

AJR Show - Dr Raymond Moody Transcript

0:00:01 - Intro

Julie Ryan, noted psychic and medical intuitive, is ready to answer your personal questions, even those you never knew you could ask. For more than 25 years, as she developed and refined her intuitive skills, Julie used her knowledge as a successful inventor and businesswoman to help others. Now she wants to help you to grow, heal and get the answers you've been longing to hear. Do you have a question for someone who's transitioned? Do you have a medical issue? What about your pet's health or behavior? Perhaps you have a loved one who's close to death and you'd like to know what's happening? Are you on the path to fulfill your life's purpose, no matter where you are in the world? Take a journey to the other side and Ask Julie Ryan.

0:00:43 - Julie

Hi everybody, welcome to the Ask Julie Ryan show. I'm so delighted you could join us today because we have Dr Raymond Moody. What a score. So thrilled to have you, Raymond. Thank you for taking the time to join us.

0:00:57 - Raymond

No, that goes right back to you. I'm just so delighted by this and I'm just honored that you'd want to talk with me, so thank you so much, absolutely.

0:01:06 - Julie

Well, he used to live in Sweet Home, Alabama, you guys, and as you know, I live in Birmingham, and he used to live about an hour and a half away, actually, in a town near Aniston. By the way, on the way back from Atlanta from my training a couple of weeks ago, Raymond, I stopped in that M&J's cooking, where it's that buffet of home-cooked meals. I had that for lunch. It was amazing. I know.

0:01:32 - Raymond

Oh my goodness, this is wonderful.

0:01:35 - Julie

Yeah Well, you're the godfather of NDE's, so tell everybody who has been living under a rock and doesn't know what an NDE is. Please tell them what an NDE is and then also what an SDE is please, yes, right.

0:01:55 - Raymond

Well, it is a remarkably common occurrence these days that people get resuscitated from close calls with death, and back in the 60s and 70s, with the advent of this cardiopulmonary resuscitation, it was happening all over the place. Well, in 1962 at UVA, as a philosophy student, I found out about these near-death experiences by reading them, about them in play. Then, three years later I heard in Charlottesville an actual human being who had had such an experience, Dr George Richie, who's a professor of psychiatry. Then I went on and got my PhD in philosophy and I began to hear these stories from my students at East Carolina University I was a philosophy professor Then from my colleagues. Then I went to medical school in 1972.

And beginning in 65, I have interviewed literally thousands of people who came up to the brink of death and were resuscitated and had remarkably similar experiences. And basically what they say is not everybody has every element of it. Some people just have two or three things, some have 15 things, depending on how close they got to death. But in a very typical experience people will say that when their heart stops beating, they say they hear the doctor say something like oh my God, she's dead or we've lost her, or words to that effect. But from their point of view, they say it's not like going to sleep, it's like, they say, waking up and they've

said, suddenly they come out of their body, they can see the whole scene from above. They can understand, not by hearing it auditorially, but by knowing the thoughts of the doctors and nurses down below. But when they try to communicate in turn, nobody can see them, nobody can hear them. They become aware of a passageway of some sort they call it a tunnel or a hallway and they go through this tunnel and they come out in the other side into an incredibly brilliant and warm and loving light.

And I have talked with thousands of people all over the world, including incredibly brilliant people with multiple doctoral degrees and so on, no matter how brilliant they are. They say I just can't describe it to you, there are no words. But they end up in this complete feeling of comfort, love, peace and joy. In this bright light they say that relatives or friends of theirs who've already died seem to be there in spirit form. They say to meet them At some point. Everything else kind of disappears, time stands still and they see everything they've ever done displayed around them instantly in a panorama. They see. You see everything you've ever done. But when you see it you don't just see it from the perspective that you had when you did it, but you are empathically embedded in the consciousness of those with whom you've interacted. So if you see yourself doing something mean to somebody which I wouldn't understand that I'm just kidding which we all have right they say that then you feel directly and empathically the hurt that you brought about in somebody else's life. Or if you see yourself doing something good and nice to somebody, you feel the good feeling.

This is often review, often takes place in the company of a being of sheer light that people say that just complete compassion. Some say Christ, some say God, some say an angel. But whoever they say, this being knows everything about you. And there's this kind of discussion. It doesn't take place in auditory words, but thoughts. And people say that George Richie said he immediately became aware of what this being was interested in, was how I had learned to love. That's what everybody says. It's all about love.

Now, at a certain point, obviously, all the ones I've talked to have come back. Some people say I had no idea how I got back. I was over there and then sat, I was back in the hospital room with no sense of transition. Others say that they were told you have to go back, it's not your time to die yet. And yet another group has said that they're given a choice, that they can either return to the life they've been leading or to go on with the experience they're having. Then, obviously, all the ones I've talked to chose to come back here. But all of them say is that they didn't choose to come back for themselves. They said it's most typically it's because they had young children left to raise.

Now, when they get back, it's really interesting because people, it's a transformation. They have no more fear of death because, from their point of view, this was the afterlife and it brings about a commitment to pursue the loving others. And, by the way, it doesn't make it any easier. My, this wonderful man, George Richie, I just the greatest person I ever knew, so professor of psychiatry at UVA, and he said to me one time he said, Raymond, this experience makes your humanity Even more of a burden, in a way. And what he was getting at is that even after you see this vision of love, it's very difficult to put it into practice in this world, but that is what we call a near death experience.

Now, as everybody knows, this has been debated since remote antiquity. This play-toe knew all about this, and democratists who was the Greek philosopher? About the same time, we had figured out that there were atoms and that the reality is made up of atoms. Well, that's play-toe and democratists had this debate, which we still have today. Play-toe took this as an indicator of an afterlife. Yeah, this is real Democratists. The atomists said well, these people looked dead. But even after they looked dead, there's this biological activity going on in the body and that's what causes this near death experience. Flash forward 2,300 years. We haven't moved an inch. This is the same thing. Now Some people say, oh, this is life after death.

Oh, there's oxygen deprivation to the brain. Well, let me put it this way it's not oxygen deprivation to the brain. People have to hold on to that way of arguing about it because that gives us some kind of safety, but in reality, it's totally displaced from the actual situation, because it is also very common experience that bystanders at the death of someone else who are not themselves ill or injured, will have these same experiences simultaneously with the death of the loved one, like the people at the bedside will say as grandma died, I myself left my body and went up toward this light part weight orders. I saw her relatives and friends who had died coming to meet her. Then I came back to my body and my grandma was dead. Or people say that the room fills with light and people say that they see apparitions of the dying person's deceased loved ones coming into the room, as though to take them away and get this.

