

00:53:33.000 --> 00:53:38.000

So yeah, Shawn mentioned my papers called timeless moments, Russell Kirk, Charles Williams.

00:53:38.000 --> 00:53:44.000

Even King on the afterlife. I'll just get right into it.

00:53:44.000 --> 00:53:54.000

Russell Kirk, one of the twentieth century's foremost spokesman for traditional conservatism was also an accomplished author of Gothic fiction.

00:53:54.000 --> 00:54:05.000

He defended his literary endeavors as a natural extension of his social and political efforts. In short, Kirk believed that one of the best ways to conserve or to defend the traditional values of Western culture.

00:54:05.000 --> 00:54:16.000

Is by promoting them creatively, creatively to readers. Ghost vampires and other mainstays of got the core wouldn't seem to have much of a role to play in that process.

00:54:16.000 --> 00:54:25.000

But as Kirk argues and one of his most important pieces of literary criticism, many of his forebears in the genre demonstrated a keen interest.

00:54:25.000 --> 00:54:30.000

In the moral edification of their readers. Quote. All important literature has some ethical end.

00:54:30.000 --> 00:54:37.000

And the tail of the preternatural is written by George McDonald, CS Lewis, Charles Williams, and other masters.

00:54:37.000 --> 00:55:01.000

Can be an instrument for the recovery of moral order. End quote. McDonald, Lewis, and Williams, of course, were all Christians who contributed to the broader revival of Anglo-Catholic literature lasting until the 1960s or so and their shared faith probably goes a long way towards explaining what Kirk regarded as their similar motivations for writing supernatural fiction with a strong moral and religious bent.

00:55:01.000 --> 00:55:08.000

Hi, Kirk, each of these figures recognizes the potential of fiction as a means for exploring complex theological issues.

00:55:08.000 --> 00:55:28.000

Such as substitution, atonement, the nature of the Trinity are tied in the afterlife, drawing from a range of influences in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, Kirk developed the idea of timeless moments to reconcile the standard, i.e. chronological or linear, understanding of time with Christian eschatology.

00:55:28.000 --> 00:55:44.000

I would like to adopt the framework developed by Kirk to an analysis of certain books by Williams and Stephen King, a modern-day practitioner of the Pagan Natural Tale who shares their enthusiasm for exploring the intersection of the spiritual and material worlds in his fiction.

00:55:44.000 --> 00:55:52.000

After explaining Kirk's conceptualization of the afterlife, I will compare the respective portrayals of Hell offered by Williams.

00:55:52.000 --> 00:56:01.000

In dissent into hell and all hell is Eve. And King in *The Shining* and *Dr. Sleep*, despite holding different religious and philosophical beliefs.

00:56:01.000 --> 00:56:09.000

Burke Williams and King all characterize Hell in remarkably similar terms as a state of mind rather than a physical location.

00:56:09.000 --> 00:56:16.000

Timeless and eternal, the well deserved resting place of demonic spirits and irredeemably wicked humans alike.

00:56:16.000 --> 00:56:29.000

There is also considerable agreement about how the timelessness of hell affects the possibility of salvation for its denizens until the trumpet sound at the final judgment there is always a chance for redemption.

00:56:29.000 --> 00:56:34.000

The first section of the paper is called Kirk's eschatology. I know most of you are probably not that familiar with Kirk's.

00:56:34.000 --> 00:56:44.000

I'm just sort of kind of glossed through. The key points here as I've noted the key influences on Kirk's understanding of time in the afterlife are Elliot.

00:56:44.000 --> 00:56:59.000

Ts Eliot and Martin Darcy, a Jesuit priest. Kirk greatly admired Elliott when we first met in 1953 the same year that his best-selling book the conservative mind was published the 2 maintained a friendly correspondence until Elliott's death in 1,965.

00:56:59.000 --> 00:57:11.000

6 years later, Kirk produced Elliot at his age, a lively blend of biography and an analysis that's still as much to offer readers of Elliott's poetry, plays a literary criticism.

00:57:11.000 --> 00:57:32.000

Until his own death in 1994 Kirk continued to make use of ideas and even specific phrases he borrowed from Elliot such as quote permanent things end quote which refers to the core values, beliefs, and traditions of Western civilization and quote, timeless moments, The latter is taken from 4 quartets, a series of poems, Elliott wrote.

00:57:32.000 --> 00:57:49.000

During the 19 thirtys and forties which were published together in 1,943 The first, Norton introduces many of the Palm central themes as it moves through phases of contemplation on the subjects of time, this affection and language interspersed by moments of epiphany and revelation.

00:57:49.000 --> 00:57:55.000

For Kirk, Burton is perhaps best understood as a poetic reflection on the nature of time.

00:57:55.000 --> 00:58:06.000

What do past press and future really signify if as Christians believe our souls are immortal? Ellie's response to that question is meditative, elusive, and elliptical.

00:58:06.000 --> 00:58:18.000

Is everyone who has read 4 quartesses? But here's a quote from it. Time past and time future what might have been and what has been point to one end which is always present.

00:58:18.000 --> 00:58:26.000

Throughout 4 quartets, Elliott continually reminds us of the fact that although we experience time in a linear manner, God does not.

00:58:26.000 --> 00:58:33.000

We must seek him add quote the still point of the turning world end quote at which time and timelessness.

00:58:33.000 --> 00:58:40.000

The physical and transcendent intersect. Only then and there, Kirk explains, can we know the happiness and peace of heaven?

00:58:40.000 --> 00:58:49.000

Cool, here's from Kirk's, Elliott in his age, eternity may be experiencing those rare moments of true consciousness when one escapes from the clutch of time.

00:58:49.000 --> 00:58:56.000

The world being too much with us, we enter upon those moments seldom, though they alone make life worth living.

00:58:56.000 --> 00:59:08.000

Now, Elliott only used the phrase timeless, twice a little getting, but it became one of Kirk's favorites, which he repeated endlessly in his letters and essays and attempted to articulate through much of his fiction.

00:59:08.000 --> 00:59:22.000

My cat is, excited. Always excited when I talk about Kirk. Sorry about that.

