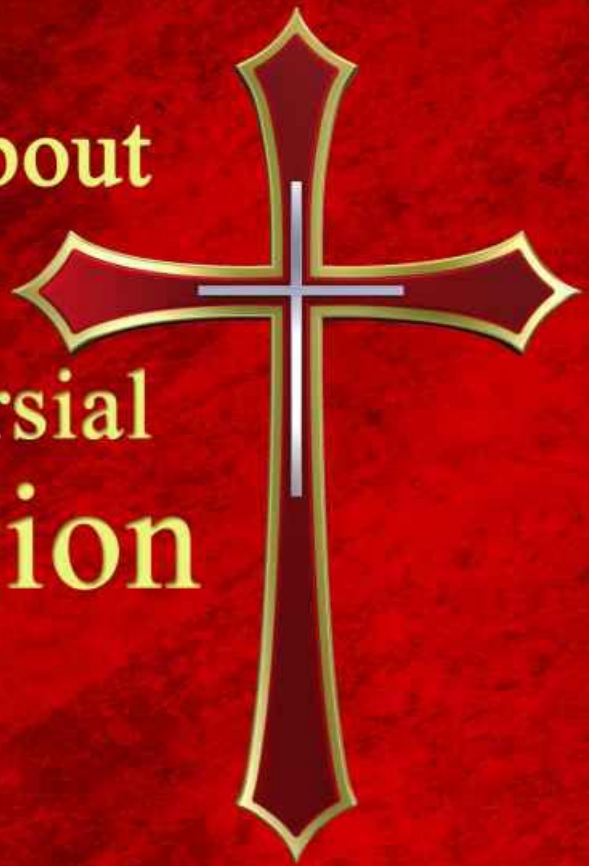


Scientology EXPOSED

The Truth about
the Most
Controversial
Religion



L.A. Klein

Scientology Exposed: The Truth about the World's Most Controversial Religion

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[Intro](#)

[Chapter 1: History of Scientology](#)

[What Does "Scientology" Mean?](#)

[Dianetics](#)

[The Church of Scientology](#)

[Expansion and Conflict](#)

[Chaotic Dogma](#)

[Scientology Today](#)

[Scientology Time-line](#)

[Chapter 2: Scientology Beliefs](#)

[The "God" of Scientology](#)

[Origins of the Universe](#)

[Human Origins](#)

[Releasing Your Thetan](#)

[Scientology Morals and Ethics](#)

[Mental Status](#)

[ARC and KRC](#)

[Human Nature](#)

[Scientology Ceremonies](#)

[Chapter 3: Scientology Controversies](#)

[Scientology vs. Psychology](#)

[Lisa McPherson](#)

[Other Deaths](#)

[A for-Profit Religion?](#)

[Chapter 4: Scientology vs. the Internet](#)

[alt.religion.scientology](#)

[Google](#)

[YTMND](#)

[Wikipedia](#)

[WikiLeaks](#)

[Anonymous](#)

[Scientology Lawsuit Recap](#)

[Chapter 5: Scientologist Celebrities](#)

[Other Celebrities Associated with Scientology](#)

[Conclusion](#)

Intro

Welcome to the Scientology Exposed. This is L.A. Klein, and in this book we'll be covering the basics of Scientology, as well as the more mysterious aspects of it that most people are unaware of. One thing you should be aware of is the fact that this book seeks to present this subject matter as objectively and unbiased as possible. I'm not trying to convert you to Scientology, and I'm not trying to misrepresent it either. Ultimately your views and opinions about Scientology are up to you.

That being said, it is true that there are a lot of misconceptions about Scientology. Considering the unique nature of the religion and the fact that it is often misrepresented in the media and by word of mouth, it can be hard to tell fact from fiction. On top of that there are many conspiracy theories and stories about Scientology that are presented from a biased perspective, especially on the Internet.

Further muddling the truth is the fact that the reality of Scientology is often times weirder than the conspiracy theories and misinformation that is spread around about it. This has led to many people having a warped view of Scientology and many more not really knowing what to think about it. This book will clear up these misconceptions and give you a chance to take an honest look at Scientology.

Perhaps one of the most fascinating things about Scientology is the fact that it attracts big name celebrities such as Tom Cruise and John Travolta. We'll get to the bottom of this phenomenon and see what makes this religion so appealing to them and even go over a few specific examples. The truth may surprise you.

Chapter 1: History of Scientology

"I have high hopes of smashing my name into history so violently that it will take a legendary form even if all books are destroyed." - L. Ron Hubbard

Before we begin to dig into the best kept secrets of Scientology, let's go over the basics. This will help you get a clear understanding of what this religion is all about and how it works. One thing of particular note is the fact that the Church of Scientology is officially recognized as a religion in some countries while not in others. Here is a list of those that recognize it and those that don't:

Countries that Recognize Scientology as a Religion:

- ñ United States of America
- ñ Sweden
- ñ Spain
- ñ Portugal
- ñ Slovenia
- ñ Croatia
- ñ Hungary
- ñ Kyrgyzstan
- ñ Republic of China (Taiwan)
- ñ Australia

Countries that Don't Recognize Scientology as a Religion:

- ñ Germany
- ñ Canada
- ñ France
- ñ Greece
- ñ Belgium
- ñ United Kingdom
- ñ Finland
- ñ Israel
- ñ Mexico
- ñ Russia

Interestingly enough, when Scientology was first introduced in the 50's, it was recognized as a religion by the US, only to have that status revoked by the IRS later in 1967. It would be over a quarter of a century before Scientology gained recognition as a religion once again in 1993.

What Does “Scientology” Mean?

The term “Scientology” can be traced back as far as 1901, used by author Allen Upward. It was defined as “a disparaging term, to indicate a blind, unthinking acceptance of scientific doctrine.” This use of the word would have nothing at all to do with the religion of Scientology that would arise over fifty years later, yet many people who have no knowledge of the Church of Scientology often times think this is an accurate definition.

The modern usage of the word Scientology is a combination of the Latin words “sciens” (knowing) and “logos” (the study of). However, the exact meaning translates to something more along the lines of “the study and handling of the spirit in relationship to itself, universes, and other life” according to the Church of Scientology.

Dianetics

Scientology was founded by pulp fiction author L. Ron Hubbard who specialized in writing science fiction. He was also the creator of Dianetics, a self-help system. Dianetics centered around using a form of psychotherapy known as "auditing" to allow individuals to relive past traumatic experiences and release them.

Dianetics was rejected by the medical community in the late 40's, yet Hubbard continued to gain supporters and eventually had a modest following with the book "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health" becoming a New York Times best-seller. This in turn led to the founding of the Hubbard Dianetic Research Foundation in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

The organization was short lived however. Repeated criticism from the medical community led to the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners instituting legal proceedings against Hubbard's organization for teaching medicine without a license. Oddly enough, this seemed to contradict the claims of many detractors in the medical community who claimed that Dianetics wasn't a true medical practice. In any case, the legal proceedings led to the bankruptcy of Hubbard's organization

The Church of Scientology

While Hubbard's financial resources had been depleted, he still had a modest following that was continuing to grow. While some members were still hoping that Dianetics would be taken seriously in the medical community, Hubbard went in the opposite direction.

The break from the medical science angle came due to the fact that many users of Dianetics reported experiencing memories of past lives. The Dianetics community was divided over this, but Hubbard sided with those espousing these claims, essentially killing all hope of getting Dianetics recognized as medical science.

Whereas Dianetics was rejected as medical science, The Church of Scientology would come to be accepted as a religion.

In 1952, Hubbard published new teachings. Using Dianetics as a foundation, Scientology was officially born. A year later, three official churches would be founded in Camden, New Jersey: the Church of Spiritual Engineering, the Church of American Science, and the Church of Scientology.