Julie, this is the most anxiety-provoking thing, this next thing that I know about this, and that is that it's also I mean, there are plenty of cases of people at the bedside of somebody else who died that, as the person was dying, the person standing around empathically co-lived their dying life review. And this is shocking to me because I'm hoping to get myself recused from my own life review, much less the idea that there could be like a spectator there, like past the popcorn, right, but no, it's like. First of all, I always assumed that this had to be somebody who was intimate with the person, right, he was dynamic, but oh, oh. Then some years ago, Cheryl and I got a communication from a doctor who was called to the ER to resuscitate a patient he had never laid eyes on. And as this guy was dying, the doctor said there is, this man's whole life was arrayed around him. And so you know, whatever this is not oxygen deprivation to the brain, because the same experience identically is reported by the people who are standing around, who are not ill or injured.

But this is going to be a hard thing to people to swallow. I think I've been talking about these shared death experiences for decades, but it's like people don't want to hear it, right, I think maybe because two things. One is I think that a near death experience is something that happens to somebody else right, this other guy almost died in it and that you can count the distance from it. But if somebody is the idea that you might, your people can more easily imagine it being there at the death of someone else, and then they might have this. So it's a hard thing for people to swallow, but it occurs, and so you know something very important is going on here. It doesn't follow from the fact that these experiences are not oxygen deprivation to the brain that therefore they are life after death. There's work yet to be done, but I think that we are on the verge of major breakthroughs and the rational investigation of this question of life after death.

And I say that, by the way, being both a very, very I'm just. I'm a great lover of Western philosophy. I had a PhD in philosophy and I taught philosophy and it's still a very big part of me. And I'm also a psychiatrist medical doctor, psychiatrist and I was a forensic psychiatrist working with the maximum security unit with mostly psychotic killers who were insane, and so on. But throughout this long career I've been wrestling with these things. I've talked to thousands and thousands of people who had near-death experiences or these shared-death experiences at the death of someone else.

0:13:35 - Julie

Well, it's fascinating to me too, and I believe that my role actually I was told it by my main spirit guide, who's a dead pope Clement VI, who was in office during the Black Plague when- two thirds of Europe died and he's best known for his prayers for the dying and his prayers for the dead, and probably about 10 years ago he said you need to teach the world what happens when somebody dies because everybody's so afraid. And similarly to what you've found out from all of those people with whom you've spoken your interviewees is what I see and have coined the 12th basis of transition, which is how angels in the spirits of deceased loved ones and the spirits of deceased pets surround the person as they're dying and the configuration

changes as they get closer and closer to death. Interestingly enough too, Raymond, I love it when science catches up with Woo-Woo, because Woo-Woo has been around since the beginning of time and, Dr Chris Kerr, are you familiar with him?

0:14:40 - Raymond

He's an MDPHD. Oh yeah, Chris Kerr. Oh my God, what a great guy yeah.

0:14:45 - Julie

Yeah, you know, university-based research that he's conducted shows that close to 90% of people see the spirits of deceased loved ones and pets as they're getting close to death. You've done university-based research. He hasn't. So have I for my surgical device inventions, and that is no easy feat to do that. To get through the IRBs, that's the review board that has to approve everything at the university level before you can start the study and all of that.

The other thing that's interesting two other correlations, one in well, really three. One is what I perceive, Raymond, is the spirit exits through the top of the head. When you talk about the people with whom you've interviewed, they're seeing, they're like they're looking down. Their spirit is up above the head. Number one, number two I see a vortex form as the person's getting closer and closer to death and the spirit goes through the vortex.

Yeah, yeah, which is the tunnel that they talk about and then the brilliant white light. That's what the pearly gates look like to me and it's a plasma wall as I perceive it. And I had a guest on recently named Tom Paladino, who's a scalar energy expert and researcher, and he said all spirit stuffs plasma energy. He said it's not electromagnetic, it's plasma. And I said that's the first time anybody said that to me because I've always seen heaven as this plasma wall. And once we go through it, all the deceased loved ones and pets are there. And I even do this exercise in teaching called the walk to heaven, Raymond, for patients who are really afraid to die. They're just scared to death, literally scared to death, to die, and so we do address rehearsal with them and it helps satisfy. So a lot of things are correlating there and resonating.

I think your book Life After Life, which was 1975, if I'm not mistaken correct it seemed to be a catalyst to expand people's beliefs in an afterlife, in an NDE. When you look back on that time, I was a sophomore in high school that year what do you think was the climate that allowed the information to begin to seep back in? Because, like you, I believe people have known this stuff since the beginning of time and as we become more well-educated, perhaps, and more proof-based, we lost track of that, and then you reintroduced it. You were part of the wave to reintroduce it in the mid-70s. What do you think was happening during that time in history that allowed that?

0:17:45 - Raymond

Well, I just feel pretty convinced that there were two determinative factors on that mainly, one being the fact was the advent of the techniques of CPR that you would know a lot more about than I do back in the 60s and 70s, suddenly, something that had always occurred it was written about by ancient Greek philosophers but was extraordinarily rare suddenly became common. And then the second factor was that I had been interested in this phenomenon since 1962, when I found out about it in reading Plato, and then I realized that what was happening was that there were just a lot of them. When I was a professor at East Carolina, they used to ask me to go to these civic clubs because they found out this professor at the university was studying these. So I would go to the civic clubs. At that time it was an all-male institution and it was like that. Nowadays, the last time I went to a civic club, there weren't women there too, but then it was all men, like the movers and shakers in the community, and I never went to a civic club where somebody at least one of them, seven people, seven men came by.

Dr Moody, it's always the same thing, Dr Moody. I've never told anybody this, but that happened to me, and people were relieved to hear that something they thought was very meaningful to them, that they had assumed that they were the only ones, that it was very comforting that some was turned out to be a very common thing. And so the fact that I was a philosophy professor, I knew what not to say, and I think I can easily imagine that somebody who was more flighty than I am might say oh, proof of life after death. And that would just have sensationalized it and that would have ruined it. But I said at the very beginning look, this is not proof of life after death, but I said that it's something very significant and that anybody who wants to try to test me on this, who's a medical doctor, will be able to do so. Just ask around among your own patients. Now what? I had no idea that it would go out of the few.

