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Telos or Bust

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Telos or Bust

Abstract

This is a film review of *Telos or Bust* (2022), directed by Brad Abrahams.

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Telos or Bust (2022), dir. Brad Abrahams

Welcome to Telos, California. Telos is a small town of 3,500 people in Northern California, near Mount Shasta. Telos is a spiritual Mecca. For many people getting to Telos is their life's goal. So, it's Telos or bust. Most of the people in town are spiritualists or new agers. They hold a wide variety of ideas, from spaceships entering and leaving Mount Shasta to belief in the existence of Ascended Masters who live in a city under the mountain.

The Telos myth is that there is a city under Mount Shasta that ordinary people can access. The city is inhabited by a Master Race. The city is a city of love, where love reigns supreme. There are no prisons in this city. There is no depression. There is no idea of sickness. The Master Race has recognized the futility of war. If you haven't yet experienced the city at the center of the mountain, you will be able to do so in another life. One citizen claims that the great thing about

Mount Shasta is that you can be as nutty as possible—there's still other people that are going to be crazier. Another claims that none of this is real. It is all a fantasy, but it is a benevolent fantasy.

This film is a documentary tour of Telos. It introduces you to some of the important characters of the city and it introduces you to a wide variety of spiritualist ideas. This film is a pilot for the docuseries, *Keep Folklore Alive*.