00:59:22.000 --> 00:59:32.000

The same year that he married a net courtmarsh. Cordatch, excuse me. One evening in 1965 they were dining with a celebrated priest and author, Martin Darcy.

00:59:32.000 --> 00:59:47.000

And that wondered how the churches insistence on marriage is an eternal contract. Coming in between man and wife could be accommodated to Jesus's insistence that those in heaven Well, neither, nor will be given in there, it's just he says like the Gospel of Luke.

00:59:47.000 --> 00:59:53.000

Kirk recounts Darcy's surprising answer in his memoirs, switching between direct quotes and paraphrases.

00:59:53.000 --> 00:59:57.000

Now this is a long quote from Kirk's memoirs, The Sword of imagination.

00:59:57.000 --> 01:00:10.000

Heaven is a state in which all the good things of your life are present to you whenever you desire them, not in memory merely, not somehow reenacted but present beyond the barriers of time in all their fullness.

01:00:10.000 --> 01:00:19.000

Hell, Father Darcy continued as a state of being in which all the evil one has done is eternally present and there is no escape from it.

01:00:19.000 --> 01:00:26.000

So it is that human creatures make their own destiny their own heaven and their own health. And cool.

01:00:26.000 --> 01:00:31.000

Now Darcy's elegant formulation may not strictly reflect orthodox Catholic teaching on the subject.

01:00:31.000 --> 01:00:39.000

But it struck a chord with Kirk who seems to have regarded it as an official confirmation of his own beliefs regarding timeless moments in the afternoon.

01:00:39.000 --> 01:00:48.000

He was fond of repeating that conversation with Darcy and his correspondence. It does so several times in his letter is published and unpublished.

01:00:48.000 --> 01:00:55.000

In some timeless moments or memories that last forever because we shall have endless opportunities to relive them in the afterlife.

01:00:55.000 --> 01:01:04.000

If we end up in heaven, those memories will represent the happiest moments we enjoyed. If in hell those of our greatest suffering or torture.

01:01:04.000 --> 01:01:16.000

Or they may instead represent time spent in purgatory for Kirk believed that the opportunity to perjure cleanser sins before entering heaven might very well be granted us before death.

01:01:16.000 --> 01:01:26.000

Timeless moments simultaneously comprised part of our experience of having health or purgatory while helping to determine which of them we shall be sent to after we die.

01:01:26.000 --> 01:01:32.000

Or does the decisions we make in the present that ultimately shape our past and future as Elliott reminds us in Burton Norton.

01:01:32.000 --> 01:01:41.000

When he says, but only in time can the moment in the Rose Garden be remembered involved with past and future only through time is time conquered.

01:01:41.000 --> 01:01:48.000

Or as Kirk himself puts it, it is the exertion of the will now that matters, a moment may partake of eternity.

01:01:48.000 --> 01:01:57.000

In his memoirs, he recalls a few of the timeless moments he enjoyed, visits from old friends and morning spent frolicking in the snow with his daughters.

01:01:57.000 --> 01:02:07.000

Presumably he expected to relive those moments and not merely remember them in heaven. I was moments are also major theme perhaps to defining one in Kirk's fiction, which includes 3 novels and roughly 2 dozen short stories.

01:02:07.000 --> 01:02:21.000

Almost all of them feature supernatural elements such as ghost demons and psychic phenomena. Which Kirk employees to promote conservative ideas and illustrate the key features of his personal belief system.

01:02:21.000 --> 01:02:42.000

Before turning to the depictions of Helen Charles Williams, Stephen King, I'd like to briefly describe Kirk's fictional treatment of the same part of the reason why I believe his eschatological framework can be so

helpful in making sense of theirs is because unlike Williams and particular Kirk always has his characters stop the narrative.

01:02:42.000 --> 01:02:51.000

And explain exactly what is supposed to be happening. But if you're, if you're, you know, if you're reading Williams, you can often be bewildered and sort of lost at what's going on.

01:02:51.000 --> 01:03:01.000

And Kirk, but Kirk, even though he grapples with some ideas, he always has a character like say in the story, this is what this is how timeless moments work, you know.

01:03:01.000 --> 01:03:06.000

And so on. So I think that's why I think his framework can be helpful, even if Williams.

01:03:06.000 --> 01:03:15.000

And King, don't use that phrase, timeless moments. So I talked about Kirk's fiction here, but since most of us probably aren't that familiar with Kirk.

01:03:15.000 --> 01:03:20.000

I'm just gonna summarize things a little bit. There's a story of his known as there's a long long trail of winding.

01:03:20.000 --> 01:03:35.000

It's probably his best known story. It's about a, it's about a, bag of bones who wakes up one day and he's in this house and he's having these memories of family that he was very close with this mother and her daughters and one day.

01:03:35.000 --> 01:03:47.000

These prisoners from the local jail escape and they break into the house and they're going to, do terrible things to the mother and her daughters and he and he decides to go and save them.

01:03:47.000 --> 01:03:52.000



And in the process of doing so, he shot, you know, he's bleeding to death on the outside.

01:03:52.000 --> 01:04:09.000

And he sees a headstone. As he's as in the snow as he's passing out it's It's erected to him in his memory and the point of the story is that he's dead the whole time, he's simply reliving the timeless moment that served as part of his purgatorial penance.

01:04:09.000 --> 01:04:14.000

Now that other 2 stories that I talked about that I'm just going to sort of skim over.

01:04:14.000 --> 01:04:18.000

One is called Bell Grammo's Hell. It's a It's a prolonged to his last novel.

01:04:18.000 --> 01:04:22.000

1979, look at the howl dark. It's about an art thief.

01:04:22.000 --> 01:04:27.000

Who stealing from a bedridden Scottish lawyer, Lord, excuse me, he's selling paintings.

01:04:27.000 --> 01:04:35.000

This story is worth seeking out just because again, the characters take the trouble to explain. How hell and heaven work according to Kirk.

01:04:35.000 --> 01:04:42.000

There's a quote here that's worth pointing out. One of the characters says hell knows no future or no pass.