When it was published in 75, there was 19,000 copies was printed the first time, and I assumed that if they sold, that they'd end up in the hands of doctors and psychologists and that some of them would say well, let me ask around my own patients, and I knew then, if they did that they would. But I was not expecting that. And now I was in medical in November of 1975, I was Raymond Moody, obscure medical student, and the book was published that month. Then two months later, January of 76, I got my MD.

And then a few weeks after I got my MD, a friend of mine was listening to his shortwave radio programs from over in Europe and they were talking about my block Early like mid-January. And so suddenly I went from Raymond Moody and in the program they said well, we know all this information must be correct because it's related to us by the imminent Dr Raymond Moody. But why was I the imminent Dr Raymond Moody? Because I'd related this information but it just it's assumed. I had no idea it was going to be like a worldwide sensation. I was hoping to awake an interest among a few Medical doctors was my object.

0:21:58 - Julie

Yeah, well, because you had that alphabet soup after your name. You're a doctor-doctor, so you, you know that gives you credibility right off the bat. And did you find that there was way more interest in non-medical people, doctors and, and you know, physicians and other medical providers? I think that nurses all know this stuff because they deal with it all the time yeah, you've picked that up to see.

0:22:24 - Raymond

you know, when I was, you know, going around to different medical schools and and just lecturing to medical societies back in the early 70s that means 76 and all it's the doctors generally were not familiar with it, but when I'd go on the wards, the nurses, oh yeah, you know, and that was the thing. But now of course, doctors are waking up to it because it's just so common, you've got to. Plus, there's so many great doctors who've had this themselves. And I don't know if you've heard the most amazing story, Julie of Dr Chikoria. Anthony Chikoria is a number one, a PhD in physiology but also an MD degree, and he's a professor of orthopedic surgery at NYU.

And in 1994, Anthony was struck in the neck by a bolt to his lightning and had a cardiac arrest on the spot. But a nurse happened to be right there and resuscitated. But he said he got out of his body. He said Raymond, he said this is not a dream. He said this is more real than what we're experiencing now. So he went all around this resort center where there's a family that's having a reunion and he got to see some of the family members telling what they were doing and all. And he kept insisting this is reality, this here is a dream.

So, anyway, then, after Anthony got recovered and all, he had never had any interest whatsoever in music, but suddenly he developed just a fascination with the piano and he started hearing like having a recurrent dream in which he was playing the same piece of music on a piano on a concert stage. So he learned how to transcribe the music, so he could

transcribe the piece. He learned the piano and now, in addition to being an imminent professor of orthopedic surgeon, he's a concert pianist. He did a concert not long ago in Vienna, and you and I actually have been trained in a very rigorous field and have done a lot of thinking about a lot of different things, and I would think that you would agree with me that what happened to Anthony Chukoria is not accounted for within this consensual reality that we're in, that it is a series of events that stands outside of what people assume to be reality. And there's even more. I mean I just have this wonderful friend, Jeffrey O'Driscoll, who's an E-artist, I had him on the show.

0:25:29 - Julie

I had him on the show, yeah, and that's the reason.

0:25:32 - Raymond

But while Jeffrey Olson, who owns a graphics firm, had a horrible car crash, his leg was smashed off. He had it being resuscitated. His wife was killed instantly in the car crash, one of his kids also, but I think one of the kids lived. And so Jeffrey O'Driscoll, the E-art doctor, came into this scene where Jeff was being resuscitated, Jeff Olson being resuscitated, and saw and talked with Jeff Olson's dead wife. And so see where I am on this. I give up. I just can't think my way out of this. You two probably have the same tendency of mine. You want to think of all the objections. See is what you learn in your professional training. Most people want to just hear the good stuff as to what they. But when you're trying to, like you and me, it's like you learn that you've got to think through and try to knock down everything. And I've been trying to knock down the hypothesis that there's an afterlife since 1960s and I've given up. I can't think my way out of this. I really can't. So I mean, I gather there really is an afterlife.

0:26:50 - Julie

Well, I always laugh and say you can't make this stuff up because, there's too much information that corroborates the information that we're receiving from spirit. It's just like you can say what you would, but there's no way that we would have known this stuff.

0:27:06 - Raymond

And it's a great deal of effort has to be put into maintaining the illusion that this thing we're in is real. I had a great experience in years 30, well, I was 30 about, and I had. I was living in a little town and you know, Birmingham is bigger than where I was living. But in any small town I've lived in a number of, there has to be an arrangement made so that the chief of police or the mayor or the local town celebrities are always on TZ nation. They can't be expected to come to the front door of the mental health clinic like the rest of us peons. I mean, it's just makes sense, right. And so some arrangement is always made to let's, you know, bring them out in a different way. And so I, and who's going to do it this year? Well, you know, Raymond is the oldest resident because I've been the PhD Ralph and also I was known and tell from my books.

So for a year I sat there in this geriatrics clinic with these very distinguished and accomplished people, some of them, you know, internationally known, and I heard repeatedly during that year that he's most of them were there. For it was, I figured out quickly, is loneliness right? One is somebody to talk to or situational stress. But during that year I heard this concert right, Raymond, the older I get, the more I like, wow, look back at my life. I have this weird feeling that it's been like a play or a script or a movie or a novel or a TV show or, you know, like they would use different words. But the idea that this is somehow the movies and this is a point of view about personal identity, I think that naturally occurs to people as they grow older. What is your personal identity? Well, what we really have sort of inherited in the West from Plato, ultimately, is this idea that our personal identity consists of an immortal, immaterial soul and that the body is something that's kind of fluxing and unreal and that goes away, but the immortal soul persists. And the trouble is, you know, what does that mean? Well, you know, I guess you could be burned at the stake for many, you know, centuries we're doubting that.

But when things started loosening up in 1500s, Thomas Holmes pointed out well, that doesn't really make any sense when he talked about it. It's unintelligible and stuff. You know? Well, what do we do? And then John Locke, who had a lot to do with the formation of our constitution, got to thinking about it and he said well, our self consists of our memories and our consciousness. Then the great skeptic David Hume, a hundred years later, said you know what, when I look inside myself, all I ever see is the impressions of the moment. I don't see anything lasting or persistent. And so, you see, that's a lot of modern psychology says the self is just the illusion.