The movement continued to grow and in 1954 the Church of Scientology of California was founded. Gaining international momentum, a church was also founded in Auckland, New Zealand.

Expansion and Conflict

As the years passed, more churches were founded, and in 1957 the movement was officially recognized as a religion by the IRS, giving it tax-exempt status. However, this major victory was tempered by the challenges that were to come.

In the early 60's, the Church of Scientology came into conflict with the Food and Drug Administration over the use of devices known as E-meters. This culminated in a raid by the FDA in which they seized hundreds of E-meters proclaiming that they were "illegal medical devices." This claim was seemingly contradicted by the FDA itself a short time later when they required that all E-meters must carry a disclaimer stating that it is only a religion artifact.

More trouble for the Church of Scientology began when several Australian states began to ban the religion, starting with Victoria in 1965. The reason for the ban was based on the [Anderson Report](#) , which stated that the auditing process involves "command hypnosis" in which the auditor assumes direct control over the person being audited.

The Church of Scientology spent decades fighting the ban in an attempt to overturn it. In the meantime they operated under the name "Church of New Faith." The Psychological Practice Act 1965, the document that essentially banned Scientology, was amended in 1982 to remove all references to the Church of Scientology, in effect ending the ban. The entire piece of legislation was repealed in 1987.

Chaotic Dogma

The following years were chaotic times as far as Scientology dogma was concerned. Hubbard rapidly introduced new doctrine which was often times self-contradictory. During these times, loyalty to Hubbard himself seemed more important in the organization than interpretation of doctrine. In 1966, Hubbard stepped down as the executive director of Scientology to focus his efforts on research and writing.

The following year, he founded Sea Organization, better known as Sea Org. This became Hubbard's inner circle and was an elite group within the Church of Scientology. Appropriately, Sea Org was based aboard three ships, the Athena, the Apollo, and the Diana.

Merely one month after founding Sea Org, Hubbard stated that he had made a breakthrough discovery. This discovery took the form of the "OT III" doctrine (the now infamous Xenu scriptures) which he distributed throughout the organization.

Less than a year later in 1967, the IRS concluded a long-time investigation into Scientology and decreed that it was not a religion or charity, but an organization operated solely for the financial benefit of Hubbard himself. This repealed the Church of Scientology's tax-exempt status, dealing a crushing blow to the organization.

The Church of Scientology wouldn't back down, however, and challenged the ruling. This led to the longest case of litigation against the IRS in history with the case being resolved over a quarter of a century later in 1993 in the Church of Scientology's favor.

More conflict followed, and over the coming decades the Church of Scientology had conflicts with the FBI, the government of Germany, splinter organizations such as the Free Zone, and the Cult of Awareness Network. Midst this turmoil, L. Ron Hubbard died in 1986 at his ranch in California. He was succeeded as head of the organization by David Miscavige.

Scientology Today

Scientology has remained relatively free of controversy and conflict in the new millennium, at least in comparison to the past fifty years of its history. A notable incident includes a court in Paris finding the French Church of Scientology guilty of fraud in 2009 after two former members of the organization claimed that they were pressured into spending huge amounts of money on various Scientology related services and products. It should be mentioned that Scientology is not legally recognized as a religion in France.

These days Scientology often finds itself in the public eye due to the fact that many big name celebrities tend to flock to it. Scientology has also become more widely scrutinized after it and Tom Cruise were the subject of a *South Park* episode on Comedy Central. The now infamous episode parodied top level Scientology doctrine that was leaked when former member Steven Fishman released ultra-confidential documents of the church.

The total number of members of the Church of Scientology is something of a mystery due to a wide variety of claims by different organizations. The Church of Scientology itself stated in 2005 that it had eight million members across the globe. This number was skewed however, since it included anyone who took their introductory course, regardless of whether or not they continued on with the church.

Later in 2007, an official of the Church of Scientology stated that 3.5 million members lived in the United States of America. This contradicted a 2001 survey by the City University of New York that reported fifty-five thousand people in the US were members of the Church of Scientology.

In 2008, it was estimated by the American Religious Identification Survey that the number of US members of the church had fallen to twenty-five thousand. Further complicating matters is the fact that, according to the church, members of the Church of Scientology many times retain previous religious affiliation/ties and report these on surveys instead of Scientology.

A more realistic estimate of worldwide Scientology membership would be one hundred thousand to two hundred thousand members, although this estimate probably isn't completely accurate either.

Scientology Time-line

Here is a quick time-line that will help you get an understanding of how Scientology developed as well as some important dates in its history.

1938

ñ Author L. Ron Hubbard writes a document known as Excalibur. Ideas and concepts from this document would later be incorporated into the greater Scientology philosophy.

1949

ñ Hubbard publishes his first writings on the Dianetics system. This first work was entitled "Terra Incognita: The Mind" and appeared in the magazine Explorers Club Journal.

ñ At this time Hubbard also submitted his material on the human mind to the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association. They were ultimately rejected and not accepted as a part of medical science.

1950

ñ Hubbard's book "Dianetics - The Modern Science of Mental Health," is published.

1952

ñ Joseph Winter M.D., an early supporter of Hubbard and Dianetics, defects from the movement, stating "it is dangerous for laymen to try to audit each other."

ñ A major split in the early Scientology movement occurs when the board of directors of the Hubbard Dianetic Foundation of Wichita, Kansas voted to file bankruptcy upon learning that it had inherited the debts of the defunct Hubbard Dianetic Research Foundation of Elizabeth, New Jersey. Hubbard strongly opposed the filing for bankruptcy and went on to found rival Hubbard College in Wichita as well as disputing the copyrights to the concept of Dianetics material.

ñ Following this falling out, Hubbard officially establishes the philosophy/religion of Scientology and creates the Hubbard Association of Scientologists International. During this time he also revealed the E-meter and moved to Phoenix, Arizona.

1953

ñ Hubbard and others officially incorporated the Church of Scientology, the Church of American Science, and the Church of Spiritual Engineering in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

1954

ñ The Church of Scientology is subsequently incorporated in Arizona and California.

ñ The IRS also grants tax exemption to the Church of Scientology in California as well.

1955

ñ The Founding Church of Scientology is created in Washington D.C. This has become known as the Original Founding Church of Scientology.

1957

ñ Scientology is granted recognition as a tax-exempt religious organization across the US, granting it official legal status as a religion nationwide.

1963

ñ The FDA raids the Original Founding Church of Scientology and seizes nearly one hundred E-meters. This leads to the E-meters having to carry a disclaimer citing that it is a religious artifact, not a medical device.

1965

ñ Scientology is banned in several Australian states due to the Anderson Report.

1966

ñ Drug rehab center [Narconon](#) is founded. There is controversy over its connection to Scientology and its rehab methods.

1967

ñ The IRS revokes the tax-exempt status of Scientology, stating that it functions simply as a commercial venture for the benefit of Hubbard.

ñ OT III and the story of Xenu are made available for advanced members of the Church of Scientology. This remains one of the largest controversies of the organization, since it was leaked in the 90's, to this day.

ñ Sea Org, an elite, inner circle of Scientology is founded.

ñ Advanced levels of Scientology are established on board the ship the Royal Scottsman (later renamed the Apollo). These levels, known as Advanced Organization and offered to those who qualified.

1969

ñ The US court of appeals recognizes Scientology as a religion, a major breakthrough for them in the case of Scientology vs. the FDA.

1970

ñ The Scientology Celebrity Center is founded in Los Angeles, California.

