

World Religions: Scientology

1. Origins: Lafayette Ronald Hubbard (March 13, 1911 – January 24, 1986)

1. The official biography

1. He's the youngest Eagle Scout every
2. He travelled Asia extensively as a teenager
3. He attended many prestigious colleges and universities
4. He was a hero in WWII
5. His bio in many books even maintain that he was wounded mortally, claiming that “it was a matter of medical record that he has been twice pronounced dead and that in 1950 he was given a perfect score on mental and physical fitness reports”
6. Many credible reporters have discovered that these claims are exaggerated
 1. While he was supposed to have been travelling Asia, records indicate he was attending High School in America
 2. His medical records indicate that he was *never* crippled or wounded in WWII
 3. His advanced education:
 1. He claims a degree from Sequoia University ... which was shut down by the government after it was discovered to be nothing more than a two-story house issuing diplomas for a fee
 2. He regularly claims to be a nuclear physicist ... but he apparently took *one* college course in the subject, and failed it!
 3. He attended George Washington University for two years, but was placed on academic probation because of his poor grades
 4. He often lists Princeton in his bio, but in reality only took a three

month course there

2. His personal life

1. Hubbard met and married Sara Northrup while both were attending an occult group called the Ordo Templi Orientis

1. OTO is a cult that at the time was led by Aleister Crowley

1. Crowley's teachings would become a major part of Anton LaVey's version of Satanism

2. Crowley was involved in virtually every kind of cultic/magical practice you might imagine

3. Interestingly, he is depicted on the Beatles Sgt Pepper album cover

2. Why exactly Hubbard was attending these meetings is a great question - Scientology's answer is that he was working for the government in an attempt to expose the cult for what it was ... except there's no record of that being the case and undercover government agents generally don't marry one of their targets!

2. A few years later Sara discovered something rather curious ... Hubbard was *still married* to one Margaret Grubb for about a *year after* he married Sara

3. In 1951, she sued for divorce on the grounds of bigamy and other charges

1. In court, she testified that she was deprived of sleep, beaten, strangled, and encouraged to commit suicide if she “really loved him”

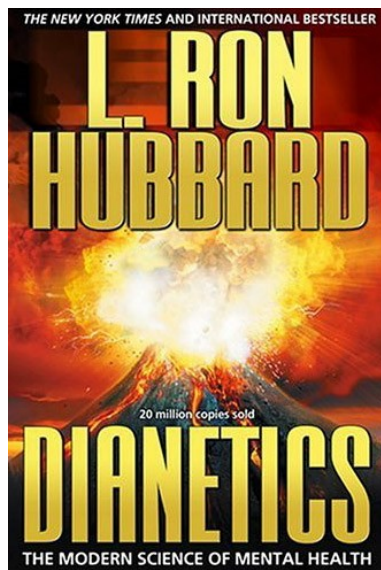
2. She also testified that Hubbard kidnapped their child and fled to Cuba

1. This charge in particular was verified by local newspapers of the time

3. She later wrote an official denunciation of these claims, but in personal interviews years later acknowledged that she did so only under pressure

3. His writing career

1. As noted in his bio, Hubbard earned his living primarily as a writer of science fiction throughout the 1930s and 40s
 2. He is by all accounts a very gifted writer
 1. For example, it appears he wrote all 180,000 words of *Dianetics* in three weeks!
 3. Time magazine (April 5, 1976) reported that at a science fiction convention in New Jersey in 1949 he claimed that “Writing for a penny a word is ridiculous. If a man really wanted to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion”
 4. Oddly enough, the very next year Hubbard did just that
4. The beginning of Scientology: *Dianetics*



Dianetics has gone through many covers; this is the most current

1. Claiming to be the collected wisdom gained from his life's experiences and his extensive research, Dianetics was published in 1950
 1. The term was coined by Hubbard, and means “through thought”
 2. Hubbard therefore touts Scientology as “science of the mind”
 3. Hubbard's skill as a fiction writer will serve him well over the coming

years, as he coins a whole host of new terms for his new religion

4. Interestingly, he uses the sci-fi magazine *Astounding* to first introduce his theories



Note the Dianetics reference in the bottom left corner

2. It sells remarkably well upon release
 3. Groups pop up all over the country of people interested in Dianetics and Hubbard's "mind science"
 4. Note that Hubbard has not yet founded the Church of Scientology, but the release of Dianetics is a pivotal moment
2. Some basic teachings of Dianetics
 1. Humanity is basically good

2. The basic instinct of all people is survival
3. Failure is the result of environmental and experiential pain
4. Two important keys to humanity's survival: avoiding pain and gaining pleasure
5. The structure of the mind:
 1. Three basic categories: analytical, reactive, and somatic
 1. Analytical mind is like a “perfect computer, it never makes a mistake”
 2. Reactive mind works on a “totally stimulus/response basis”
 1. The reactive mind stores engrams, the complete mental images of past painful environments and experiences
 3. Somatic mind takes information from the analytical and reactive and puts it into action in the physical body

3. Engrams and Dianetic therapy

1. Hubbard produced an electronic device, called an electronic galvanometer (E-meter), that when properly used is able to detect engrams in a person



The patient holds the metal tubes in hand while an auditor interprets the readings. The machines are sold to Scientology members for about \$4,000.