Right Now, where I've come to it, at age 79, is that I think this life is your story, what is your personal identity? But your story and consciousness itself is a narrator, is narrative and structure. The Kulakas effect, I think they call it, is. Cinematographers say that if you take two random objects, like a pill bottle and a four, and you present them to somebody in sequence, the mind immediately starts drawing, waving a story to connect the two objects, so that the point being that consciousness itself is narrative, is you're building a story.

Whenever some new thing happens to you, what do you do? Your mind adds it to your continuing life story. So that's where I've come to. I think that this is. I was lecturing on this at a Hindu ashram one time, and I don't know anything about any religion, but the Swami at the ashram told me. He said yeah, that's what we figured out too, that they have a name for it, that you go through these different experiences of narrative and for heading toward what we don't know. But that's what I've come to, because I can't think my way out of it.

0:32:12 - Julie

Circling back to the classics, since you're such a fan of Plato, I find that it's throughout all of the religious texts and throughout Shakespeare, certainly, and I think in the western world. Here we're all getting ready to go into the Christmas season and you know what's? The most famous Dickens story of all is his old Ebenezer Scrooge, and he's got the ghost of Christmas past, present and future. So I find that this stuff's been talked about in all the religious texts and all of the literature since the beginning of time.

And again I go back to. As we've become more well-educated and more proof-based, we've kind of lost, lost our way with it, but I believe that it resonates with everybody, especially little children. Have you interviewed any little children in your research? Not so much.

0:33:06 - Raymond

No, I avoided pediatrics, my wonderful pediatrics professor, Beverly Bell. When I was in medical school, I you know, when I was going up to my pediatrics rotation I went to the private hospital where all the kids were coming with sniffles and all like that, and then I didn't know why. I thought it was just a luck of the draw. But then years later, Beverly told me that she put me in the private hospital because she knew that I wouldn't be able to stand in little kids in really terrible shape. So she, you know, kindly put me over in the the this is more, you know, where people weren't as sick. But you know I was on the psychiatry. However, I went the other way. I was a forensic psychiatrist working in a maximum security unit with psychotic killers mostly. Like the had a patient who ground his mother and father up in a meat grinder. I mean, you know these oh heavens, oh yeah. Well, you know he was a nice guy, right, but you know he was pretty psychotic. He was real. Oh my goodness.

But you know, it's like that was a sign of life that I wanted to encounter.

0:34:27 - Julie
And.

0:34:27 - Raymond
I'm wrong.

0:34:29 - Julie
Well, I found that that little children get this stuff and they know this stuff and then it's taught out of them because their grownups in their lives say oh honey, that's just your imagination, that's not real. But they remember past lives and they give us information that we can corroborate with historic documents. And this kid can't read yet. And so you think how does that work? So I believe that all of this NDES stuff even to the ones that wanna debate whether it's real or not. It resonates with them.

0:35:03 - Raymond
Yeah, well, that's why there's some people who are so vociferously against it. You know, they don't protest too much, in my opinion.

0:35:13 - Julie
Yeah, why do you think that is? Why is that I don't?

0:35:18 - Raymond
remember, is there a?

fray, there are fray so many people who are afraid to say I don't know. To me it's the easiest thing to do. I think a lot of my consciousness was set when I first looked through it to all scope when I was seven or eight years old and immediately decided two things. That number one as much as I love to learn, that I'm never gonna know much of anything, and that was very humbling, you know to realize, about the vast dimensions and all. So I just grew up expecting that, even though I'm very curious and want to learn as much as I can, that there's only that really our lot is kind of we don't know stuff.

But I've known so many other people who are just the other way. If their professor got a PhD, they won't. Oh yeah, I'm gonna have the answer to this. But you know so plain. They don't have any more idea than I do, but they have an assertion it can't be. And you know I've known a lot of people who said it can't be and then later had these experiences themselves and took a different tone.

0:36:30 - Julie
Yeah, why do you think people are finding that they're curious about an afterlife and how does that relate to the fear from a psychiatrist standpoint, from an emotional standpoint? Why are we all so afraid to die? Is it because of what we've been taught by religions and cultures about heaven and hell and that kind of stuff? No-transcript, yeah, what do you think on that?

0:36:59 - Raymond
I've had a lot of people consult me over the years with that very I'm afraid of death. And what I quickly found out in the dozens of years I've been doing this is that the first thing you have to ask people about is what aspect? What is it about it? And some people say, well, now here I will start with the category that includes me. All right, pain, I don't want any pain. All right, and I've had kidney stones, I've had gall stones, I'm finished with pain, okay. So when I think of the possibility of having pain, I mean that's a terrible thing. So in that sense I'm afraid of death. Other people will turn.

0:37:45 - Julie

Because you think it's going to be painful.

0:37:47 - Raymond

Well, no, I mean, I hope it's not. You know that I'm afraid. I mean it is fearful that you might have terrible pain. I mean I don't want it to happen, but that's what scares me. But other people have different fears, you know.

There are a lot of people who come in in a common pattern. I would say well, you know, there's no such thing as a life after death. Because they're in church, they scared me to death about hell and I just, you know it's like the fear of the fundamentalist religion or whatever that it turned them off on this idea and they relate it to hell. Then a lot of people here, I am too. I don't want to be separated from my loved ones, right? Yeah, I mean I got two wonderful grown kids who are still living at home, Thank God, 25 and 23. And my wife, I want to hang around for as long as I can for them.

And then there's a lot of other people. Obliteration is what some people fear. And then a lot of other people just fear the unknown. So different people have different aspects of death that they fear. Me. I don't want any pain, but I, you know, I'm not afraid of death, I'm not just, you know, to me.

I've talked to so many people who have the same experience that I anticipate and again, this is very, still very counterintuitive to me. I mean, I'm forced to say that I don't know any other thing to say except that, to my utter astonishment, there seems to be an after law. But at the same time that's very counterintuitive to me because I was, you know, my dad was number one surgeon. You know, some of those put that personality together with a professional military officer plus a medic in World War II in the Pacific theater. And I didn't get this as a kid, but I remember when I was real little he was hostile to religion. Yeah, I just never did think about it. But now I see, you know that group didn't talk, he was probably just turned off against religion, since you know what he saw in the World War II, I gather. But you know, for that reason, thank God that Dan had that attitude.

