

Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

Elon Musk unveils V2 of the Neuralink brain-machine interface surgery bot Would you sew 1,000 electrodes into your skull to mindmeld with a computer?

Andrew Tarantola

August 28, 2020



Just over a year since their last major announcement, Elon Musk’s Neuralink is finally ready to show off the fruits of its labor: a revolutionary brain-machine interface that could blur the lines between humanity and technology, as well as give our feeble fleshy minds a leg up against increasingly capable AIs.

"It's important that Neuralink solves this problem sooner rather than later, because the point at which we have digital superintelligence, that's when we pass the singularity and things become just very uncertain," Musk told Inverse in 2019.

Musk took to the stage at the Neuralink headquarters on Friday afternoon to reveal a working “V2” prototype of the automated surgical system that the company debuted last year. This machine will “sew” as many as 1,024 impossibly thin 5 micron-wide electrodes into a person’s brain. So far the system only taps into the brain’s cortical surface but the company hopes to eventually insert them deeper into the grey matter to monitor deeper brain functions (ie the hypothalamus). These electrodes will connect to Neuralink’s “Link 0.9” chip, a 23mm x 8mm sealed unit which plugs into a small hole bored into the patient’s skull and collects the signals that the electrodes pick up. The Link will measure the patient’s temperature, pressure and movement, potentially providing early warnings about imminent heart attacks or stroke, Musk said.

The Link will fit flush in the skull and transmit data wirelessly at megabit speeds up to 10 meters. It will also reportedly offer inductive charging and a full day’s battery life, enabling users to recharge it as they sleep. The small pod worn behind the ear that the company showed last summer has since been removed in favor of the all-in-one design we see today. The entire installation process will reportedly take a little under an hour to complete. "It's like a Fitbit in your skull," Musk noted during the event.

During the live demonstration, Musk introduced the crowd to a trio of pigs: Joyce, Gertrude and Dorothy. Joyce has not had the implantation surgery and appeared to be a perfectly happy and healthy pig. Dorothy had the surgery but had the implant subsequently removed to illustrate that the Link device is not a permanent attachment but rather can be installed and removed at will should the patient want to upgrade the hardware. Finally, Gertrude had the surgery and still has the link installed in her head. Her link monitors

signals generated from her snout so whenever Gertrude smells something tasty, the Link picked up and recorded those signals.

To date, no human trials have been completed though the Neuralink team has managed to implant as many as 1,500 electrodes into mice. The chip has been tested on primates as well. "a monkey has been able to control a computer with its brain," Musk told Bloomberg in July. Human trials could begin as soon as this year.

Of course there's no guarantee that this system will work in humans in the same manner that it did with the mouse and primate models. If it does prove successful, Neuralink hopes to first leverage the technology to assist amputees and help people regain their lost senses of sight or hearing -- even treat degenerative diseases. Eventually the company hopes to "upgrade" human consciousness, enabling us to communicate with machines at the speed of thought. Musk even posited that we could one day use these devices to save and replay memories, even download our consciousnesses to robotic bodies, Altered Carbon-style. How any of this would actually work in practice remains to be seen. There is no word yet on how much the system would actually cost, though Musk estimates it will eventually retail for around the same amount as a LASIK vision correction procedure.

This is far from the first time that we've tried to communicate directly with machines. Research into brain-machine interfaces has been going on since the 1920s. We've developed BMIs that help paraplegics walk, help amputees move their prosthetic limbs or regain their sense of touch, or help stroke patients recover and locked-in syndrome communicate. Musk's moment in the neurological spotlight may be short-lived however. A number of research organizations and universities are already developing systems of their own. Heck, even DARPA is looking into the technology. That said, Musk did confirm that the US Food and Drug Administration granted approval for "breakthrough device" testing back in July.

New CDC report says 94% of patients who died from COVID had other health issues

By: FOX 13 News Aug 30

ATLANTA, Ga. -- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a report last week, saying the vast majority of patients who die from COVID-19 also had other health issues.

