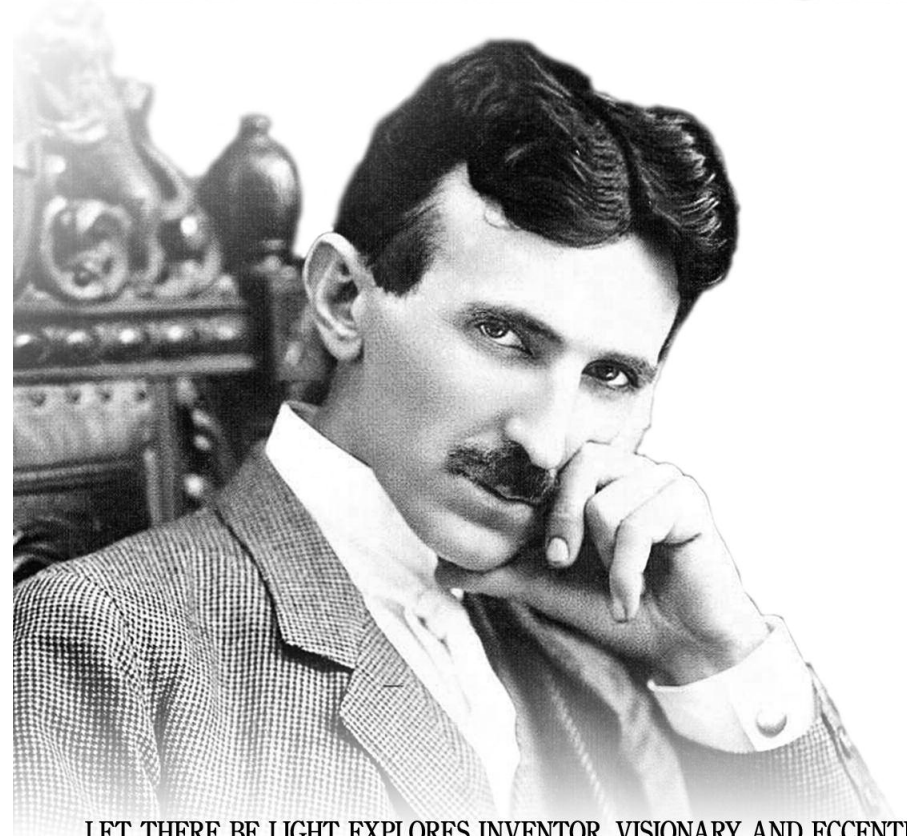


# LET THERE BE LIGHT



LET THERE BE LIGHT EXPLORES INVENTOR, VISIONARY AND ECCENTRIC NIKOLA TESLA. THE STORY FINDS TESLA AT A CRUCIAL TURNING POINT AFTER HE HAD BEEN BANISHED FROM MAINSTREAM SCIENCE INTO A LIFE OF OBSCURITY AND POVERTY.

# NIKOLA TESLA

## Study Guide

K4276DVD



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## Study Questions

*To be proposed before or after viewing the program.*

- 1) Is it true that, everything connected with electricity was invented between 1870 and 1940 and could be traced back to Nicola Tesla?
- 2) In the late 1920s, Tesla was a world wide celebrity, but only a few years later, he was banished into obscurity and poverty. Why was this so? Who stole from him? Who ridiculed him? Who ignored him?
- 3) Tesla was too human and compassionate for the cut-throat world of science and engineering to be a 'winner' in the game. Why did he still, even to the end, refuse to give the world what it wanted, but rather what it needed, for the benefit of many rather than the comfort of a few?
- 4) Tesla's first job in America was with Edison, but within a year, the relationship went sour. How did this bitterness affect Tesla's ability to keep inventing and have his inventions accepted by the world?
- 5) **What was Tesla's relationship like with:**
  - a) Edison
  - b) Westinghouse
  - c) Marconi ('inventor' of the radio)
  - d) The US government
  - e) The animals hanging around his dingy apartment
  - f) The music of Wagner, and Hitler.
  - g) Women, in general and the potential to have children with them.
  - h) Extra-terrestrials (who he claimed to be communicating with)
  - i) The Divinity (God)
- 6) What were some of Tesla's 'weird' habits, such as everything having to be arranged in threes (including his 'yes, yes, yes' replies to questions), his refusal to be touched and his aversion to women wearing earrings? How many of these habits were related to his being a Christian-Buddhist?
- 7) **What are the potential uses/abuses (or side effects) of the following Tesla inventions in today's world?**
  - a) AC current
  - b) 'Tesla Coil' transmitters that collect and spread electricity without wires
  - c) Microwaves
  - d) Radar
  - e) Earthquake generators
  - f) Use of AC/DC current for wound healing
  - g) Detecting and treating cancer with electricity
  - h) Radio
  - i) Weather-altering machines
  - j) Electric car

- 8) In the Tesla-Edison feud, who was wrong? Who was right? How was Croatian-raised idealist Tesla different than the always-practical 'All American' Edison? How and why did the world suffer because of that feud (i.e. the presentation of radar by Tesla to the US government, as an anti-U-Boat weapon which was discredited by Edison and therefore put aside).
- 9) What was Tesla's view of Einstein as a scientist, humanitarian and family man?
- 10) Why did Tesla never marry or have children of his own (that we know about)?
- 11) If Tesla had 'gone with the flow' and not revealed so much of himself to the world, could he have been integrated into mainstream science? Would he have produced such innovative work? Did his compassion and inability to manipulate people harm, or help him (in terms of the quality of the work)?
- 12) What did the aging Tesla mean when he came to the realization that it was his job "to fill the lab books with new ideas and that 'the rest was up to a Higher Wisdom'?"
- 13) Who and what, were responsible for Tesla spending the last decade of his life living in poverty and obscurity?
- 14) Why were his notes confiscated twice by the US Government when he was alive and why are most of them locked in government vaults in Eastern Europe and Washington to the present day?
- 15) Assuming that reincarnation is a fact, is it possible that Tesla came back in the form of innovative musician Frank Zappa?
- 16) If Tesla were to apply to MIT as a student or faculty member, would he be accepted? Should he be?