See, because I'm glad, I mean I'm from, I lived in Georgia, I'm glad I wasn't indoctrinated into all that silliness. I don't think I would have been much on it anyway. But you know, I mean I didn't even have to deal with it because you know I didn't have, I wasn't exposed to it. First, it will expose you to religion. I had was when these anonymous people started writing these hostile letters to me about you know, you're going to hell and this is not what the Bible says. And there were. I always noticed there were always anonymous. A lot of them came to you know it's Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. But we're not, you know, willing to put our name to this threat letter. Yeah, but you know that was my first attempt to religion and you know, Cheryl and I never took our kids to church because you know we're afraid of snakes, and that's just that part of the joke.

0:41:25 - Julie

That's hysterical. Well, what he's talking about is there are there are churches that use snakes as part of their services.

0:41:35 - Raymond

I've never seen it, but I've heard about it. Listen, I've read about that. It's a fascinating phenomenon. It is yeah.

0:41:42 - Julie

Yeah, goodness, yeah Well, I don't even care to read about it, because I don't want those visuals in my head.

0:41:50 - Raymond

It's so fascinating. I'm not here at all interested in social history and psychology. It's fascinating.

0:41:57 - Julie

And how it works is if the snake bites you, you're a sinner, and if the snake doesn't bite you, you're pure.

0:42:02 - Raymond

Yeah, I'm quite so. Is that the?

0:42:03 - Julie

gist of it.

0:42:04 - Raymond

I guess. So I think it's something like that. It's like a test of faith.

0:42:09 - Julie

Oh my gosh Wow.

0:42:12 - Raymond

Great drinks. One, two, what's that? Another place. It comes from something that they said was put in the Bible later, about if they handle snake serpents and if you can take up serpents, and that you can drink any deadly poison and it will not harm you. So, to test their faith, they drink stricken Goodness, but it's fascinating. Yeah, I mean, this is mild to me, being a forensic psychiatrist these people are still on the outside, you know.

0:42:47 - Julie

Along those lines and off the topic from a spiritual standpoint, or perhaps not off the spiritual continuum, with your patients who were psychotic and were killers and were the scariest of the scary criminals out there. Were they rehabilitatable? What did you find when you worked with?

0:43:09 - Raymond

them. None of them were no. I mean, first of all we were kind of the final resort. There were 12 forensic units in the state, but the hours was the one where you'd send the unmanageables. So these were the people who had done these things, like you read about in the National Enquirer. You know a man who chopped a bunch of people up with an axe or you know all these horrific things, but it was just fascinating. You know we were talking earlier, before we started this, about you know being there. Oh no, we didn't talk about this. But in terms of being in Birmingham, I've always been a space nut and I used to sit in the seventh grade this was long before Sputnik and such but I'd read Werner von Braun's books.

0:44:01 - Julie

Oh yeah, yeah, I'm a big fan.

0:44:04 - Raymond

Yeah, me too. I met him twice. Oh gosh, he was so sweet. He had to do what he did because they told him he was going to kill his parents.

0:44:14 - Julie

Tell everybody a little bit about him, and I'll embellish what you tell everybody.

0:44:19 - Raymond

Yeah, Werner von Braun was this young man who was just a great young man, who was in the 20s. He learned about rockets so he wanted to go to the moon. So they had this society, they were testing rockets to go to the moon. Then along came Hitler. You're drafted Right, but anyway. Then he is. After the World War II he came to Huntsville and he set up this laboratory there that eventually sent the Apollo people to the moon.

And I had read his books and beginning in 1952, this was long before even Sputnik and I've always been a space nut, and in the seventh grade I used to sit there all day imagining I would fly out to Mars or Venus or whatever, but in the morning I'd do the blast off, I'd go through all the stages and I planned to be back on Earth by three o'clock and hoping the teacher wouldn't call on me Right. So then this was 1956, I guess Flash forward to the 80s, and I was walking up the hill one day to the maximum security unit for the criminal and I had to thought here I am, Raymond Moody. I'm the guy who used to sit in the class all day and dream about traveling to different planets. I thought I can visit 15 or 20 different planets today if I want to and I really could. It was just like a privilege to be able to exist not just in another dimension but in a lot of different dimensions, and we all thought it was such a privilege to work in that place.

Everybody thought we were crazy for wanting to do it, but it's like once you get hooked on homicide, you're hooked. I mean, it's like what people and what interests people about homicide? I finally figured it out. I'm fascinated too. Number one is we've all thought of killing somebody, right. Number two is dramatic. But number three, the cognitive side, is what gets me, and that is every homicide is unique and every one of them reflects one or more patterns, and so your mind gets trapped. This is, oh my God, every one of them is unique, and also it's reflective of the pattern and it's like the kind of pattern.

0:46:54 - Julie

What are you talking about with a pattern?

0:46:56 - Raymond

Well, homicides. It's like I had this opportunity one time there in Alabama. I was with one of the deputy sheriffs just to coincidence that I was with him at that time but he got called out on a murder and so we went to this place and saw the scene and I said, well, just from my knowledge, this is a young person who lives nearby, probably 18 or 19. He doesn't have a car, so he rides a bicycle or takes public transportation and he is low in the birth order and he reads comic books and watches TV. Well, all of that stuff is just from the manual. It's like you can go to a scene and you can more or less figure out what the person was like if the conditions are right. So that part of it is just really fascinating to me. As the why in the world do people want to kill people is what I went into it for, and I got interested in the psychotic ones.

Well then, my family in that state was big into law enforcement. My uncle was the chief of police in this little town in Georgia for 30 years. The judge told me that when Fairly died they had to hire three officers to take his place. So he was legendary, right. Plus, my brother was also very well known in law enforcement and generally speaking, cops don't like psychoticists. But in my case the word spread among the law enforcement. You know Raymond Moody, who's Randy's brother and Fairly's nephew was working over at Benjamin Bill. So then I was in and I started going around the state test. Well, you test found these cases of the crazy killers, right Insanity.

But then the judge would get to know the judge and the judge would say you know, Raymond, I got this old friend 50 times years old, I've known him all about my life and you know as the deacon of the church, the chairman of whatever the Chamber of Commerce the owns this car dealership, through the football pass. I remember the other side detective told me when they went in to arrest this guy he had his picture on the wall from when he was 17 or 18, in the

football game where he had made that pass, you know, and he had the football there. But anyway, this guy had hired his psychopath brother to do away with this inconvenient girlfriend. So the judge is thinking well, you know a so out of character, Raymond, you know, would you? Just? You know maybe some. So I would intervene. But, and that happened a lot. You know that I would although my specialty was psychotic killers that the judges would just ask me to.