01:04:42.000 --> 01:04:52.000

But only the everlasting moment of damnation. Also, hell is spaceless or conceivably is a locked box, damnably confining.

01:04:52.000 --> 01:05:01.000

So, and the point of the story is that this, this young, this, thief, you know, he's heard these things about the Lord Bell Grimo.

01:05:01.000 --> 01:05:04.000

He's heard these things about the Lord Bell Grimo. He's been written in the past.

01:05:04.000 --> 01:05:11.000

He was involved in these. He was involved in these. And these are Colt rituals and there are all sorts of black magic and weird things going on in the house.

01:05:11.000 --> 01:05:15.000

People died and that's why the Lord has been locked up all this time and again the cat doesn't like discussion the Lord has been locked up all this time.

01:05:15.000 --> 01:05:23.000

And again, the cat doesn't like discussion. That's why he's been locked up and.

01:05:23.000 --> 01:05:29.000

As it turns out, you know, he's experiencing He's locked in his own.

01:05:29.000 --> 01:05:39.000

He's still a live, but this is what Hell represents for him is just the last decades of his life where he's reliving those moments that led to the deaths of innocent people.

01:05:39.000 --> 01:05:52.000

And for but for the art thief he discovers that timeless moments of one person can intersect with those of another, he ends up meeting Lord Bell Grammo who brings in and drags him into his own house so to speak.

01:05:52.000 --> 01:06:04.000

And then we get to the Lord of the Hall of Dark perks last novel. Where he offers additional details of centres around a shadowy cold figure who's promised to teach his followers the secrets of timeless moments.

01:06:04.000 --> 01:06:16.000

I wrote an article about this. Actually, I presented it at the last Right. I presented it at the last, online, Wasn't in the summer, was in the winter I think the last online conference.

01:06:16.000 --> 01:06:21.000

And I got it published in Myth Laura looking at parallels between Lord of the Howard Dark and.

01:06:21.000 --> 01:06:32.000

A novel by, Williams. Which novel? I can't remember. You know, just the similar the cult interest in the cult and so on.

01:06:32.000 --> 01:06:40.000

So this, his last book is about this cult figure, Mr. Apollo next. The character is all named after posed and plays by Elliott.

01:06:40.000 --> 01:06:57.000

There are many reasons why the book can never caught on with readers. Okay. But, so the main character is this cult leader and he's teaching his followers about timeless moments, but from the perspective of like the demonic, you know, he wants to take them to help.

01:06:57.000 --> 01:07:04.000

Finally in the novel is I just want to point out what it reveals about the possibility of redemption for those in health.

01:07:04.000 --> 01:07:11.000

So once he the Lord Bell- is a character in this novel as well those who've been dead for many decades.

01:07:11.000 --> 01:07:20.000

He's summoned by this Apollo next figure and his spirit returns and he ends up, that he ends up proving himself.

01:07:20.000 --> 01:07:30.000

He's given a chance to sort of redeem himself and that's the point of the novel sort of one of the characters, well, yeah, one of, well, not for Kirk.

01:07:30.000 --> 01:07:45.000

I mean, Kirk had really specific. Somebody just says the main point of a Yeah, and Kirk has really specific ideas about the role of art and And it's all about promoting a moral imagination about educating and and inspiring readers and so on.

01:07:45.000 --> 01:07:55.000

So he, so he, This is what he's doing in this last novel is depicting all these ideas about timeless moments and having and how and purgatory special.

01:07:55.000 --> 01:07:59.000

So I'm gonna go on to my discussion of Williams.

01:07:59.000 --> 01:08:17.000

This, that next section is just called blooms on purgatory and how, most of Williams novels deal in some manner with supernatural themes in the afterlife, but the sentent to hell, and all Hall's Eve are notable for their sustained efforts to grapple with the practical and theoretical implications of hell. What does it look like?

01:08:17.000 --> 01:08:24.000

How does it feel to be there? Is there any hope of escape? The former novel, so this is dissented to hell, is set on Battle Hill, a fictional suburb of London.

01:08:24.000 --> 01:08:34.000

It follows a group of amateur festions. And is preparing a production of a new play by a local poets Peter Stan.

01:08:34.000 --> 01:08:42.000

Main character, one of the main characters, Pauline Anstruther, who has been haunted all over light by visits from her doppelganger or double.

01:08:42.000 --> 01:08:48.000

These appearances which always occur outdoors have been growing in frequency since she moved to Battle Hill.

01:08:48.000 --> 01:08:53.000

To take care of her elderly grandmother. Eventually she confesses her fear to Stanhope.

01:08:53.000 --> 01:09:01.000

Who teaches her about Williams doctrines of substituted love or exchange. Basically, he offers to be afraid in her stead.

01:09:01.000 --> 01:09:11.000

So that the next time she runs into her double, she need that fear. He tells her when you are alone, remember that I am afraid instead of you and that I have taken over every kind of worry.

01:09:11.000 --> 01:09:26.000

Think merely that, say to yourself, he is being worried and go on. Remember it is mine. Aside from Pauline Stanhope, other main characters include an historian, Lawrence Wentworth, and a workman who can sit and committed suicide sometime in the past.

01:09:26.000 --> 01:09:35.000

While the village was still under construction. Wentworth experiences another kind of perverse form of substitution, David Livingstone explains.

01:09:35.000 --> 01:09:46.000

One that represents the literally damning consequences of self-directed love, though separated by decades of time, the suicide and Wentworth must both work their way through Battle Hill.

01:09:46.000 --> 01:09:52.000

Which represents purgatory for one because he manages to escape from it and hell for the other because he does not.

01:09:52.000 --> 01:10:02.000

So like, like Kirk Spell, Grima Lodging, Battle Hill is a place that exists at Nexus between the material and transcendent, the present and eternity.

01:10:02.000 --> 01:10:11.000

All those who have lived and died in a submarines are mystically connected. But William writes, if the pastel lives in its own present beside our present.

01:10:11.000 --> 01:10:19.000

And the momentary later inhabitants were surrounded by a greater universe. From other periods of its time, other creatures could crawl out of death.