The report says that 94 percent of patients who died of COVID-19 had another health condition. The conditions range from respiratory illness and heart disease to obesity and diabetes.

"For 6% of the deaths, COVID-19 was the only cause mentioned," the report said. "For deaths with conditions or causes in addition to COVID-19, on average, there were 2.6 additional conditions or causes per death."

It was widely understood that certain populations, especially those with respiratory issues, may fair more poorly when infected with COVID-19. For this report, the CDC focused on provisional data, which the agency says is the most accurate. Provisional data looks at death certificate information rather than hospital or nursing home info.

"Provisional death counts deliver the most complete and accurate picture of lives lost to COVID-19," the CDC said. "They are based on death certificates, which are the most reliable source of data and contain information not available anywhere else, including comorbid conditions, race and ethnicity, and place of death."

BLM Co-Founder, LA Chapter Leader Discuss Group's Occultic Practices of 'Invoking Spirits,' African 'Ancestral Worship'

By Heather Clark on August 28

Lighthouse Trails
christiannews.net

In an interview posted to social media, Black Lives Matter (BLM) Co-Founder Patrisse Cullors, along with BLM Los Angeles Co-Founder Melina Abdullah, discussed the “spiritual” component of the movement, explaining the practices and “rituals” performed to remember and “invoke” the spirits of deceased African Americans.

“We speak their names ... [and] you kind of invoke that spirit, and then their spirits actually become present with you,” Abdullah, a professor at California State University, stated during the discussion hosted by Fowler Museum at UCLA.

Cullors outlined that she was raised Jehovah's Witness, and “ancestral worship became really important” as she got older. She said that she felt a responsibility to honor the deceased politically and spiritually.

“In my tradition, you offer things that your loved one who passed away would want, whether it's honey or tobacco or things like that,” she said, referring to the creation of an “ancestor altar,” which is sometimes practiced in African cultures. “It's so important, not just for us to be in direct relationship to our people who've passed but also for them to know we've remembered them. I believe so many of them work through us.”

The site Crescent City Culture advises, “At its core, hoodoo is a practice of ancestral veneration. The honoring and even worshiping of ancestors is practiced around the world. Many African religions have a foundation in the belief that one's ancestors play an active role in the life of the living even after death. The spirits of the dead are invited in the household so that they may influence the family and provide blessings and protection.”

“Why would we not honor the people who have been stolen from us and are asking for us to fight for them?” Cullors asked. “They want us to remember them because ... they know what it takes for them to be remembered.”

She explained that even in using hashtags people are “literally almost resurrecting the spirit so they can work through us to get the work ... done.”

Abdullah explained that whenever there is word of a African American person losing their life, likely in relation to law enforcement incidents, they go out and “pray [and] pour libation.” Libation is an act that is defined as “a ritual pouring of a liquid as an offering to a god or spirit, or in memory of those who have ‘passed on.’”

As previously reported, in 2018, Abdullah poured libation and summoned the spirits of a number of deceased African American leaders during an event at Hollywood United Methodist Church. She instructed those gathered to declare “ashe” as she made declarations and poured bottled water into a plant.

According to the website yagbeonilu.com, “ashe” or “ase” means “so be it,” and is an “African philosophical concept through which the Yoruba of Nigeria conceive the power to make things happen and produce change.”

“Ashe among the Yoruba is associated with the very force which is life and brings them into being in the universe. ... [I]t is also associated with the power of speech as can be seen in its meaning of command, ordain and law,” the site explains, stating that the Yoruba believe that men possess the power to “speak things into existence.”

“We summon those spirits that are still with us. We summon those people whose bodies have been stolen, but whose souls are still here,” Abdullah said. “We call on Wakiesha Wilson. We call on George Jackson ... Eric Garner ...”