- 1971**
ñ Another victory in court for Scientology as the FDA is ordered to return all materials seized in the 1963 raid.
- 1975**
ñ Scientology is recognized as a non-profit by the country of South Africa.
- 1977**
ñ Various Scientology establishments and locations are raided by the FBI.
- 1979**
ñ Eleven senior officials in the Church of Scientology's Guardian Office (a body dedicated to handling legal affairs and public relations) are arrested on charges including obstruction of justice, burglary of government offices, and theft of government property. The events leading up to this are known among Scientologists as "[Operation: Snow White](#)."
ñ Also in this year a group of around three thousand gather in Clearwater City Hall in Florida to protest the Church of Scientology coming to the city. There have also been reports of a counter protest held across the street by members of the Church of Scientology dressed as clowns and with some members wearing animal costumes.
- 1982**
ñ The Clearwater government holds a hearing to explore allegations that Scientology is a cult.
- 1983**
ñ The High Court of Australia determines Scientology to be a religion and its tax-exempt status is restored.
ñ Fallout from the FBI raids in the US led to the Church of Scientology in Toronto being raided. This produced two court cases: R. v. Church of Scientology Toronto and Hill v. Church of Scientology Toronto.
- 1986**
ñ Hubbard dies on his ranch near San Louis Obispo, California. Chairman of the board of Author Services Inc., David Miscavige, becomes the head of the organization.
- 1992**
ñ As a result of R. v. Church of Scientology of Toronto, the Church of Scientology is found guilty of two counts of breach of public trust in Ontario. A fine of \$250,000 is levied and seven members are convicted.
- 1993**
ñ The IRS once again grants religious recognition and tax-exempt status to the Church of Scientology and all of its facilities and organizations across the US.
- 1994**
ñ A number of ultra-classified Operating Thetan level documents are leaked onto the primitive Internet of the time. This has led to Scientology's ongoing Internet campaign that struggles to suppress this information through threats of lawsuits and other legal actions. These suppression efforts continue to this day, but are rarely successful.
- 1995**
ñ As a result of the fallout of R. v. Church of Scientology of Toronto, which led to Hill v. Church of Scientology of Toronto, the Supreme Court of Canada upholds the largest libel award in Canadian history with the Church of Scientology forced to pay C\$300,000 in general damages, C\$500,000 in aggravated damages, and C\$800,000 in punitive damages for a total of \$1,600,000 Canadian dollars.
- 1996**
ñ The Church of Scientology creates the Golden Age of Tech program to help improve the training of its practitioners.
ñ The Church of Scientology of Paris is closed due to non-payment of taxes (The Church of Scientology is not tax-exempt in France). A new church immediately opens after the closing.
ñ Another major controversy, the 1995 death of Scientologist Lisa McPherson is leaked to the public.
- 1997**
ñ A wrongful death lawsuit is filed in conjunction with the McPherson case.
ñ The Church of Scientology's branch in Greece, known as the Greek Center of Applied Philosophy, is ordered to be closed.
- 1998**

- ñ State Attorney Bernie McCabe charges the Church of Scientology with two felonies in connection with the McPherson case.
- ñ The Church of Scientology launches a \$160 million construction effort to build the huge Flag Building in Clearwater, Florida.

1999

- ñ The Charity Commission of England and Wales rejects the Church of Scientology as a charitable/religious organization and denies it tax-exempt status.
- ñ Sweden approves of the Church of Scientology as a charitable/religious organization and grants it the right to perform wedding ceremonies a year later.

2000

- ñ In Italy, the Supreme Court maintains that Scientology is a religion and has a tax-exempt status. However, it also maintains that Narconon (The Church of Scientology's drug rehab organization) is a for-profit business and should not be tax-exempt.
- ñ In South Africa, Scientology ministers are granted the right to perform marriage ceremonies.
- ñ The Church of Scientology is exempt from value added tax in the UK and is considered a non-profit organization.
- ñ The criminal case involving Lisa McPherson's death is dropped due to the medical examiner having a change in opinion about the cause of death.

2002

- ñ New Zealand and Austria formally recognizes Scientology as a tax-exempt religion and charitable organization.
- ñ In France, a thirteen-year-old case against Scientology alleging illegal practice of medicine and fraud expires due to the statute of limitation.

2003

- ñ Taiwan officially recognizes the Church of Scientology as a charitable and religious organization.

2004

- ñ The Church of Scientology and the estate of Lisa McPherson reach a private, out of court settlement.
- ñ The Golden Age of Knowledge is announced by David Miscavige as a program to make all Scientology materials available. 18 congresses are released as a part of the first step.

2005

- ñ Kyrgyzstan officially recognizes Scientology as a religion.

2006

- ñ The Church of Scientology applies for religious recognition in Austria but later withdraws its application.

2007

- ñ Eighteen revised books and eleven lecture series are released as a part of the next step of the Golden Age of Knowledge.
- ñ The European Court of Human Rights rules that Russia's refusal to consider and denial of Scientology's application for status as a legally accepted religion has no legal basis.
- ñ In Belgium, a state prosecutor recommends that a court case should be brought against the Belgian Church of Scientology and the Scientology Office of Human Rights due to counts of organized crime, illegal medical practice, fraud, extortion and more. The proposal ends up being referred to an administrative court that will decide what charges will be levied against the church later.
- ñ Scientology is officially recognized as a religion by Spain and Portugal.
- ñ South Africa grants Scientology tax-exempt status.

ñ Various German state and interior ministers call for the German intelligence agencies to begin an investigation into Scientology for allegedly pursuing non-constitutional goals. Their aim was to ultimately have the religion banned. Various politicians speak out against this, citing that a ban would be doomed to failure. The intelligence agencies also stated the same. However, intelligence surveillance commences.

2008

ñ Anonymous, an internet based “hactivist” group launches a project named Chanology in retaliation against Scientology's efforts at information suppression online.

ñ Germany gives up on its efforts to ban Scientology as no unconstitutional or illegal activities are found but intelligence surveillance continues.

ñ Former Church of Scientology member Mario Majorski is gunned down while approaching the Scientology Celebrity Center in Hollywood wielding two samurai swords.

2009

ñ Scientologists are convicted of fraud in France

Chapter 2: Scientology Beliefs

*“You are a spirit, then
a god,
full capable
of making space
and energy and time
and all things well.
And there you crouch, forgotten
to yourself and hidden from
the eyes of all
pretending there to be
a beast
that walks and eats and dies .”
- L. Ron Hubbard*

In addition to the origins of Scientology, much of what they believe and their doctrine are either misunderstood or unknown by the general public. Due to the relatively obscure and secretive nature of the church, this is understandable. Until Scientology began receiving large amounts of attention by the media due to celebrity involvement and controversial incidents, most people probably didn't even know it existed.

Let's go over some of the core beliefs of Scientology and clear up any misunderstandings. Also, keep in mind that much of Scientology doctrine is somewhat chaotic and at times can seem self-contradictory, leaving much of it open to interpretation.

The “God” of Scientology

One thing that many people wonder is whether or not Scientologists believe in a God. This is somewhat difficult to answer. Looking at it one way, Scientology could be considered monotheistic (belief in one God), looking at it another way could make it seem more polytheistic (belief in many gods), and looking at it yet another way could make it seem atheistic (belief in no gods, similar to Buddhism and other Eastern religions).

The reason for this confusion is the fact that the doctrine of Scientology does make passing reference to a Supreme Being (known as Infinity, and representing the universal survival instinct) occasionally. That being said, not much emphasis is placed on this mysterious being. Instead Scientology revolves more heavily around the concept of a “thetan”.

Thetans are, according to the Church of Scientology, a race of primordial spiritual beings with nearly infinite spiritual power that brought the universe into existence for their own pleasure. This could equate the thetans to “gods” yet somewhat contradicts the idea of a “Supreme Being.”

Further complicating things is the fact that, according to doctrine, the thetans no longer exist as perfect spiritual beings but are now mortal, implying that there are no gods/God.

So the ultimate answer to whether or not Scientologists have a God is that it all depends on how the doctrine is interpreted. Regardless of that fact, Scientology does not involve worship of any sort, making the question mostly irrelevant.