01:10:19.000 --> 01:10:30.000

And invisibly contemplate the houses and people of the rise. Williams implies that the bloody history of the area may have something to do with its proclivity for supernatural occurrences.

01:10:30.000 --> 01:10:36.000

An ancestor of Paulines had been burned to death there during the religious strife of the Elizabethan era.

01:10:36.000 --> 01:10:43.000

And the site's name derives from the frequent conflicts that were waged there due to the town's strategic closeness to London.

01:10:43.000 --> 01:10:48.000

The dead soldiers and martyrs of the past year, the town with Pauline and her associates at the present.

01:10:48.000 --> 01:10:55.000

As certain timeless moments in their lives and Williams doesn't use that phrase, but the the 2 worlds are capable of intersecting.

01:10:55.000 --> 01:11:05.000

One such moment occurs after the death of the nameless suicide. Who awakens after the event to find himself in a shattered version of the same town in which he died.

01:11:05.000 --> 01:11:15.000

Centuries passed before he feels the need to escape a slow but steady growth in lightness through the year, which perhaps represents God's grace seeking to find him.

01:11:15.000 --> 01:11:21.000

As he walks down the hill to formerly ruined houses and streets reveal themselves to be not destroyed but incomplete erection or still under construction.

01:11:21.000 --> 01:11:29.000

He has in short walked from Battle Hills future to his past. Now, timeless moments may be something of a misnomer even in Kirk's fiction.

01:11:29.000 --> 01:11:49.000

The actual moment to be relived through eternity can last a significant period of time in the story I was talking in the novels I was talking about earlier it's implied that the Lord Bell Gromo had endured decades in his own private version of Purgatory.

01:11:49.000 --> 01:12:00.000

Or help depending on how you're looking at it, right? Likewise, the name was suicide in descendant to heaven is forced to relive an indeterminate amount of time from his former life.

01:12:00.000 --> 01:12:15.000

Before facing the critical moment that is to determine his ultimate fate. Well, walking through the town, he spots his own double with a woman whose face is that quote of the girl who had been his wife, end quote, presumably his and her younger selves.

01:12:15.000 --> 01:12:19.000

After running away from them, he meets others from his past, a sneering foreman and a lab who carries the rope and ladder the suicide used to end his own life.

01:12:19.000 --> 01:12:31.000

As in Kirk stories. It is strongly implied that the suicide is not merely remembering these encounters, but reliving them again.

01:12:31.000 --> 01:12:38.000

Yeah, Williams places more emphasis on how one person's timeless moment can intersect with those of others.

01:12:38.000 --> 01:12:45.000

Hence, as a suicide wanders through his own past, he strays into the present and future of the living and dead of Battle Hill.

01:12:45.000 --> 01:12:57.000

And even into the dreams of a sleeping Margaret Anstruther, Pauline's aunt. Who is startled by his appearance there as he is when he notices her peering at him through a window.

01:12:57.000 --> 01:13:09.000

Okay, so the suicide is granted a timeless moment after death during which he's able to relive memories from his past in an effort to determine whether battle ill will become his purgatory or help.

01:13:09.000 --> 01:13:16.000

Wentworth, the historian, the local historian is granted at least 3 opportunities to do the same.

01:13:16.000 --> 01:13:23.000



His recurring dream is initial dalliance with the succubus and his and the dinner for his rival asked him often.

01:13:23.000 --> 01:13:36.000

The duration of each is described with deliberate vagueness. The dream may last minutes or hours. He seems to spend centuries with the fake Adel and the novel ends by employing, implying that Wentworth will never leave the table.

01:13:36.000 --> 01:13:40.000

At which he sits during Moffat's dinner quote all his life. And from the creation of the world he had sat there.

01:13:40.000 --> 01:13:53.000

He would always sit there always, always. Although Kirk would say that these experiences are the ones Wentworth will be forced to relive in how eternally.

01:13:53.000 --> 01:14:03.000

Well, just not suggest that to be the case. But their timelessness does underline his agreement with the basic framework of Kirk's eschatological thinking about time in the afterlife.

01:14:03.000 --> 01:14:08.000

Essentially, once Wentworth Arise in hell, he discovers that he has always been there.

01:14:08.000 --> 01:14:16.000

Just easy finds that he has always been sitting at that table from the creation of the world. Okay.

01:14:16.000 --> 01:14:24.000

So there's a quote from Kirk here from his memoirs. Those men and women who fail to perceive timeless moments are the prisoners of time and circumstance.

01:14:24.000 --> 01:14:32.000

Only by transcending the ravenous ego and sharing their joy with others. Do moreals come to know their true and during selves?

01:14:32.000 --> 01:14:39.000

What hell symbolizes is imprisonment within the ego. In the winter of discontent.

01:14:39.000 --> 01:14:49.000

All of this athlete describes the faint of Wentworth who has given repeated chances to turn away from the path to damnation by accepting the love and community offered by his friends and neighbors on Battle Hill.

01:14:49.000 --> 01:14:58.000

In the end, he chooses instead a self-imposed help. Forgorial themes are at the forefront of all, Williams's final novel.

01:14:58.000 --> 01:15:04.000

The first characters we meet are already dead. Lester, Fern, and her friend Evelyn have been killed by a falling airplane.

01:15:04.000 --> 01:15:11.000

Now wander the streets of the city. A timeless version of London in which past and present living in Deadco exist.

01:15:11.000 --> 01:15:19.000

Meanwhile, Lester's husband and his friend, the painter Jonathan Drayton, tried to get to the bottom of mysterious cult leader named Simon with Clerk.

01:15:19.000 --> 01:15:27.000

He's a powerful magician who has sent out copies of himself to Russia and China in whom he intends to dominate those countries.

01:15:27.000 --> 01:15:35.000

He also experiments on sending the soul of his daughter Betty into the future as part of his plan to see his control in England.

01:15:35.000 --> 01:15:50.000

So. The cast of characters eventually settles it to 2 opposing camps representing good and evil. Those opposed to the The good, side ultimately trying so not without sacrifice, especially in the part of Lester and Betty.