And so I quickly found and this is so odd shoot that, paradoxically, the people who commit homicide, who are in a what do you call a sane state of consciousness, are more bizarre than the ones with the, you know, psychosis. I mean because this thought process is so utterly off base and they all began with the first premise of their story is I'm smitten, smarter than the cops? That's what they all think, because you know, maybe the guy who stopped him on the road the other week, you know, maybe it works for him. But no, I mean, you know, if you come in a murder, you are dealing with people who are like, I mean, I knew a lot of them. It's more like college professors we used to call them doctors with guns, and these are smart people so you can't outthink them. But you know a lot of murderers. Just you know they think they can outthink the police, and so that's how they end up getting caught.

0:51:10 - Julie

Interesting. Circling back to Dr Von Braun for a minute, I got a couple of quick stories for you and him. This guy everybody was a rocket scientist for the Nazis and that's what you were referring to much earlier, much to his horror, much to his horror. And after World War II half of those rocket scientists came to America and the other half went to Russia after the war. So Dr Von Braun ended up in Huntsville, Alabama, which is where the whole Apollo program after President Kennedy what was that in about 63?

0:51:47 - Raymond

63.

0:51:48 - Julie

63 said okay, we're going to be on the moon 61, 61, I'm sorry, 61 before the end of the decade. So Dr Von Braun did the whole NASA program there. I was lecturing Raymond at a business conference in Huntsville and in the audience was the CEO of the NASA Space Center in Huntsville, Alabama, which is fabulous. Huntsville, by the way I don't know if you know this has more PhDs per capita than any other city in the whole country, I know.

Yeah, I think those of us in Alabama don't have a full set of teeth sometimes, but you know how that goes, so anyway. So I met her at a reception afterwards and I said, oh, I'm a huge Dr Von Braun, von Braun.

I mean she said well, we're having a. We have a special exhibit on him right now. Why don't you come over tomorrow morning on your way back to Birmingham? If you have time, stop in and I'll have my assistant take you around, which happened, and Raymond, two things came up. One was they took me into the archives and I got to see his private papers behind that they made me put gloves on and everything. He and his wife were supposed to have dinner at the White House the night Kennedy was shot and killed.

0:53:09 - Raymond

Oh, my goodness.

0:53:10 - Julie

And they were already in DC because they were going to come back. The Kennedys were going to come back from Dallas and then, you know, have dinner at the White House with them. But Jackie Kennedy wrote him a note and thanked him for his condolences and I think they sent flowers or whatever. I got to hold the note on Jackie Kennedy's private stationery in

the archives at the NASA Space Museum in her backhanded you know schoolgirl penmanship, and she was so gracious and saying thank you so much for your condolences. I'm so sorry we didn't get to have dinner, let's try and do it another time. And I'm thinking, oh, for God's sakes, this woman was so gracious that she was saying that to him. And I said to the, the head of the archives, I said why don't you guys have this displayed? And she said it's priceless. We can't insure it.

0:54:06 - Raymond
Yeah.

0:54:07 - Julie
So that's why they didn't have it displayed. That was story number one. The other thing that I learned was during the sixties, with the spacemen and the flying saucer, you know, with the bubble top and all of that, you probably know this story, but for those of you that don't know it, he somebody came to him and they said you know, we're seeing these UFOs and we think they're from another planet. He laughed. He said no, they're not their surveillance aircraft. And I saw the plans for them when we were still in Germany and one of my colleagues who immigrated to Russia took those plans with him and those were Russia recon space you know aircraft that looked like flying saucers.

He knew all about it. The guy was just.

0:54:55 - Raymond
You're just beyond genius.

0:54:57 - Julie
Don't you think that all that information was being downloaded into his head from spirit that he I get goosebumps just saying that that he he was receiving? Obviously it was brilliant, but I believe that he was receiving all this information because it was so out of the pocket of anything that had ever been done before.

0:55:23 - Raymond
Ed Mitchell said that that Vernor was very fascinated by healing. But I have another friend who worked for him as an engineer and knew him well, and he said one time he asked Dr von Braun it's like, do you think that there's anything to an afterlife? And Dr von Braun said no, absolutely not. And so my friend said, well, why not? And he said, because I'm an engineer and a scientist. He said but he was just, you know, and everybody in hustle has a story about him, right, but our friend kind of grew up, but they grew up with the kids, you know, and of the Germans. And so the woman was telling us that her husband worked at the space center. She's an attorney herself, but her husband worked at the space center. So she said one day an announcement came over the intercom that anybody who has a pen knife, if you would come up to Dr von Braun's office. So my, my friend's husband went up with his pen knife and he said when he went in there, Dr von Braun, the front, the front sole of his shoe had separated from the top, it was flapping like that. So he got the nerd just in a cut off. But he was a character.

I met him just briefly, in March 26, 1958, when he came to make him Because I'd read his books since 1952. And I talked to him because people were intimidated, you know, and I went to talk to him. Then six years later he came back to make, and then 64, then everybody wants to speak, Right? So I'm in the one trying to rehearse and when I got up there put my hand, he says grab my hand, ray McMuddy, how are you doing six years? But you know, ed Mitchell said he's like that. He just had the most amazing memory.

0:57:33 - Julie

I think he was one of the people that we would call I don't know that a prophet from a religious standpoint, but certainly he was of the whole space thing and exploration and the rockets and I believe see what you think about this that prophets come in a lot of different ways. They can be scientists, they can be physicians, they can be teachers, they can be religious figures, they can be lots of things. But it's all as I see it and see what you think about this, Raymond, is it's all divinely guided.

0:58:14 - Raymond

Oh, I think so Absolutely. God is in charge, Julie, and you know he really is, and so I agree with you you don't have to be a religious figure to be a prophet.

0:58:30 - Julie

Right, I agree.

0:58:32 - Raymond

By the way, it seems like we will be far away from the afterlife, talking about trips to the stars, but oh, that's only because we live in 2023. If you go back, not so far in history. The question is their life after death and the question is their extraterrestrial life. We're the same question. It goes back even to the Pythagoreans, and in 1600, galileo Galilei was burned alive for his book the Infinite Universe and Worlds. This was 1600. He had written this book. See, Galileo was almost executed for saying that the sun was the center, right. But Bruno was executed for saying there is no center, because he had realized that all of those stars out there are like the sun and that they have planets around them too, and this opened up this vast universe. So then this was with.