Origins of the Universe

Most religions seek to answer big questions like “Why are we here?” and “How did the universe begin?” Scientology is notably less concerned with matters such as this and focuses more on practical application of doctrine in a person's life. However, as stated before, the doctrine of the Church of Scientology does include an origin story.

According to this doctrine, the perfect spiritual beings, the thetans, created the universe in ancient times for their own pleasure as previously stated. However, becoming too caught up in the wonder of their creation, the thetans soon began to identify with the physical world rather than their perfect spiritual existence. Over time, this led to the thetans losing their memory of their origins and becoming mortal.

However, despite this, the thetans are incapable of being erased from existence. They continually reincarnate as sentient beings, including humans, over and over again. With each reincarnation the thetans lose more and more of their spiritual power and become more and more beholden to the physical laws of the universe they themselves created. In a sense, Scientology is all about thetans (human souls) regaining their spiritual power.

It should be noted that despite the progressive degeneration of thetans, the physical universe still exists as a product of the will and existence of thetans and has no autonomous existence of its own. In other words, if all thetans were to be destroyed the universe itself would cease to exist.

Human Origins

The Scientology doctrine explaining human origins has been the source of plenty of controversy over the years, particularly during the 90's and the first decade of the new millennium. This is because the doctrine containing the human origin story was considered highly confidential material and was leaked by a former member Robert Kaufman in his 1972 book "Inside Scientology" and later by another former member, Steven Fishman in 1993. Thanks to the primitive internet of the 90's, this doctrine, which was previously only available to high ranking members of the Church, is now widely known.

Perhaps the most notable example of this information being disseminated among the public would be an episode of *South Park* on Comedy Central. We'll get into that story a bit later.

According to official Scientology doctrine, the origin of the human race dates back to seventy-five million years ago. At the time an overlord named Xenu ruled a huge galactic confederacy consisting of multiple planets and star systems, including Earth, then known as Teegeeeack.

Overpopulation was a major problem, and Xenu was on the cusp of being overthrown for his failure to address it. Devising a plan, Xenu tricked and rounded up billions upon billions of his citizens and transported them to Teegeeeack, the planet that was to act as the site of their extermination. He then imprisoned the people in volcanoes and placed hydrogen bombs in the volcanoes, detonating them simultaneously.

The genocide succeeded in exterminating most of the physical bodies of the victims (there were a few survivors) but was, of course, unable to destroy the thetan, the people's souls. Xenu then proceeded to phase two of his plan and captured the disembodied souls with a device known as an electronic ribbon.

The souls were then taken to certain locations known as "vacuum zones" and forced to watch 3D movies containing various types of indoctrination involving concepts such as God, the Devil, and various other modern day and past religious material. This "misleading data," as Hubbard called it, became known in Scientology doctrine as the R6 implant.

This brainwashing had another interesting effect on the thetans, they lost their sense of individuality. This being the case, the disembodied thetans clustered together in the thousands, merging with and corrupting the few survivors of the genocide. These corrupted thetan clusters would become the ancient ancestors of humanity.

As for Xenu, he was finally overthrown by a rival government faction known as the Loyal Officers and sealed away. It is speculated that he was sealed on Earth, but his current whereabouts are unknown. The Earth was then abandoned by the confederacy and regarded as a worthless prison planet. According to doctrine, the earth is occasionally the victim of "Invader Forces," possibly an explanation for alien/UFO activity, though it wasn't specific in stating that.

This story is referred to in Scientology doctrine as Incident II or "The Wall of Fire" and is only taught at very high levels of the Church to those who have completed various requirements to advance to that level.

Interestingly enough, since the first big leak of the Xenu story in the mid 90's, the Church of Scientology has simultaneously denied its existence and claimed copyright of the story as confidential religious material. Some Scientologist says that the story isn't meant to be taken literally and is a spiritual metaphor of sorts meant to help with spiritual progression.

Releasing Your Thetan

The human existence as a corrupted cluster of thetans is one of the core concepts of the doctrine of the Church of Scientology. As a religion, Scientology focuses much more heavily on practical application in one's life rather than worship or codes of conduct. This practical application focuses on spiritual evolution and advancement.

The Church of Scientology is divided into several achievement levels: Preclear, Clear, and Operating Thetan.

Members start as Preclear, and go through various auditing sessions to eliminate "engrams," painful ancient and recent stored memories. This is done using an E-meter, which tracks natural electrical output from the human body and is known as "The Bridge to Total Freedom."

During sessions, the auditor asks questions and when he/she detects a spike in electrical output, it is a sign of an engram. Getting the person being audited to talk about these memories allows them to nullify the engram and progress closer to becoming Clear.

Reaching level Clear allows a person to exist in a higher state of spiritual and mental capability according to Scientology doctrine. Hubbard describes someone who has reached Clear as "a being that no longer has his own reactive mind, and therefore suffers none of the ill effects the reactive mind can cause."

Reaching level Clear takes time and many sessions of auditing in addition to other requirements involving Dianetics. The estimated total cost of reaching Clear status is \$128,000 USD.

The final level of Scientology is known as Operating Thetan. However, OT, as it is known, consists of many sub-levels, allowing people to continue their spiritual journey. The known levels of OT are OT I – OT VIII. Allegedly there are seven additional levels, going all the way up to OT XV, although info on this is murky at best.

The ultimate goal while progressing on the path of Operating Thetan is to achieve something known as Cleared Theta Clear. This spiritual and mental state is described as "A thetan that is completely rehabilitated and can do everything a thetan should do, such as move MEST and control others from a distance, or create his own universe."

It should be noted that "MEST" stands for "matter, energy, space, time," the physical universe essentially. That is to say, anyone who reaches the stage of Cleared Theta Clear becomes like the original thetans and is no longer bound by the physical universe, essentially making them a god-like being. There have been no reports of anyone ever reaching this level.

Scientology Morals and Ethics

Unlike many other religions which have strict tenants and rules to follow, Scientology places rationality above emotion and morality. That being said, Scientology places the highest value on actions that promote well-being among the greatest number of individuals and in turn reduces suffering to a minimum. One way of interpreting this would be that each person should strive to work for the “greater good” of mankind and the universe itself.

The core of this teaching is the concept of survival and the “8 Dynamics,” not to be confused with the “8 Way Path” of Buddhism. The dynamics are as follows:

- ñ **First Dynamic: Self** – Individual survival instinct.
- ñ **Second Dynamic: Creativity** – Reproduction
- ñ **Third Dynamic: Group Survival** – The creation and survival of super organisms (communities, friends, nations, etc.)
- ñ **Fourth Dynamic: Species** – The survival of mankind
- ñ **Fifth Dynamic: Life Forms** – The survival of all living things
- ñ **Sixth Dynamic: Physical Universe** – The survival of the physical universe itself
- ñ **Seventh Dynamic: Spiritual Dynamic** – The survival of the spiritual self and the spiritual universe
- ñ **Eighth Dynamic: Infinity** – The Supreme Being/Creator. Allness of all.

Despite the fact that the Supreme Being is once again mentioned here, it is still left somewhat ambiguous. The Supreme Being of Scientology doesn't issue forth any commands or guidelines to live by, but rather can be interpreted as the universal survival instinct itself. This could be interpreted as the one “commandment” of Scientology itself, “survive.”

However, in accordance with the 8 Dynamics, actions which promote the greatest amount of survivability among the separate dynamics are favored. For example, sacrificing many others to save your own friends/family would be frowned upon. Alternately sacrificing yourself and/or your friends and family to save many others would be deemed the best choice in accordance with Scientology's placement of rationality above emotion and their adherence to working toward the greater good of all.

This in turn breeds a sense of selflessness, with members of Scientology preferably dedicated to the well-being of others over their own personal interests. Due to the fact that human nature makes adhering to this doctrine at all times practically impossible, the 8 Dynamics is seen more as an ideal that one should aspire to, not a rigorous code of conduct.