01:15:50.000 --> 01:16:02.000

Through heroic access of substitution exchange, the young ladies demonstrate the character's need. To undergo spiritual cleansing in order to help themselves at each other to triumph over evil.

01:16:02.000 --> 01:16:09.000

That these acts happen in the past or future hardly matters because like Kirk Williams characterizes purgatory.

01:16:09.000 --> 01:16:16.000

And hell as timeless and eternal. It is quote it is now that the kingdom of heaven is fulfilled, he says.

01:16:16.000 --> 01:16:26.000

Generally and individually. Note the echo here of Kirk's emphasis on the exertion of the will now or in the present as that which really matters.

01:16:26.000 --> 01:16:31.000

As in dissent into hell, Williams portrays London as a nexus linking the various inhabitants who have dwelt there over the years and more broadly the material and transcendent worlds.

01:16:31.000 --> 01:16:43.000

Lester awakens after death to fight yourself in the familiar environments of the city though doesn't possibly empty and quiet.

01:16:43.000 --> 01:16:53.000

She wanders around for a while experiencing the same and determinate passing of time that characterizes timeless moments in Kurt's fiction and in he descended to help.

01:16:53.000 --> 01:17:03.000

Now, contrary to our initial impression, the city is as full of life as ever. If not more so, for now she is able to sense the masses of dead gathered in the tunnels and stations below.

01:17:03.000 --> 01:17:22.000

The path to helping much broader here than in Battle Hill later in a scene recalling the suicides locked down the hill she embarks upon a journey through London's past present and future during which he sees things like men in armor and you know high battle, gates and things like that.

01:17:22.000 --> 01:17:34.000

Unlike the characters in Kirk stories, those in Williams is now, do not seem to be confined to a purgatory or a hell that spans only their own lifetimes due to their eventual attainment of heaven.

01:17:34.000 --> 01:17:40.000

And the timeless immortality that entails, Lester is able to experience London's medieval past.

01:17:40.000 --> 01:17:50.000

And the future in which it has been abandoned and reclaimed by nature. Evelyn is Lester's constant companion through the afterlife but ends up following your own path.

01:17:50.000 --> 01:17:59.000

Selfish and querulous well alive should remains so after death, not realizing that she has been granted a priceless opportunity to redeem her former wasted life.

01:17:59.000 --> 01:18:07.000

Failing to recognize the true nature of the city, Evelyn declines the second chance. An ops for stagnation and damnation instead.

01:18:07.000 --> 01:18:19.000

For lack of moral spiritual growth is evident in 2 early episodes from a novel. At the end of the first chapter, she surprises Lester with her vehement refusal to visit her own mother with whom she had lived.

01:18:19.000 --> 01:18:28.000

Quote, no, no, I won't see mother. I hate mother. Then she chases after and teases Betty, whom she had often tormented in the past.

01:18:28.000 --> 01:18:38.000

It's no surprise that she eventually falls under Leclerc's way for he preaches the gospel of hate and egotism, which appeals to Avelyn as surely as it does to Wentworth.

01:18:38.000 --> 01:18:47.000

Even after the Clerk is defeated, she scored the offer of friendship made by Lester and Betty representing her final final final chance at redemption.

01:18:47.000 --> 01:18:56.000

Cool. And then she broke through the window again and was gone into that other city. There to wait and wander and mutter till she found what companion she could.

01:18:56.000 --> 01:19:07.000

End quote. Presumably she will eventually find her way down to the hordes gathered in the underground tunnels, the lost and damned for whom the city represents health.

01:19:07.000 --> 01:19:13.000

Okay, the next section is about Stephen King. It's called the Overlook Hotel, Gateway to the Afterworld.

01:19:13.000 --> 01:19:21.000

Question. The depictions of hell of Stephen Kings, the Shining and Dr. Sleep. Bear a number of resemblances to those of Kirk and Williams.

01:19:21.000 --> 01:19:29.000

Which may surprise, given that their author does not formally identify as a Christian. Yeah, he is familiar enough with the face core beliefs.

01:19:29.000 --> 01:19:43.000

This work positively abounds in Christian themes as imagery as all of us know. I don't think it likely that he was inspired by Kirk or Williams very much and would explain the similarities as evidence merely of a shared cultural background.

01:19:43.000 --> 01:19:55.000

I was shining was published in 1977. Its main character is Jack Torrens, a recovering alcoholic who was given a job overseeing a hotel in Colorado during winter season.

01:19:55.000 --> 01:20:11.000

When it just closed to guests for several months, or to the horrible weather, right? The company Jack and his wife Wendy accompanying Jack are his wife Wendy and younger son Danny who a certain telepathic abilities refer to another by another character as the ability to shine.

01:20:11.000 --> 01:20:20.000

The overlook hotel where there staying has a long and started history as a former mob hangout. Has seen its share of the legal and perverted activity.

01:20:20.000 --> 01:20:27.000

Indeed, as Danny discovers, many of its past residents never checked out, but linear on in the rooms or hallways as ghosts.

01:20:27.000 --> 01:20:39.000

Through the long winter months as the family is completely cut off from the outside world, Jack's slowly falls under the malicious influence of the hotel, which seems to want him for some dark purpose of its own.

01:20:39.000 --> 01:20:44.000

Yeah, eventually succumb to its power and tries to murder his own family as the previous caretaker before him had done.

01:20:44.000 --> 01:20:51.000

But Wendy and Danny managed to escape moments before the old-fashioned boiler in the basement explodes.

01:20:51.000 --> 01:20:58.000

Destroying the overlook for good. And of course that's different from the movie. Ending by Stanley Kubrick.

01:20:58.000 --> 01:21:03.000

Which Jack chases Danny out into the hedge of course and He dies there in the book.

01:21:03.000 --> 01:21:14.000

If he forgot it or you haven't read it, the whole hotel blows up, right? Both Kirk and Williams portray Purgatory or Hell.

01:21:14.000 --> 01:21:18.000

And I see the time here, cause I don't need the 30 min warning. Thank you, Sean.

01:21:18.000 --> 01:21:25.000

As a timely state of mind that is often associated with the specific physical location. That's just Bell.