Kant, for example, decided that what we see is the Milky Way is the galaxy. Right, we're looking through the flat disk. But then there were smudges back in the 1700s, at the limits of the current telescopes, and they couldn't know what was it. They call them the nebula. But Kant correctly projected they said well, those are other galaxies. And then, when the resolution got big enough in the 20s, they could tell that's right. And so he was right and so.

But once people began to realize that, then uh-oh well, what are those other planets out there? What role you know? We got determined in terms of the Bible. So there was this guy named Chalmers in early 1800s, who conjectured, he was both an Episcopal priest and also an authority on astronomy and he said that those other stars, those other worlds out there, they are the abodes of our deceased ancestors. So in Bruno, the same way. See, Bruno said in his book that reincarnation takes place not just on the earth but between the interstellar reaches as well. So the question of extraterrestrial life and the question of life after death have been connected until very recently in history.

1:01:03 - Julie

Well, I have a fun story for you on that. I had a guy call into my show. It was early on, Raymond. I think we just did show 420 or something last week and this was maybe, maybe 31.

And he called into my show and he said I'm an engineer, Do I have any past lives in which I was an engineer that have contributed to this? And so I pulled up. I have this whole technique that I used to do past lives. It's very quick, it's really fun. But I got that he had a past life and it looked like something off of a Star Wars set and I thought, oh my gosh, this is a future life, this isn't a past life. But then when I asked what the year was, I got it was 1931.

And he was in charge of the electrical grid. He was. It looked like the Jetsons flying vehicles and like a Star Wars set. And so I asked him. I said what kind of engineer are you? And he said I'm an electrical engineer. I build jet engines for GE. I thought, well, there you go, and I'll see a semblance of a script that will repeat throughout multiple lifetimes. And we're looking at the

same script from different perspectives different time, different situation, different gender, different set of circumstances, same basic script. And I think that's what we're seeing throughout all of history, in all of the texts, whether they be classics or religious texts or whatever. It's still those same scripts that we're seeing repeated, and we're looking at it from a different perspective now, yeah, what do you?

think about that. Does that make sense?

1:02:47 - Raymond

You know, I'm really wrestling with that right now. It's like what is personal identity? And I've gotten it down to what I think your personal identity is, your story, right? Well, yeah, great the great skeptic, who you know, admit it, like Einstein said, that Hume effected, you know, is Einstein's thinking.

And David Hume, 1711, 1776, friend of Ben Franklin's, great the great skeptic, and he wrote about the afterlife that he said by the mirror light of reason, it seems difficult to prove the immortality of the soul. Some new species of logic is requisite for that purpose and Some new faculties of the mind that they may enable us to comprehend that logic. Well, what he was being there was ironical, right. What he was saying is it can't be, you know this. Just, it's Logical to say that there's an afterlife. However, he did, said. He said To me the only rational, the only kind of view of an afterlife that a rational person could entertain would be the reincarnation, and he doesn't say why he thought that, but I surmised that. You know, he was a historian and historians understand the necessity of narrative Right, and I think that, if you think about it, the most story-like form of the afterlife is reincarnation. Right, the ideas you lift through one story, then you go through an incomprehensible Process, then you're back on another storyline. So I kind of think that's what he added in mind and it certainly Josh's with me, because both of my adopted kids, both of them adopted at birth Carter is Mexican-American by heritage, adopted from Texas. At the moment of this birth, Carolina's Native American, black feet, from Montana, again adopted birth, but and but, and you know, we didn't take him to church, and but both of them Recalled where they were before they came to us. Like that, they came to us from the other world was what they were saying. And I, you know, I, but they, they anchor it in some way that I couldn't deny that there was.

What they were saying is true, it was like Carter, when he was five, we were, we were watching TV and I was flipping through the channels. I Flipped through what turned out to be the National Geographic Channel, but when he got, he got very animated. Dad, dad, that's my village. Huh, went back, it was a duck, it was a National Geographic documentary on village life in China. And so Carter, just son, yeah, yeah, he's like you remember. So, like before I came to you and mommy, I was with my other mommy and daddy in China, my brothers and sisters and I came to China and I and what you know, is it not? We're hinting.

And then Julie, as though to orient me he was, he could tell I was confused and he said, yeah, he said, and then I was up in the trees Looking at you and mommy lying down in the grass, and I knew exactly what he had talked about because my wife and I were at Greece, at this Archaeological site way out of the middle of nowhere it was not one of the ones on them, just way out and and so the we had been off the plane, yes, the day before, and so they attended there. We were the only people there and he could tell we were exhausted. So he just said go over there and lie down in the grass and take a nap. And there were these big trees all around and we were talking about adopting a baby.

1:06:42 - Julie

Well, I have one for you and share this with your wife, please. I can see baby spirits attached to the mom's energy field before they incarnate and they look like little orbs. They look like Glenda the good witch, the orb. She flies into munchkin land inside in the wizard of Oz and

they they attached to the adopted mom's energy fields before they're conceived. So they choose the birth mom and they choose the adopted mom. I've seen it many, many, many, many, many times over the years. And when somebody is dying, the maternal spirit who's closest to them? Like if the mother's deceased it will be her, if the mother's still alive It'll be the maternal grandmother, always on the maternal line, back to my 12 phases of transition. The birth mother is there, but it's the adopted mother that's running the show from the spirit world. So please share that with your wife. The first time I saw that I thought, oh, my goodness, how fabulous is this? The adopted baby's spirits attached to the mom's energy field. So there's some.

1:07:49 - Raymond

So there's some validation for you on that one and Charlottesville, in the spring of 81 or 82. I had two sons and I'd always wanted a daughter. Love my sons. But you didn't know what you were coming. What was coming then, right, but I always been helping for a daughter. My wife had preeclampsia. Not wise to have her again. You know, I'm gonna try another pregnancy. So this II I don't know where it came from, but it was very art felt like. Wouldn't it be wonderful to adopt a native american daughter? I just rare. I have no idea where it came from. I was very deep but I didn't even set it up as a prayer. 19 years later it came to pass without me doing anything.