It should also be mentioned that the main symbol of Scientology, the cross with four star spikes which forms an eight pointed star, represents the 8 Dynamics. Oddly enough, the eight pointed star is also a representation of Chaos both in fiction and some esoteric religions.

Mental Status

In the doctrine of Scientology there are two principal mental states: the reactive mind and the analytical mind. The reactive mind is seen as the portion of the mind that stores painful emotional memories (engrams) and acts upon these memories, usually with negative consequences. The analytical mind is the portion of the mind that functions rationally and preferably in accordance with the 8 Dynamics.

Members of the Church of Scientology are encouraged to embrace the rational mind while dealing with the reactive mind by other means such as auditing and other practices using Dianetics.

It is said that the reactive mind and the engrams that it contains move people away from their true selves. One of the primary goals of Scientology is to help a person dispose of these engrams and free themselves from the reactive mind's influence. This is the journey from Preclear to Clear that we previously discussed.

ARC and KRC

In addition to embracing the ideology of the 8 Dynamics and the continual spiritual journey, Scientologists also acknowledge the philosophical concepts of ARC and KRC. These two concepts are oftentimes represented by two triangles. In one of the symbols used to represent Scientology the two triangles are pictured intertwined with an "S."

ARC stands for affinity, reality, and communication. The essence of this doctrine is that a person should strive for increased affinity for others and themselves (love, compassion, etc.), consensual reality, and exchange of ideas. While it is said that increasing any of the three will in turn increase the overall "level" of the triangle, communication is considered to be the most important.

It is also said that social problems are the result of a breakdown of the ARC and its components. The failure to develop affinity, the lack of a consensus of reality, and failure to communicate are said to lead to problems such as "overts," acting out harmfully against others, and "withholds," concealing such harmful behavior and therefore damaging relationships.

ARC is sometimes used as a term of affection in communications, such as placing it at the end of an email.

KRC is similar in structure and application as the ARC. It stands for knowledge, responsibility, and control. Breakdowns of the KRC can likewise lead to undesirable situations.

Human Nature

The Church of Scientology has a somewhat unique view of human nature. According to doctrine, about 80 percent of humanity are known as “social personalities” which contribute to the greater good and welfare of others. The other 20 percent are malevolent “suppressive personalities” and actively harm others. According to Hubbard, only about 2.5 percent of that 20 percent are irredeemable individuals such as true sociopaths and psychopaths.

Doctrine dictates that contact with a suppressive personality of any level is harmful, especially to one's spiritual condition. That being the case, contact with suppressive personalities is discouraged, though not expressly forbidden.

It should also be noted that there are no objective standards for who is a social personality and who is a suppressive personality. This leaves things open to interpretation. An example of this would be the fact that people who defect from the Church of Scientology and become outspoken critics of it are often labeled as suppressive personalities. In addition to this, church members who maintain contact with someone deemed a suppressive personality can be labeled as a “Potential Trouble Source.”

Scientology Ceremonies

Official religious ceremonies play a relatively small part in the religious lives of Scientologists. Services are held on Fridays and are used to commemorate the religious activities of the previous week.

In addition to religious services, the Church of Scientology also performs weddings, funerals, and child naming. Activities such as these are performed by the church's ordained ministers.

Overall, religious ceremonies are much less common than in many other religions. In Scientology, religious activities are most often left up to the members to pursue on their own time.

Chapter 3: Scientology Controversies

"Man is sick and nations have gone mad ." - L. Ron Hubbard

Before we get on with this section, I want to once again remind you that this book attempts to be as objective as possible. This section isn't meant to portray Scientology in a bad light, but rather to simply state the facts as accurately as possible and let you come to your own conclusions.

In addition to that, the Church of Scientology should not be judged as a whole by the actions of a few. Every religion has individuals who harbor malevolent intent and are a poor reflection of their religion and what it stands for, Scientology is no exception.

That being said, let's take a look at some of the biggest controversies that have plagued the Church of Scientology.

Scientology vs. Psychology

Since its conception, Scientology has been extremely opposed to psychology and psychiatry. This stems from Hubbard's own hate for both medical fields and has played a part in shaping the course of Scientology doctrine to this day.

Hubbard's own hatred for psychiatry was undeniable. He has described mental health professionals as “an anti-social enemy of the people, “kill crazy,” and as setting “an all-time record for inhumanity to Man.”

It should be mentioned that electro-shock therapy and lobotomies were practiced as a part of psychiatry back in Hubbard's day. Despite these practices being phased out, the Church of Scientology hasn't become more accepting of this field of medicine.

The Church of Scientology considers psychiatric care to be abusive and counterproductive to natural spiritual healing. Scientology's harsh criticism of these two fields of medical care has stirred up a lot of controversy over the years and was a part of the Lisa McPherson incident, perhaps their most well-known controversy.

Another controversy stemming from Scientology's hatred for psychology was their failed attempt to infiltrate the National Association of Mental Health in Britain. Their plan was to turn national policy against mental health treatment, but they were discovered and all infiltrators were dismissed from the organization.

During the Operation Snow White incident, it was also revealed that the Church of Scientology agents affiliated with their Guardian's Office also engaged in similar campaigns against the World Federation for Mental Health, as well as the National Association of Mental Health.

Another extremely controversial topic related to Scientology's war on psychology is the fact that legal waivers and documentation that members must sign include a part forbidding the member to seek any form of psychiatric or psychological aid. Here is an excerpt from a 2003 media report on these documents:

“I do not believe in or subscribe to psychiatric labels for individuals. It is my strongly held religious belief that all mental problems are spiritual in nature and that there is no such thing as a mentally incompetent person — only those suffering from spiritual upset of one kind or another dramatized by an individual.

“I reject all psychiatric labels and intend for this contract to clearly memorialize my desire to be helped exclusively through religious, spiritual means and not through any form of psychiatric treatment, specifically including involuntary commitment based on so-called lack of competence. Under no circumstances, at any time, do I wish to be denied my right to care from members of my religion to the exclusion of psychiatric care or psychiatric directed care, regardless of what any psychiatrist, medical person, designated member of the state or family member may assert supposedly on my behalf.”

Lisa McPherson

Probably the most widely known and criticized controversy of Scientology is the Lisa McPherson incident that took place in Clearwater, Florida. Lisa was a thirty-six-year-old member of the church who died in their care during what is known as an Introspection Rundown, a procedure intended to replace traditional psychiatric care.

McPherson joined the Church of Scientology at the age of eighteen. She was subsequently given her first Introspection Rundown in 1995 due to perceived mental instability. She completed the procedure without incident and stated that she had reached the level Clear in September.

A short while later in November, McPherson was involved in a minor car accident. She was once again suspected of mental instability when she took her clothes off after being checked over by the paramedics and no major injuries were found. She was then taken to the hospital for psychiatric observation.

Before a full evaluation could take place, fellow Scientologists arrived. McPherson rejected the psychiatric observation and left the hospital shortly after. It has been upheld in court that her rejection of psychiatric observation was entirely her decision.

Shortly after this incident, McPherson was taken to the Scientology facility Flag Land Base for "rest and relaxation." However, documentation states that she was there to undergo another Introspection Rundown. During this time McPherson was kept in a cabana, a small hut-like structure and was under twenty-four-hour watch. This lasted seventeen days until her death.

The last three days of the original documentation of McPherson's treatment while under watch had been destroyed; however, summaries did exist. These reports detail the rapid deterioration of McPherson's mental and physical state, despite efforts being taken to help her get better.