01:21:25.000 --> 01:21:33.000

Latching or Battle Hill in these places. The dead can attempt to atone for their past sins or failing that begin their sentence and help.

01:21:33.000 --> 01:21:43.000

The overlook hotel is described in similar terms beginning with its timeless nature. One day early in the winter, Danny goes down to the ballroom, which contains an old-fashioned mechanical clock.

01:21:43.000 --> 01:21:51.000

A poaching symbol of the blurring of past present and future that he soon discovers is characteristic of the hotel itself.

01:21:51.000 --> 01:21:57.000

He manages to start it up and is startled by the lounge chiming that ensues as a hand strike midnight.

01:21:57.000 --> 01:22:03.000

Cool. The whole place was empty, but it wasn't really empty. Because here, the overlooked things just went on and on.

01:22:03.000 --> 01:22:19.000

Here in the overlook all times were one. And cool. It's Hall's quote, now stretch back through time as well as distance and quote, Danny thinks echoing some of the same language or similar language.

01:22:19.000 --> 01:22:23.000

Used by Kirk and Williams to describe the Algremo lodging in Battle Hill in London, right?

01:22:23.000 --> 01:22:29.000

His father Jack seems to possess a limited ability to shine and discovers for himself that hotel's true nature.

01:22:29.000 --> 01:22:37.000

When you over here, 70 years worth of meals occurring at the same time, quote, it was as if another overlook now lay scant inches beyond this one, separated from the real world.

01:22:37.000 --> 01:22:51.000

But gradually coming into balance with it. All the hotels areas were together now, end quote. Later in the ballroom, he experiences a timeless moment from the hotels past a memorable party.

01:22:51.000 --> 01:23:01.000



In which he is able to speak to an even dance with the ghost. What evidence is there for asserting the ghost who wander the overlooks halls or in hell?

01:23:01.000 --> 01:23:07.000

King does not say so in as many words, but there are good reasons for believing that to be the case.

01:23:07.000 --> 01:23:15.000

For one thing, many of them are guilty of sins that have long been singled out by Christians as being especially deserving of reprobation.

01:23:15.000 --> 01:23:23.000

For example, the dead woman in room 217 is a suicide who killed herself after being abandoned by her younger lover.

01:23:23.000 --> 01:23:33.000

She's described to evoke a strong fear and disgust response in the rear with King drawing special attention to her bloated disfigured and zombie-like appearance.

01:23:33.000 --> 01:23:38.000

Perhaps in an effort to mitigate any sympathy the reader might feel for her tragic story.

01:23:38.000 --> 01:23:43.000

Another long time resident of the overlookers Roger whom Jack meets at the party in the ballroom.

01:23:43.000 --> 01:23:52.000

He is dressed like a dog and agrees to a base himself. By putting on a grotesque show for Harry Derwent and his guests.

01:23:52.000 --> 01:23:59.000

Jack's dancing partner informs him that the 2 men are former lovers and that Roger is desperate to earn back Harry's affection.

01:23:59.000 --> 01:24:06.000

I don't think King intends their relationship to service any kind of kind of a nation of homosexual behavior.

01:24:06.000 --> 01:24:18.000

But he knew that many orthodox Christians nevertheless regarded it as a sin. And any case, when Danny encounters Roger in the hallway, a scene that occurs long after the events of the party and Roger's death.

01:24:18.000 --> 01:24:25.000

He is threatened in the following manner. Quote, I'm going to eat you up little boy and I think I'll start with your plump little .

01:24:25.000 --> 01:24:36.000

Excuse me for the language Whatever the unfortunate circumstances of their lives, none of the ghosts in the overlook show any indication of wanting to repent of their former sins.

01:24:36.000 --> 01:24:48.000

And their attempts to terrorize and destroy the torrents confirms their essentially evil nature. How are you?

01:24:48.000 --> 01:24:52.000

2,013, Dr. Sleep. The 2 novels are quite different thematically and totally.

01:24:52.000 --> 01:24:59.000

I guess I should ask Boiler, we're here if you haven't read this 10 year old. It thinks so the shiny takes place in the hotel and it only has 3 family members, and it only has 3 family members, mostly it bottles them.

01:24:59.000 --> 01:25:01.000

And it only has 3 family members, mostly it, and it only has 3 family members, mostly it bottles them.

01:25:01.000 --> 01:25:11.000

At Dr. Sleep follows a large cast of characters across various locations in the. Sleep follows a large cast of characters across various locations in the Midwest and East Coast.

01:25:11.000 --> 01:25:17.000

Dan Torrens now young man works as a works as at a hospice in a small town in New Hampshire.

01:25:17.000 --> 01:25:25.000

Where users is shine to provide comfort to the dime. He needs a young girl, with a similar, a far more powerful ability.

01:25:25.000 --> 01:25:30.000

One day she witnesses the murder of a young boy by a group of nomadic psychic vampires, a true not.

01:25:30.000 --> 01:25:39.000

Feet off of the steam produced by shining individuals when they die. As it turns out that boy had been infected with the measles that which proves fatal to them.

01:25:39.000 --> 01:25:47.000

So their leader Rose, the hat decides the remaining members of the true not can only survive by capturing Abra and ingesting her steam.

01:25:47.000 --> 01:25:57.000

So she teams up with Danny and he tries to protect her from the Thank you. Like in this convent.

01:25:57.000 --> 01:26:02.000

All the text mentioned in this paper, Dr. Sleep shows the least interesting questions about the afterlife.

01:26:02.000 --> 01:26:10.000

Only at the very end of the book when Dan returns to the campsite. On which the overlook once stood this king.

01:26:10.000 --> 01:26:22.000

Right, return to the purgatorial themes that were so prominent in the shining. At the same time, Dan's role in comforting the dying offers him an opportunity to speculate about what might await us after death.

01:26:22.000 --> 01:26:30.000

Sounds surprisingly like Kirk's notion of how timeless moments work in heaven. By allowing us to relive the happiest events in our lives.

01:26:30.000 --> 01:26:36.000

Whenever Dan comforts a dying patient, he's granted leading visions. Of their dearest memories.