2. Those trained in the use of this machine and the accompanying Dianetic therapy are called auditors

1. Becoming an auditor requires extensive training

1. This is also remarkably expensive: research indicates a final cost to become an auditor of about \$56,000 (including your path to Clear)
3. Through countless (and expensive) therapy sessions, an individual is able to get rid of all their engrams ... but wait, there's more!
4. It was subsequently discovered that we also have untold past lives and these too have engrams of their own
5. After even more Dianetic therapy to remove the engrams of past lives, a person can at long last be declared "Clear" (previously you were "preclear")

1. Getting Clear can be quite expensive:

1. According to a 1994 report, Dianetic therapy goes for \$16/hour, purchased in \$200 increments
2. New Era Dianetic therapy (the really good stuff!) goes for \$256/hour, purchased in \$3,200 increments (unless you aren't a lifetime member: then it's \$320/hour)
3. This is in addition to the reported \$360 yearly membership fee or \$3,000 lifetime membership
4. Reliable estimates suggest that for you or I (preclear) to get to Clear would cost on average \$128,560



6. Having at last achieved freedom from the reactive mind, a Clear Scientologist can now embark on the next journey...

4. Thetans

1. Long ago, an intergalactic overlord named Xenu/Xemu dumped billions of his citizens on earth inside of volcanoes and placed with them hydrogen bombs!



1. It appears his galaxies were vastly overpopulated, so this was his method of population control
2. It should also be noted that some Scientologists view this story only as a metaphor for their mind science; others appear to take it more literally
 1. This is perhaps akin to Christians who take the Creation account as a metaphor vs those who take it literally
2. These citizens had their bodies blasted to bits, but their spirits survived
3. These spirits needed to be tricked into not going back to the overpopulated

planets, so they were “implanted” with information encouraging them to stay on Earth

1. One of these implants was the Christ-concept, which explains why people actually believe something as silly as a Messiah dying on a cross for the forgiveness of their sins
4. Having been effectively brainwashed, these spirits – called Thetans – sought out some of the few surviving bodies
5. Since there were so many of them and so few bodies, thousands of Thetans clung to any given body, with only one actually inhabiting it
6. That living flesh eventually evolved into you and I
7. So in truth you and I essentially *are* a spirit being – called a Thetan – wrapped in mere human flesh
 1. One ex-Scientologist describes this as “demon possession in reverse”; the Thetan (the real you) inhabits a body until it dies
8. Upon death, the Thetan (the real you) flies at blinding speed to an implant station (the nearest one is apparently on Mars) where it (you) will have the vast bulk of its (your) memory of this most recent life erased
9. Shortly thereafter, it will fly just as fast back to earth to enter the fleshly body of some newborn
 1. Apparently Thetans sometimes struggle over who gets what body
10. Thus the real you – the Thetan – continues to exist in a new form
 1. The earlier forms of you collected baggage from the reactive mind, which is in truth the “animal mind” of the mere fleshly body once inhabited
 2. This baggage makes up all of your engrams
 3. Given that the Thetan (you) has been around for millions of years, there are potentially **a lot** of engrams to deal with!

4. Additionally, you likely still have many, many “body Thetans” attached to you – they're rather like unconscious souls, and they should be removed so that they can inhabit bodies of their own
 5. What to do about all of this? Why, more Dianetic therapy, of course!
 11. Once you are able to grasp all of this, you progress (after more extensive and expensive training) to Operating Thetan (OT for short)
 12. Note: after his cruel overpopulation stunt, Xenu was overthrown and placed in a force field chamber powered by an eternal battery ... yes, he's still out there!
5. OT (Operating Thetan)
1. As an OT, you are taught that the world around you is merely MEST
 1. Matter, Energy, Space, and Time
 2. You alone – the Thetan, that is – are above MEST
 2. With proper training, an OT can gain control over the MEST world around her
 3. OTs eventually realize that the body, being merely MEST, is insignificant and can therefore have out-of-body experiences, called “exteriorization”
 4. As you progress deeper and deeper into Scientology, you gain more and more control over your physical environment
 1. This level of mastery is labelled: OT I, OT II, OT III, etc...
 2. Once upon a time OT VIII was the highest, but I've heard rumors that IX may now be possible...
 3. Hubbard claimed OT VIII status, of course