In addition to refusing to eat many times, McPherson had also become incoherent and sometimes violent. To help take care of her deteriorating health, the church members overseeing her requested the aid of Scientology medical doctor David Minkoff. Dr. Minkoff prescribed both Valium and chloral hydrate without seeing her. When the church members subsequently requested a prescription for antibiotics he refused, stating that she should be taken to a hospital for observation first. The church members refused, stating that she would be put under psychiatric care if taken to a hospital.

Eventually McPherson's health deteriorated to the point that the decision of taking her to the hospital was made. However, instead of taking her to the nearest hospital, the church members drove her to Dr. Minkoff's hospital, which was farther away. McPherson suffered breathing problems on the way and eventually became unresponsive. Medical personnel attempted to revive her for twenty minutes before pronouncing her dead.

The circumstances of McPherson's death led to media speculation as well as protests held outside Scientology offices on and around the time of her death. An autopsy of McPherson was requested and performed by assistant medical examiner Robert Davis. He completed the autopsy but never had the chance to file the report because he was asked to resign. Medical examiner Joan Wood, Davis' supervisor, would file the report instead.

According to the autopsy report of Joan Wood, McPherson died of a pulmonary embolism, which is a blockage of the main artery of a lung. The report also stated that the embolism was caused by "bed rest and severe dehydration." Oddly enough, the report also stated that the manner of death was "unknown."

That being said, Joan Wood also went public and claimed that McPherson had gone without fluids for five to ten days, had cockroach bites, was underweight, and was comatose between twenty-four and forty-eight hours prior to her death.

The report led to a criminal investigation being done. Further fueling the controversy was the decision of the Church of Scientology's legal team to sue Joan Wood for access to her medical files, which they claimed they needed for their defense. Their argument was that she lost her right to keep the files confidential when she spoke to the media about her findings.

Five more medical examiners supported Joan Wood's findings; however, the Church of Scientology argued that their opinions were unreliable due to the fact that she had only looked over the fluid reports, not the entire autopsy report.

The Church of Scientology then hired their own medial investigation team, consisting of members of the church who were also medical professionals. Their findings concluded that McPherson died of pulmonary embolism caused by a blood clot in her knee from the earlier traffic accident that had migrated to her lung.

Given this new evidence, Joan Wood revised her decision from "unknown" to "accident" and cited the McPherson's car accident and psychosis as major contributing factors. As a result of this, the criminal investigation was ultimately dropped.

Despite this, there were several other controversies that took place during the investigation. First being that the Medical Examiner's Office violated its own policies by releasing McPherson's body for cremation before the cause of death had been reliably determined.

Additionally, the initial autopsy and the credibility of Joan Wood's findings were called into question due to her failure to examine tissue samples and contact clinical experts. Also, the fact that she signed the report five months after Davis resigned was considered questionable as well.

Robert Davis had some interesting things to say as well. He changed his mind that McPherson had been severely dehydrated and criticized the Medical Examiner's Office for how they handled the autopsy. He also criticized Joan Wood for not consulting him prior to filing the report. Also of note was the fact that all of Davis' notes on the autopsy had been destroyed.

The fact that the case had become so muddled led to the conclusion that there wasn't enough credible evidence to pursue criminal charges. As a result, the investigation was discontinued.

This wasn't the end of the story, however. Four years later, a civil lawsuit was filed by Lisa McPherson's family for \$100 million. This also led to a film known as *The Profit*, which was critical of Scientology, having an injunction filed against it since claims were made that it was created to influence the jury. Ultimately the case was settled out of court for an unknown amount.

Other Deaths

In addition to Lisa McPherson, there have been several other deaths and suicides that may or may not have ties to the practice of Scientology. Let's go over a few of the more well-known cases.

Elli Perkins

Elli Perkins' son, Jeremy Perkins, began experiencing mental deterioration at the age of twenty-four. He and his family were Scientologists and, in accordance with Scientology doctrine, did not believe in the effectiveness of psychiatric care. Jeremy was sent for a stay on Sea Org to help alleviate his mental issues.

This had no effect on his increasingly erratic behavior and his mother still refused psychiatric help, stating that it was "evil," as reported by a family friend. Jeremy was eventually sentenced to a psychiatric evaluation by court order and was found to be displaying symptoms of schizophrenia.

Still no treatment was sought, and eventually Jeremy's mental state declined to the point that his father, Don Perkins, was forced to fire him from his job at his contracting company.

The Church of Scientology eventually classified Jeremy as a "Level III Potential Trouble Source" and banned him from all involvement with the church after all rehabilitation efforts had failed.

Later Jeremy was arrested for trespassing outside the University of Buffalo and once again given a court-ordered psychiatric evaluation. This time he was positively diagnosed with schizophrenia. His mother convinced the courts to release Jeremy into her care and she began seeking alternative treatments for his disorder, rejecting the idea of anti-psychotic medication.

Eventually, Elli Perkins began a vitamin program for her son on the advice of fellow Scientologist Dr. Conrad Maulfair. This had little result, and Jeremy has been reported as becoming even more paranoid and delusional, making statements such as, "Well, concerns just that maybe she's trying to poison me or something." and "Sometimes I think I'm Jesus Christ." At this point Jeremy also began to show signs of aggressive behavior.

Later it was decided that Jeremy was to leave and stay with "natural healer" Albert Brown. On the day Jeremy was supposed to leave, his father was forced to come home from work to break up an argument between Jeremy and his mother. Elli subsequently told Jeremy to take a shower.

After the shower Jeremy then went into the kitchen where his mother was talking on the phone, and he stabbed her to death with a steak knife. When questioned about the killing, Jeremy's statement to the police was the following:

"I tried to slit my wrists after the shower ... but I wouldn't die so I decided to do my mom in instead...She was screaming, 'No, Jeremy, don't.' I stabbed her about four to five times before she fell down. ... I then stabbed her about ten more times in the stomach after she fell to the ground. I knew she was a goner. ... I believe that I have lived different lives for the past thousand years, and wished I was in another life now."

And additionally:

"She gets mad at me when I play my drums in my room and she makes me take these vitamins every day. When she made me take the shower this morning this was the last straw."

The autopsy reports revealed that Elli Perkins was stabbed seventy-seven times. This, along with other evidence, led to the courts finding Jeremy not responsible for his actions due to a "mental disease or defect." He was subsequently released on probation.

Six months later Jeremy was committed to a mental health facility after a commitment order classified him as "Dangerously Mentally III." The Church of Scientology has since tried to distance itself from Jeremy and the incident altogether.

Later reports reveal that while Jeremy has not been cured, his condition has been stabilized due to psychotropic medications. His defense attorney is quoted as saying "Jeremy himself told me that he firmly believes that if he had been taking these medications [earlier] that it would not have happened."

Linda Waliki

In another incident, Australian Linda Waliki killed her older sister, fifty-two-year-old father, and injured her mother with a knife. It was later revealed that she had been diagnosed with a psychiatric illness and her parents had discontinued her psychiatric treatment due to their adherence to Scientology doctrine. Her medication was then replaced with a Scientology-approved medication imported from the US. This medication was apparently unsuccessful.

Noah Lottick

A more well-known death possibly related to Scientology is that of Noah Lottick. In May of 1990 he committed suicide by jumping from a ten-story hotel window with his last remaining money in hand. Normally this wouldn't have been controversial, but Lottick's

parents, particularly his father Dr. Edward Lottick, blamed Scientology for the death.

It must be pointed out that no significant link between Noah Lottick's death and Scientology was ever found. However, his father continued to speak out against Scientology, calling it a "school for psychopaths."

Things became more controversial when Dr. Lottick's remarks were published to the media and he then got into an argument with the church over a sum of \$3,000, which the church claims his son donated.

The suicide ended up being reported in a *Time* cover story entitled "The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power" which, as you can imagine, was highly critical of Scientology. Both of Noah's parents confirmed the accuracy of the article in writing.

This led to a \$416 million lawsuit against both *Time* and Richard Behar, the author of the article, by the Church of Scientology. All counts were eventually dismissed and the church released a press release denying their involvement in Noah Lottick's death.