01:26:36.000 --> 01:26:45.000

He sees the life of an old man as he knew her on the night of their wedding. He sees a dying grandmother as a young girl of 16 writing poems at the kitchen table.

01:26:45.000 --> 01:27:00.000

The book ends with him offering a services to a colleague. Let me add several disagreements. Despite this, his final memory of the man sitting on the couch with his dog, I mean worries will be left uncared for after his passing is a sympathetic one.

01:27:00.000 --> 01:27:10.000

Dan assures him that he'll give the dog to Are these just examples of the old belief that right out right before a person dies he sees his life flashing before his eyes?

01:27:10.000 --> 01:27:15.000

And yet Dan assures his patients that there is more to it than that. Quote, we never really end.

01:27:15.000 --> 01:27:22.000

I don't know how that can be for what it means. I only know that it is it's just going to sleep.

01:27:22.000 --> 01:27:32.000

And when you wake up, you will wake up. Everything is going to be better. And cool. If one did not know better, one might suspect that Dan or his creator were a Christian.

01:27:32.000 --> 01:27:46.000

The final section of the papers called Last Chance of Redemption. So in closing, I just want to consider some of the selfish, cellific consequences of an eschatology such as the one espoused by Kirk Williams and to a lesser extent King.

01:27:46.000 --> 01:27:53.000

If as they believe we experience the afterlife every day through timeless moments, then there's no reason to believe that anyone in hell is doomed to remain there forever.

01:27:53.000 --> 01:28:05.000

It's never too late to repent of one sins by which in a parent stay in hell can be transformed into a partial sentence in purgatory.

01:28:05.000 --> 01:28:14.000

Salvation can be attained this way even by the dead as is the case with Ward, in Kirk's Lord of the Hall of Dark only after the second coming.

01:28:14.000 --> 01:28:20.000

And Christ returns to judge the living of the dead, will the barrier between heaven and hell. Be close forever.

01:28:20.000 --> 01:28:30.000

Now the obvious example of this, a descendant to hell is the suicide by having committed to sin that would seem to preclude the possibility of seeking redemption because the one who commits it is dead.

01:28:30.000 --> 01:28:36.000

The chance to relieve parts of his life in a timeless moment offers him the opportunity to do just that.

01:28:36.000 --> 01:28:42.000

Miss. Final appearance of a novel seeking to make amends with the life he'd abandoned upon his death.

01:28:42.000 --> 01:28:49.000

He asked Pauline for directions into the city. Knowing that his eventual salvation lies that way, though not perhaps a lot before a long state purgatory.

01:28:49.000 --> 01:28:57.000

He declines her offer of bed for the night and money to get started the next morning. It doesn't matter perhaps, but I think I ought to get on.

01:28:57.000 --> 01:29:04.000

They may be waiting for me, he says. Indeed, heaven saints and angels are eager to welcome them into their company.

01:29:04.000 --> 01:29:17.000

I also have a section you're talking about Lester in, All House Eve. Okay, I'm just going to skip ahead to the last paragraph because I know we're just about at a time and King, as I've noted, he was not a Christian.

01:29:17.000 --> 01:29:24.000

He does, you know, he says on his website that he was raised Methodist and he reads the Bible.

01:29:24.000 --> 01:29:31.000

He believes in some kind of God. He's not a Christian, right? It doesn't show much interest in purgatorial themes in Dr.

01:29:31.000 --> 01:29:42.000

Sleep, but by setting the novelist climates, the former grounds of the overlook hotel, he gives himself the opportunity to return to some of the questions about time in the afterlife upon which he had touched in the shine.

01:29:42.000 --> 01:29:52.000

Yes, Dan and Avril square off against Rose the half they received so much needed assistance from an unexpected source just as she is about to overcome Dan.

01:29:52.000 --> 01:29:58.000

Rose is hit by a sudden force like a gust of wind, but strong enough. To break her concentration.

01:29:58.000 --> 01:30:08.000

And get average time to recover our own mental abilities. That's all the young girl needs to send the tree nuts when you're plunging over the side of the railing to our death.

01:30:08.000 --> 01:30:17.000

On his way back to the car, Dan looks up and sees a man standing where they had been. Quote, he raised one hand, the summit of Pawnee Mountain visible through it.

01:30:17.000 --> 01:30:26.000

And sketch the flying Chris kiss that Dan remember from his childhood. He remembered it well. It had been their special end of the day thing.

01:30:26.000 --> 01:30:35.000

The man waving at him, of course, is Jack Torrance, Dan's father. Who had been killed at the end of the shining, the same boiler explosion that destroyed the hotel.

01:30:35.000 --> 01:30:42.000

For his death he had made a belated attempt to atone for his actions taking back control of his body and urging his son to get out of the hell.

01:30:42.000 --> 01:30:53.000

His appearance in Dr. Sleep provides a more satisfactory ending to his arc of redemption and suggests that even long term inhabitants of the overlook may not be without hope of salvation.

01:30:53.000 --> 01:30:58.000

As Kirk and Williams would undoubtedly agree though, they first have to want it.

01:30:58.000 --> 01:31:08.000

Thank you everybody for listening.

01:31:08.000 --> 01:31:09.000

Hey.

01:31:09.000 --> 01:31:14.000

And there's a long work side to page. Thank you all very much. Welcome questions. Commons criticism.

01:31:14.000 --> 01:31:15.000

Okay.

01:31:15.000 --> 01:31:27.000

Yeah, we have a few minutes here for questions. If anybody has them.

01:31:27.000 --> 01:31:28.000

And

01:31:28.000 --> 01:31:29.000

Hey, Ken. See HO. Show, show the cat.

01:31:29.000 --> 01:31:39.000

What's the cat's name? Oh, Joe. Delightful.



01:31:39.000 --> 01:31:42.000

Thank you, Emily.

01:31:42.000 --> 01:31:59.000

So I have a question. Is it that purgatory? Lends itself to being a timeless place or do timeless places lend themselves to being purgatories.

01:31:59.000 --> 01:32:00.000

Yeah.

01:32:00.000 --> 01:32:06.000

I mean, Which way does it go? Because I mean, I'm thinking of other like literature like our town.

