

Why I Am Not In... Scientology

I. History

A. Not to be confused with Christian Science that we discussed last week.

B. L. Ron Hubbard (1911-1986)

1. Prolific writer of pulp fiction works, especially science fiction and fantasy.
2. Married three times: Margaret "Polly" Grubb (1933-1947), Sara Northrup Hollister (1946-1951), and Mary Sue Whipp (1952-1986)
3. In 1938 developed a manuscript named *Excalibur* that became the basis for Scientology. He supposedly based this on experience from being dead for eight minutes during an operation, or possibly from the effects of nitrous oxide during a dental extraction. He was unable to sell the manuscript for publication.
4. In 1945, moved in with Jack Parsons, rocket science pioneer and Thelemite occultist follower of Aleister Crowley. There he met Parsons' sister-in-law (and lover) Sara Northrup. During that time worked to create an occult ritual with Parsons called "Babalon Working"
5. Began working on a system called Dianetics in the late 1940's, leading to the publication in 1950 of *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*.
6. Under government pressure and American Medical Association criticism, a series of foundations failed until bankruptcy was declared in 1952. Millionaire Don Purcell had been a major backer of Hubbard and ended up with the copyright to *Dianetics*.
7. The falling out between Hubbard and Purcell soon led Hubbard to move to Phoenix and the establishment of Scientology. In Hubbard's words: "Dianetics is a science which applies to man, a living organism; and Scientology is a religion."
8. Hubbard worked to bring Dianetics and Scientology centers and practitioners under his control. Local centers would send 10% of income back to the central organization. Hubbard then took a percentage cut off the gross income of the central organization.
9. By 1966 mounting criticism and legal actions led to the formation of the Guardian's Office. The GO became the public front for Scientology and retaliated against threats made against the organization.
10. In 1967 Hubbard purchased a fleet of four ships and created Sea Org. He traveled around the globe seeking a place to base his Scientology operations. In the late 1970's he was back in the U.S. living in a series of apartments, hotels, and RVs.
11. Hubbard died after suffering a stroke in 1986.

C. Scientology today

1. It is unclear how many practicing Scientologists there are. They have made various claims of having 8-15 million followers worldwide.
 - a) One survey in 2001 suggested there were 55,000 adults in the U.S. that claimed to be Scientologists. Another in 2008 claimed there were 25,000\
 - b) A 2011 census in Canada showed 1,745 Scientologists. In New Zealand a Scientology spokespersons claimed there to be between 5,000 and 6,000 Scientologists although the 2006 census showed 357.
2. The leader since the death of Hubbard is David Miscavige.
3. Famous Scientologists include: Tom Cruise, John Travolta, Greta Van Susteren, Sonny Bono (may have left before he died), Priscilla Presley, Leah Remini (former), and Charles Manson (who eventually declared it "too crazy").

II. Sampler of Weirdness

A. Dianetics

1. The original “science” behind Scientology
2. Theory of the three-fold mind
 - a) Reactive mind – subconscious mind, a collection of past “mental image pictures” or memories. An “engram” is formed by the storing of a traumatic event in one’s past or past lives.
 - b) Analytical mind – computes decisions and can be affected by engrams to cause pain, sickness, mental illness, etc.
 - c) Somatic mind – connection to the physical body.
3. An “auditor” guides the patient to process the engrams until there are reprocesses as a past experience with no lasting effect.
4. A tool that can be employed in auditing is the “E-Meter”. This device is similar to a polygraph lie detector. It measures electrodermal activity in its user. Scientologists believe it can detect engrams being processed.
5. Being “clear” means that all engrams have been cleared from the reactive mind. In such a state Hubbard claimed that psychological and physical ailments could be eliminated, photographic memory would be attained, and one’s IQ could raise as much as 50 points.

B. Cosmology – a.k.a “Space Opera”

1. For example, 75,000,000 years ago a despotic cosmic ruler named Xenu ruled the Galactic Confederacy. He took billions of hostages to Earth (called Teegeeack) in DC-8-like crafts, stacked them on volcanoes, and blew them up with hydrogen bombs. Their souls, called “thetans”, were captured by Xenu using a “electric ribbon” and then reprogrammed by watching a 36 day long 3D movie while imprisoned in Hawaii and the Canary Islands. This reprogramming made the thetans forget who they were and was the origin of all world religions. The disembodied thetans clung to thetan bodies that survived the nuclear blast.
2. You would likely pay over \$100,000 for training in Scientology before learning that at the Operating Thetan level III and that’s after you’ve reached clear.
3. Oh, and you are probably being affected by bad things that happened to you on other planets during your past lives or the disembodied thetans that Xenu blew up..

C. Thetans

1. You are a thetan, an immortal soul.
2. Thetans willed themselves into being and created the material world. Basically all-powerful and all-knowing until they decided or forgot to be
3. With each them they are reembodyed (they don’t like the term reincarnation) the risk become less god-like and more attached to the physical world.
4. “Body thetans” are those that survived Xenu but cling to our bodies. They exert some influence over humans in something called “other-determinism” while Scientology seeks to remove their influence and return to “self-determinism”.

D. AND... I’m out of room to debunk this nonsense.

E. Basically, it is pseudoscience masked as religion but actually a pyramid scheme.