Perhaps more controversial was the statement released by Scientology spokesperson Mike Rinder stating that Noah had had an argument with his parents four days prior to his suicide. The statement by Rinder included the following: "I think Ed Lottick should look in the mirror...I think Ed Lottick made his son's life intolerable."

Who is ultimately to blame for the suicide, if anyone, has never been conclusively determined.

Mario Majorski

Mario Majorski had been a committed scientologist since his days attending UCLA back in the 1990's. In November of 2008, Majorski approached the Scientology Celebrity Center in Hollywood in a red convertible Toyota Solara and hopped out wielding two samurai swords. He was subsequently gunned down by a security officer before any carnage could take place. He died later at a hospital.

The main controversy here is whether or not the guard was justified in shooting Majorski, as well as Majorski's motives for his failed rampage. Based on surveillance videos and reports, police stated that the guard "had every reason to fear for his life and the lives of hundreds of others gathered on the property."

There are also reports of Majorski being known as someone who "created problems," though this has never been elaborated on. It is known, however, that Majorski had been arrested in Oregon at some point in the past.

Another strange twist to the story is that back in 1993, Majorski and a classmate sued a psychiatry professor at UCLA who was an outspoken critic of Scientology. The case was later dismissed.

As for why Majorski would apparently decide to attack a Scientology facility, no conclusive evidence has ever been uncovered, leaving this incident a mystery that may never be solved.

Kaja Bordevich Ballo

Another controversial death occurred in 2008 when the daughter of a Norwegian member of parliament, Ole Gunnar Ballo, committed suicide. The controversial part of this is that the twenty-year-old's suicide happened just hours after taking a Scientology personality test in France, known as the Oxford Capacity Analysis, and received very negative feedback.

As the police launched their investigation into the Scientology church, a spokesperson for the church made a statement calling the accusations unfair and also stated that Ballo had previously suffered eating disorders and psychological troubles.

In the end, the link between the test and the suicide could not be conclusively proven. An interesting note, however, is the fact that one of Ballo's test results did mark her as "unstable." Unfortunately, this part of the test, at least, apparently proved to be true.

Friends and family described Ballo as being "happy and bubbly" prior to taking the test. Whether she had any underlying psychological issues that helped to contribute to her suicide may never be known, though it seems rather unlikely that a mentally stable individual would kill themselves over a personality test.

A for-Profit Religion?

One of the most persistent controversies that the Church of Scientology has had to deal with is the claim that L. Ron Hubbard started the religion purely for financial gain. This particular controversy had a huge effect on which countries considered Scientology a religion/charitable organization and which considered it a for-profit business.

This controversy all started with reports that Hubbard made a bet with fellow author Robert A. Heinlein that he could start a cult. It should be noted that despite the fact that people claim there were many witnesses to this bet, this is still just a rumor and the accuracy of it has never been verified.

However, there is record of people saying similar things about Hubbard. Here are a few of statements made by people who knew and worked with Hubbard, some claiming to directly quote Hubbard himself:

"I always knew he was exceedingly anxious to hit big money—he used to say he thought the best way to do it would be to start a cult." - Sam Merwin

"I'd like to start a religion. That's where the money is." - Allegedly said by Hubbard and reported by writer and publisher Lloyd Arthur Eshbach

"You don't get rich writing science fiction. If you want to get rich, you start a religion." - Allegedly said by Hubbard, reported by writer Sam Moskowitz

In addition to these statements, many others who knew Hubbard also reported similar things. While these statements themselves are pretty condemning, they're nothing compared to the letter written by Hubbard that the FBI raid on Scientology turned up. Here it is, and note that I'm breaking it into paragraphs to make it easier to read, but it was originally all one paragraph.

(1953)

DEAR HELEN

10 APRIL

RE CLINIC, HAS

The arrangements that have been made seem a good temporary measure. On a longer look, however, something more equitable will have to be organized. I am not quite sure what we would call the place— probably not a clinic— but I am sure that it ought to be a company, independent of the HAS [the Hubbard Association of Scientologists] but fed by the HAS. We don't want a clinic. We want one in operation but not in name.

Perhaps we could call it a Spiritual Guidance Center. Think up its name, will you. And we could put in nice desks and our boys in neat blue with diplomas on the walls and 1. knock psychotherapy into history and 2. make enough money to shine up my operating scope and 3. keep the HAS solvent. It is a problem of practical business.

I await your reaction on the religion angle. In my opinion, we couldn't get worse public opinion than we have had nor have fewer customers with what we've got to sell. A religious charter would be necessary in Pennsylvania or NJ to make it stick. But I (sic) sure could make it stick. We're treating the present time beingness, psychotherapy treats the past and the brain. And brother, that's religion, not mental science.

Best Regards,

Ron

Regardless of Hubbard's intentions, the debate still rages on as to whether or not the Church of Scientology is a business or a religion. The church obviously considers itself a religious institution whereas many critics claim that it exists only to make money.

A side note to this controversy is the fact that some people claim that the Church of Scientology gives preferential treatment to celebrities and members with great wealth. Most notably would be former Scientologist/Sea Org staffer Andre Tabayoyon. He claims that much of the money from the non-profit Scientology organizations goes towards paying for special perks and benefits for Scientologist celebrities that are otherwise unavailable for regular members.

Two incidents cited by Tabayoyon include taking one of Scientology's Gold Base's cooks for personal use for Tom Cruise and Scientology head David Miscavige. The other was the creation of a huge field of flowers for Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, which was subsequently plowed up and redone with plain grass. Another former Scientologist, Maureen Bolstad, confirmed the field of flowers incident.

Chapter 4: Scientology vs. the Internet

"Legal experts say the church may be facing its biggest challenge yet – trying to protect its image, in a loosely policed medium seen by millions of people ."

- Kareen Wynter, CNN Reporter

The Church of Scientology has had problems with the Internet in general since its creation in the early to mid 90's. As an organization that prefers to keep much of its higher level doctrine secret, Scientology obviously doesn't like the fact that even a small leak of information can become widely spread thanks to the Internet. This has led to conflicts with Google, Wikipedia, hacker group Anonymous, and many others.

alt.religion.scientology

One of Scientology's first Internet information suppression campaigns was against the Usenet discussion group alt.religion.scientology in 1995. This was largely in response to anonymous users posting higher level Scientology doctrine such as the Xenu story as early as 1994. While such material had been leaked before, such as in the book "Inside Scientology" by Robert Kaufman in 1972, this was the first time it had been widely disseminated to the general public.

Scientology lawyer Helena Kobrin issued a statement demanding that Usenet delete that discussion group. This failed and led to advocates of freedom of information criticizing the Church of Scientology in response.

Scientology wouldn't back down, however, and retaliated by launching several lawsuits based on copyright infringement and intellectual property rights. They even carried out raids accompanied by US Marshals against several members, both in the US and abroad, who posted info on the discussion group. Additionally, the Church of Scientology also filed lawsuits against entities such as *The Washington Post* and several Internet service providers.

alt.religion.scientology would go on to retaliate by posting more confidential Scientology info, more often, and gaining more publicity because of the controversy. This led to the confidential religious information being included in news reports of big news outlets such as CNN, and even *60 Minutes*. The most popular topic on these programs being perhaps what Scientologists most wanted to keep secret: the Xenu story.

In the end, nothing came of most of the lawsuits and the Church of Scientology's suppression efforts only served to help the situation snowball out of control. This resulted in the widespread release of many confidential Scientology doctrines as well as the massive increase in the popularity of alt.religion.scientology.

Over the years the interest in Usenet and that particular group has died down, and many of the members who were a part of the original information leak have moved on. Scientology, however, wasn't done with its battle against the Internet, not by a long shot.