01:32:06.000 --> 01:32:17.000

I mean, is that a purgatory? I don't know. But there seems to be something about a timeless place and dead people that go together.

01:32:17.000 --> 01:32:34.000

Yeah, I think that is especially thank you. For the question. I think that is especially Kirk is the one who writes about timeless moments a lot and from his perspective it seems to be mostly a personal thing, something that's tied to the individual.

01:32:34.000 --> 01:32:41.000

So they have so you so when we get to have or we get to hell we remember the happiest.

01:32:41.000 --> 01:32:46.000

And most miserable moments were live. We just relive them endlessly. That's habit and hell for us.

01:32:46.000 --> 01:33:01.000

And, for him, aside from, Bell, 's lodging that Castle and Scotland, he does also suggest that certain places may be conducive to promoting timeless moments and I think that's probably the best way to put it.

01:33:01.000 --> 01:33:12.000

From his perspective. I think that Williams and King are definitely more interested in how places how places affect.

01:33:12.000 --> 01:33:23.000

Or create or lead to timeless moments rather than the individuals who experience. So, there's some of that incurred, but in Williams and King, it's much more prominent.

01:33:23.000 --> 01:33:26.000

I mean, Williams has got Battle Hill and the city. And And those are places where the living in the dead gather together outside of those places.

01:33:26.000 --> 01:33:39.000

Presumably you don't have these supernatural events occurring. Outside of the overlook hotel.

01:33:39.000 --> 01:33:51.000

Now there are psychic dam fires running around in Dr. But in the shining, certainly. You know, Jack is more or less under control by the time they arrived at the hotel.

01:33:51.000 --> 01:34:04.000

There's not like a lot of Well, I don't know. Actually, I'm rethinking myself because I remember in the shining Danny the young boy has certain experiences of other ghosts before they get to the hotel too, but the hotel is like sort of a like a Dexu for all the supernatural activity.

01:34:04.000 --> 01:34:12.000

So I think that. I think that's a tough question that and that's the.

01:34:12.000 --> 01:34:25.000

The beauty of this fictional approach that that's why I had so much fun putting these 3 authors together is because They're trying to answer questions that.

01:34:25.000 --> 01:34:31.000

In a sense, they don't have yes and no. Answers, you know, if that makes sense.

01:34:31.000 --> 01:34:37.000

These are attempts to dramatize the experience of going to heaven or how or purgatory.

01:34:37.000 --> 01:34:40.000

And this is the best that they can do to. Do that. So I don't know how to answer that.

01:34:40.000 --> 01:34:50.000

Exactly. I think it's something they wouldn't have been able to answer either. It's just.

01:34:50.000 --> 01:35:01.000

It's just that's sort of what hell is like or have it it's like, a

01:35:01.000 --> 01:35:05.000

Yeah, we doing the shadows. Yeah, I haven't read. That's a show or is that a book?

01:35:05.000 --> 01:35:10.000

It's a TV show, I think. And a movie, right?

01:35:10.000 --> 01:35:16.000

Yeah, yeah, it's a movie and recently a TV show. Yeah, the energy vampires.

01:35:16.000 --> 01:35:17.000

Awesome.

01:35:17.000 --> 01:35:21.000

Yeah, I mean, energy vampire, you know, the, I really, I like the shining a lot.

01:35:21.000 --> 01:35:25.000

That was, that was a really good book for me. Caroline. I didn't like, doctor sleep as much.

01:35:25.000 --> 01:35:39.000

Just, it wasn't as focused I felt and And, I don't know the true, I kind of found them ridiculous like these, Yeah, they're travelling in these hard fees.

01:35:39.000 --> 01:35:47.000

I thought it was kind of silly but So, but I have to come back to it because. I wanted to.

01:35:47.000 --> 01:35:53.000

I got the idea for the paper after seeing the call for papers and I wrote my dissertation about Kirk.

01:35:53.000 --> 01:36:04.000

So. I'm always thinking about him and And then I've been reading a lot of Charles Williams and I put him in and Williams together and then I was reading the shining I said wait there's a lot of that going on here too.

01:36:04.000 --> 01:36:10.000

And I might as well read the sequel and see if I can use something there. But the SQL wasn't as useful to me.

01:36:10.000 --> 01:36:21.000

Because he doesn't seem as interested in those questions.

01:36:21.000 --> 01:36:22.000

Hmm.

01:36:22.000 --> 01:36:30.000

2 min, we're all thinking about dinner maybe. I am. I'm moderated for sessions today and I know that the Shawn and Megan have been much busier than I have, but.

01:36:30.000 --> 01:36:34.000

Having done for, let me tell you.

01:36:34.000 --> 01:36:35.000

Hey, Oh, it's good fun. Yeah, no, it's been it's been great.

01:36:35.000 --> 01:36:43.000

It's a lot, we appreciate you taking this, you know, the, I mean, the first and the last slots are always rough, so.

01:36:43.000 --> 01:36:49.000

I mean, if there's nothing else, I'm fine with ending a little early.

01:36:49.000 --> 01:36:54.000

Yeah, we can. I've put the discord here. So if any, if anyone, any thoughts come up.

01:36:54.000 --> 01:37:04.000

You know, while we, you know, while we're. Eating dinner perhaps we can continue conversation.

01:37:04.000 --> 01:37:05.000

And give me a little thanks for you. Yeah.

01:37:05.000 --> 01:37:12.000

And my email? Yeah, please, please follow up with questions or complaints even. Welcome. Thank you, Meagan.

01:37:12.000 --> 01:37:14.000

We get so much.

01:37:14.000 --> 01:37:17.000

Thank you, Shawn.

01:37:17.000 --> 01:37:23.000

Thank you.

01:37:23.000 --> 01:37:24.000

Thank you.

01:37:24.000 --> 01:37:29.000

We'll see you folks tomorrow and or later on tonight for the. All the, but I think it's track one everything is in, for the, you know, after hours stuff.

01:37:29.000 --> 01:37:31.000

So.

01:37:31.000 --> 01:37:32.000

Bye everyone.