believes not only can we survive death, but

that the people here haven't actually died.

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We do call them patients because we don't regard them as being dead in an ultimate sense. I think in practice, be regarded as a hospital, because I think that's what we're doing.

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We're holding these metabolically challenged patients.

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But can cryogenics work? It's a remarkable and controversial process.

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I'm our cryostats. They hold liquid nitrogen, which is at minus 196 degrees Celsius. Each of these cylindrical units holds six patients.

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Best believes cryogenics has changed our definition of death. Only a few decades ago, if your heart stopped, that was it.

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But it's just not the way we see things anymore.

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How do you keep someone who's dead alive?

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It begins by pumping oxygen-rich blood throughout the body. This keeps cells alive and avoids damage caused by river mortars. Then the body must be cooled.

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We don't just drop the patient in a liquid nitrogen. That kind of rapid cooling would be very damaging. So we try to cool in a controlled manner.

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If you cool too quickly, then you get too much cracking. We can't prevent cracking entirely, but certainly if you just drop the patient directly into liquid nitrogen, there'd be a lot of cracking and shattering.

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What we want to do is we want to cool as quickly as possible while the cryo-protection, the medical grade antifreeze, is still in the liquid state.

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And then when it solidifies, we want to cool very slowly. Because while it's in liquid state, the idea, you want the colder the better.

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But when it becomes a solid, if you cool too quickly, you create thermal stress.

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The body temperature is slowly lowered first by a nice bath. And then in a cooling chamber where it will reach minus 196 degrees.

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Best believes this will preserve these bodies for hundreds or perhaps thousands of years. But why?

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It seems to me that if you're preserving all the material there, that some future technology is going to be able to figure out a way to get that all fixed and going again.

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It's reasonable to think that nanomachines can restore the person to their original condition.

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Nanomachines already exist. Tiny machines are smaller than a single cell. Scientists believe they could soon flow through our bloodstream, targeting viruses, repairing organs and destroying disease.

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Can cryogenics give us life after death? Could it even conquer death itself? Best believes it is our greatest hope for eternal living.

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It doesn't seem so much more unreasonable than to speculate that people will someday live on Mars.

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Can we die and wake up a thousand years later and resume our lives? And even if we can, would we really want to?

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Or do we return as zombies, doomed to a mindless existence? Is life after death really life at all? Weird or what?

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So there we have it. Stories of life after death from all over the world.

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In Connecticut, a man has overcome with emotion at a Civil War battlefield. Is he the reincarnation of a dead general?

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In England, scientists conduct a remarkable paranormal experiment. Did they find the first proof of the afterlife?

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And in Haiti, a man returns from the grave 18 years after his death. Are the living dead walking amongst us? Do zombies exist?

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Are these stories evidence of life after death? Can we dismiss those who claim they are true? You decide.

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Join me again next time for more stories that will undoubtedly be weird or what.