“And all of those whose bodies have been stolen: We ask that you be with us. We ask that you work through us. We ask that we do righteous work on your behalf,” she continued in speaking to the the dead. “It took me almost a year for me to realize that this movement is much more than a racial and social justice movement. At its core, it’s a spiritual movement because we are literally standing on spilled blood,” Abdullah said during her recent interview with Cullors, adding that she knows the BLM co-founder has viewed the issue as spiritual for some time.

“When we first started, I remember us going to the ocean and doing these rituals and really feeding our spirit,” she outlined. Cullors also explained that she considered whether there was room in the BLM movement for spirituality, and said that she “realized there was a need for protection as we started to be more targeted. I feel like so many leaders and so many organizers are deeply engaged in a pretty important spiritual practice,” she said of BLM’s work. Cullors cited an article published by the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs entitled “The Fight for Black Lives Is a Spiritual Movement.”

“The movement for Black lives ... infuses a syncretic blend of African and indigenous cultures’ spiritual practices and beliefs, embracing ancestor worship; Ifa-based ritual such as chanting, dancing, and summoning deities; and healing practices such as acupuncture, reiki, therapeutic massage, and plant medicine in much of its work, including protest,” the article states in part.

As previously reported, Black Lives Matter was formed by Cullors, Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi in 2013 in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of teenager Trayvon Martin. Cullors is a self-described “queer;” Garza identifies as lesbian; and Tometi is a self-described feminist.

“While the tragic deaths of Trayvon Martin and Mike Brown were catalysts for the emergence of the BLM movement,” the bio for Garza, states, “in order to truly understand how devastating and widespread this type of violence is in Black America, we must view this epidemic through a lens of race, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity.”

During an interview in 2015, Cullors acknowledged that the group is led by “trained Marxists” and talked about the group’s aim to include homosexual and transgender African Americans.

“It was important for us as Black women, two of which are queer, to actually talk about the totality of Black life,” she said during the interview with Jared Ball of “I Mix What I Like” on Real News Network. “And that Black cis[gender] men are not the sum of Black people, but rather all Black people being the totality of Black people ...” Cullors added that the group’s definition of totality would include “Black trans[gender] folk,” those who have been incarcerated or are currently behind bars, and those with disabilities.

“We make space for transgender brothers and sisters to participate and lead,” the BLM site’s “What We Believe” page also outlines. “We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cisgender privilege and uplift Black trans folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence.”

Getting Close

Daymond Duck August 30, 2020

Blessings and thank you to everyone for your prayers, condolences and kind words during my wife's illness and death.

To date, more than 120 Gideon Bibles have been donated in Rachel's memory, several people gave gifts to the Church mission fund, etc. God will use these blessings to harvest souls before the Rapture. One of the toughest things about Rachel's 17 days in the hospital was that none of her family could visit her. It was as though we had forsaken her and left her to die alone. Many people have experienced this with loved ones in the hospital and nursing home. But it occurred to me that the Father had to forsake Jesus on the cross because He could not look upon our sin (Matt. 27:46), and that made the death of Jesus more horrible for Him. I am grieving deeply over my wife's death, but I truly believe that her soul and spirit are in heaven, that God raised Jesus from the dead, that God will raise deceased Christians from the dead at the Rapture (I Thess. 4:13-18), and that the Rapture is close and I will see Rachel again very soon.

Below are some things that recently made the news.

One, the ashes of a sacrificed red heifer are needed to make purifying water to cleanse those that rebuild the Temple.

On Aug. 19, 2020, two red heifers were inspected in Israel: one was disqualified, the other had a few hairs that are not red enough, but it was declared viable (still a potential candidate).

In early 2020, two more red heifers were born that are considered potential candidates, but it will be several months before they are old enough.

Two, concerning forced vaccinations and tattoos for the Coronavirus – on Aug. 18, 2020, Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases said, "I don't think you'll ever see a mandating of vaccines, particularly for the general public."