Wow, wow, I love that basically what happened was in in 1996 I was given a lecture out in new Mexico and I was waiting in the audience for my lecture, which was next. The previous lecturer was at the podium. He called for questions, but the questions? You had to get up and go around the the center island to a microphone Right, which is okay for anglos but not for natives and that's not their style. So sure, on, my wife was sitting to my left but the on the right was sitting this native woman and she was. From her body language you could tell she wanted to ask a question. But that's just not so sure. I'm just kind of punch me. I. I just naturally picked up this woman whose name, Christine isn't one her name turned out to be, but I got her to around. I stood there with the microphone. I let her ask her question. Hey, that was 1996.

Then we uh, we adopted Carter in 1998. So in 2000, august of 2000. I pick up the phone. It's christie, how are you doing? Oh, we're doing great. We just we adopted a baby. Oh, I wish so much I had known you were looking and I work on the hospital and the reservation and I'm the first one in the hospital to know when we need an adoptive parent. Not all means that's that a couple of months later she called back. Your daughter is on her way, and I mean I, that's how it happened. I'm like you know and and I tell you it's having a native american daughters. When she was, she learned how to read we don't know how before she Went to school, but she started reading all these books on Pocahontas and then she looked at me and Cheryl just like, were your people english? And but when she would get angry at us and has a teenager you know, she's like, oh, I'm just gonna go back and live on my reservation, but she's a real character, she. She made a big hit there that she can imagine.

1:10:52 - Julie

I bet. Well, and how wonderful that you got that inspiration. You knew that it was something that you wanted and then you left it up to Guide the universe source whatever you want to call it to make all of those stars aligned so that you could get your baby girl it's.

1:11:11 - Raymond

You know I had nothing to do with that was God's work.

1:11:15 - Julie

Yeah, absolutely. One last question why do you think we incarnate?

1:11:22 - Raymond

There you, I give up chili, I don't know, but I'll tell you this. I've had a lot of thoughts about it and what I want to know is less is some, which I do, I mean I give up. I think there is reincarnation, okay, but, and so what that means is that we live multiple different stories, as it were, right Now, what I want to know is you know, in high school you read, I read the Canterbury tales, right, and I also read Bocaccio's Decameron. But it, which was another one like this, but in the, the Canterbury tales, you remember, is that the over story is the story of the pilgrims walking along the Canterbury, but to pass the time, they tell each other's stories. And the millers they own, the baker's tale and all so the, the story of the pilgrims going along to Canterbury, is a device for telling these stories.

The, the make up the Canterbury tales. The Decameron is the same people are Isolated at during a plague and they're telling each other stories in this manner to pass the time. Or Ray Bradbury's illustrated man, where the stories are portrayed on the tattoos of a oboe, but you know what that's called is a frame narrative. Now, what I want to know is there's some kind of frame narrative over these individual stories that we live, some, or is that the what connects all those, those Narratives we live? Is that something other than the story? See, and my answer is I don't know. But as I don't know the answer to your question, why do we incarnate my? If I had to guess, I would say to to learn and to be entertained.

Exactly learn how to love.

1:13:19 - Julie

Create, created life of joy and love. Yeah, that's kind of what I get on it too. And stories are in every culture. My goodness, you're talking about that and I'm thinking what about the slaves? The slaves, that's how. How they got them on the Underground Railroad was through stories and songs and you know, and all of that to get them to freedom in the north. And we're about 10 years every everybody, every culture, every civilization, and has stories. The Bible is what An amalgamation of a bunch of stories.

1:13:55 - Raymond

That's right. And I just, I have been about 10 years. I've been asking people in audiences the same question. I say this, I say less is some that you were diagnosed with a horrific infection that required for you to be Um, isolated on a desert island all by yourself for, let's say, 10 years. And they can send you out there on a cargo plane with all the food and water and medicine you're gonna need For 10 years, but there's extra room in the cargo hall where they can include, say, a dvd player and let's say, 7000 dvd's. And what I ask people is would you choose all comedies and only three people? I always say yeah, everybody else, no, of course not.

He said, well, would you take some tragedies? So well, sure you know. Well, when you were all along on that desert island watching that tragedy, would you feel, would you be crying? Well, sure you would, because that's what you do with the tragedy. So to me, see, it's like, I think, that you know why. If we choose these lives, why would we choose ones that are hard? Well, I think I'll go back to that analogy. If I knew that I had 10,000 lives to live, I would choose some with all kinds of wild things. I mean you, you don't want to. Just it's like I would choose to Be in a plague or in a catastrophes. I mean just so you'd have the experience right it. But you would choose it, knowing that you Would make it through alive.

But then, once you get here, play tell said that before you come in here, you go through an event bound. And what that means is it's an event boulder in psychology is the experience you have when you, um, you Are in your living room and you want to go into the kitchen to fetch something, but as soon as you go through the kitchen door, you forget what you came in there for. Right, it's that that's a an event boundary. And play tell said that's how it is that you

said, just before you come in here, they show you this flat screen with. He said not the lies, but he said the patterns of lies that you could choose from.

Not like I think that was so interesting. He said the patterns of lies from which you could choose. But then see, once you get here, you, as soon as you're here, you just whoops, you forget. So then you might choose something very Painful when you, you know, are choosing it, but then, when you're in it. You sure do wish you hadn't chosen Right. You've got to think of them. The ultimate picture, the big picture of your life developed and I think.

1:16:53 - Julie

Well, and you talk to any actor who's some of the best actors ever in the history of Of acting, they will tell you their most favorite parts. The most favorite roles were the ones of the bad guys, because they're so Interesting. To your point earlier about wanting to work with criminals, well, this show is going to air on on Thanksgiving. Oh behalf, on behalf of the world, thank you for the work that you've done, for sharing your wisdom, for really opening us up in this day and age to Knowing that there's more than meets the eye as far as spirituality goes, and you're such an inspiration and so wise and and what a joy to get to talk with you that goes right back to you, to June, goes right back to you, and and to all the folks listening, and thank you so much for you know, for this opportunity to talk with you.

You bet already everybody sending you lots of love from sweet home Alabama and from Florida to where Dr Moody is now. Happy Thanksgiving. I hope you have a wonderful Holiday and weekend and we'll see you next time.

1:18:13 - Annncr

Thanks for joining us. Be sure to follow Julie on instagram and youtube at askjulieryan.com and like her on Facebook at Ask Julie Ryan. To schedule an appointment or submit a question. Please visit askjulieryan.com.

1:18:25 - Disclaimer

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