It is impossible to know if Dr. Fauci is right, but this fits the Bible teaching that the Mark of the Beast will be during the last half of the Tribulation period, not before the Tribulation Period.

The Rapture will remove the Church before the Mark of the Beast is required.

This is one reason why some believe the Rapture is close (the World Health Organization, Pope Francis, Bill Gates, several state and local officials, and many business leaders are already calling for mandatory vaccinations).

Three, concerning a peace treaty, Israel and the UAE recently signed an agreement for the UAE to recognize the existence of Israel and to normalize ties between the two nations.

Since the announcement, Lebanon, Sudan, Oman and Bahrain have said they are interested in a similar agreement.

On Aug. 17, 2020, Jared Kushner said, "We're very close to a lot of breakthroughs from the region."

Turkey, Iran, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the PA and others are condemning this, but two things are shaping up: 1) Hostility by people that will fight the Battle of Gog and Magog, and 2) Movement by others toward

a peace treaty.

There will be war, and there will be a worthless peace treaty.

Not all agree, but it is my opinion that the Battle of Gog and Magog will occur before the Tribulation Period and trigger a cry for a peace treaty, world government and world religion (global ethic).

The peace treaty will be worthless, and the world government will be satanic.

The peace treaty will divide the Promised Land and trigger the wrath of God.

Just know that several Arab countries want to make peace with Israel while Trump is still in office.

They are afraid of Iran, and they know that the Obama/Biden administration gave Iran billions of dollars and opened the door for Iran to get nuclear weapons.

They don't particularly like Israel, but they dislike Iran more than they dislike Israel, and they want Israel on their side in case Biden wins.

Four, economic collapse and famine are signs of the end of the age (Matt. 24:7; Rev. 6:5-6).

On Aug. 20, 2020, the head of the world bank said Covid-19 may have driven 70-100 million people into extreme poverty, and the number could go higher if the crisis worsens or drags on (the UN estimate is 132 million, and for whatever it is worth, extreme poverty produces famine and malnutrition, and that leads to pestilence and death).

Be aware that some writers are saying a second round of Covid-19 will produce greater food shortages than the one we are going through now.

Five, natural disasters will increase in frequency and intensity as the return of Jesus nears.

California is reeling from earthquakes, extreme temperatures, thousands of lightning strikes, and some of the largest wildfires in California history.

Iowa has 14 million acres of major crop damage by severe storms.

The Gulf Coast has been hit by a tropical storm and a hurricane.

China has had several weeks of record flooding, and on and on it goes.

Six, Dr. Franklin Graham is asking multitudes to join him on Sept. 26, 2020 for a "Prayer March 2020" in Washington, D.C., to pray for the U.S.

He believes the U.S. is in trouble and citizens need to ask God for His help.

A Biden win will bring in the world government and world religion.

That is a two-edged sword: 1) The Rapture of the Church (our hope), and 2) satanic global chaos worse than anything that has ever happened on earth [including the great Flood, the Holocaust, WW I, WW II, etc.] (Matt. 24:22).

Seven, some (not all) Bible prophecy teachers believe the Rapture will take place on the Jewish Feast Day

called Rosh Hashanna (The Feast of Trumpets; this year it will be on Sept. 18-19).

Some Christians have told me that they are praying that it will happen this year.

On Aug. 23, 2020, it was reported that a prominent Jewish Rabbi, who has not said anything about the Messiah in 40 years of ministry, said the Messiah could very well be revealed this Rosh Hashanna.

The article doesn't say; I doubt that the Rabbi believes in the Messiah (Jesus) that Christians believe in; I suspect that he is thinking about what Christians call the Second Coming, not the Rapture; and no one knows the day or the hour of our Lord's return.

Just know that many Christians are not alone in thinking that the return of Messiah could (emphasis on could) be close.

Finally, if it does happen next month, I pray that you have truly accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.

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