Google

Early Scientology attempts to suppress information included taking advantage of early search engine technology by flooding the net with bias Scientology info, dead-ends, and even vaguely anti-Scientology material. The huge amount of Scientology spam made finding any relevant info on Scientology practically impossible. That is, until the advent of more advanced search engines such as Google.

Thanks to the more advanced search algorithms that weed out spam, it was becoming easier and easier to find “secret” Scientology doctrine and documents online. Scientology decided to go after one of the biggest up-and-coming search engines, Google, and force them to remove links to anti-Scientology sites and sites posting what they claimed were copyrighted materials.

Surprisingly this worked—at least at first. In compliance with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, Google actually removed a number of links to various sites that posted this information, including several pages from protest site Xenu.net.

This victory wouldn't stand the test of time, however. Typing in the search terms like “what is Xenu,” and even “Scientology sucks” now returns plenty of informative (and biased) search results in Google.

YTMND

Scientology also had a minor scuffle with the popular meme site [YTMND](#) (You're The Man Now Dog) in 2006. The problem arose when many memes, known as "sites" on the website, about Scientology popped up following the infamous *South Park* Scientology episode. Most of these sites made fun of Scientology in some way but one in particular really upset the church.

The YTMND site known as "The Unfunny Truth About Scientology" didn't go for humor and Xenu-related material but rather explained some of the more controversial aspects of the religion. You can view the YTMND reposted on YouTube by [clicking here](#). Keep in mind that while facts are presented, they are done so in an opinionated way, somewhat skewing the objective nature of the video and making it closer to a subjective opinion piece instead.

Scientology lawyers contacted YTMND founder Max Goldberg and issued multiple cease-and-desist letters. Max refused to comply and stated "claims are completely groundless and I'm not removing anything," as well as the tongue in cheek statement: "It should only be a matter of time before we're sued out of existence."

Once again, the Church of Scientology's efforts backfired. Instead of getting the Scientology sites removed from YTMND, even more were made and there was even a campaign to push "The Unfunny Truth About Scientology" to the top of the Google search results so it would get more visibility.

In the end, no legal action was taken against Max or YTMND.

Wikipedia

This particular incident is slightly different than the others. It breaks the pattern of “someone posts confidential material about Scientology, Scientology threatens lawsuits, even more confidential information is spread around as a result.” This time Wikipedia became a battleground of sorts between Scientologists and some of their less than ethical critics.

Wikipedia maintains a strict policy of objectivity on its site. That being said, it should come as no surprise that a controversial topic such as Scientology would encounter problems on a “free-to-edit” site such as Wikipedia. Essentially, some Church of Scientology administrative networks were going to great lengths to remove anything negative about Scientology from the site while slanting all info to portray Scientology in a favorable light.

While this was going on, the exact opposite was occurring as many anti-Scientology individuals were going to great lengths to delete anything positive about Scientology and post only negative content. This, in essence, became a battle between propaganda and mudslinging with the truth being lost altogether.

In 2009, the Arbitration Committee of the English Wikipedia decided that enough was enough. Many IP address bans and restrictions were set in place to ensure that biased edits were eliminated. This included the outright banning of a large number of anti-Scientology editors in addition to Church of Scientology-owned networks.

The efforts of the Arbitration Committee have overall been a success and the objective integrity of Wikipedia articles on Scientology have largely been maintained ever since.

WikiLeaks

Back in 2008, before [WikiLeaks](#) had made a huge name for itself by leaking diplomatic cables in 2010, it had a minor conflict with the Church of Scientology. This was the result of WikiLeaks publishing a 612-page Scientology manual on the first eight Operating Thetan levels—highly confidential Scientology material.

The Church of Scientology took issue with this, of course, and issued a warning, citing copyrights and intellectual property rights. To no one's surprise, WikiLeaks refused to remove the information and even issued a terse statement describing Scientology as "cult" that "aids and abets a general climate of Western media self-censorship."

A Scientology spokesperson retaliated, stating "I can only assume that religious bigotry and prejudice is driving their activity, as there is no altruistic value in posting our copyrighted scriptures, despite WikiLeaks' statements to the contrary. Posting entire books and hundreds of pages of published works is not 'Sunshine Policy' but wholesale copyright infringement."

This in turn prompted WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to release a statement of his own: "We thought it was a small issue, and our normal fare is government corruption and military secrets, so it seemed that this nutty religious organization was pretty inconsequential in terms of what we normally do. But after receiving these legal threats from them ... it was time for us to make a stand."

The situation has ultimately gone nowhere and WikiLeaks still has the documents available for download.

Anonymous

In 2008, the Church of Scientology also came into conflict with well-known “hactivist” group Anonymous. Interestingly enough, it wasn't the Church of Scientology picking a fight with Anonymous as you might expect given their past actions. Instead, it was Anonymous taking issue with Scientology over freedom of information online.

The situation started when a Church of Scientology video featuring an interview with well-known Scientologist Tom Cruise was leaked onto the Internet and ultimately uploaded to YouTube. The Church of Scientology immediately called for the video to be taken down, citing copyright infringement. YouTube complied and took the video down, which should come as no surprise given YouTube's tendency to do such things.

This led to Anonymous taking issue with the Church of Scientology, not YouTube. This could possibly be due to the fact that Anonymous frequently posts videos to YouTube to communicate with the general public, making it unwise for them to “bite the hand that feeds them.”

Ultimately, Anonymous launched “Project Chanology,” a self-described “war on Scientology.” The project began with a YouTube video posted by Anonymous entitled “[A Message to Scientology](#)” as well as a press-release stating their intentions to protect freedom of speech. This was later followed up by another video entitled “[Call to Action](#).”

This sparked a series of small protests across the US and England, which eventually erupted into a worldwide protest taking place in ninety-three cities. Subsequent protests followed until a total of five had been held worldwide by May, 2008.

In addition to the protests, other “attacks” were launched against the Church of Scientology. These attacks included black faxes (when you send a fax to someone consisting of solid black pages, wasting ink and generally screwing up the fax service), prank calls, and denial-of-service attacks (a hacker technique that makes a website unavailable to its intended user-base) on Scientology websites.

Eventually the attacks and protests died down, but members of Anonymous have subsequently stated that they have long-term plans for Scientology. As of yet however, no major actions have been taken against Scientology by Anonymous outside of the original strike in 2008.

Scientology Lawsuit Recap

Here is a rundown of some of the most notable lawsuits and legal actions taken by the Church of Scientology in response to conflicts online. Some of these we've already gone over, some we haven't.

The Fishman Affidavit

In response to the posting of the Fishman Affidavit, which contained sixty-one pages of confidential Scientology material including the Xenu story, the Church of Scientology filed lawsuits against the *Washington Post*, Arnaldo Lerma, and his internet service provider, Digital Gateway. This was a part of the alt.religion.scientology incident and part of what sparked the widespread distribution of confidential Scientology material across the net.

A Minor Victory

Keith Henson had been a vocal opponent of Scientology both online and in real life during the alt.religion.scientology incident in the mid-90's and was one of the individuals sued by the church for posting confidential information. Surprisingly, the Church of Scientology won the case with damages awarded of \$75,000.

The story didn't end here, however. Henson declared bankruptcy and began picketing Scientology's Gold Base. The church tried to get a restraining order but failed.

Things escalated and eventually Henson was charged with three misdemeanors: threatening to interfere with the freedom to enjoy a constitutional privilege, making criminal threats, and attempting to make criminal threats. Ultimately he was only convicted of "interfering with religion."

Claiming that his life would be in danger in prison, Henson fled to Canada to apply for political asylum. After three years he was denied and was scheduled to be extradited to the US. Henson once again fled, this time to the US and eventually ended up in the Canadian consulate in Detroit. Apparently realizing that Canada wasn't going to help keep him out of prison, he then moved to Arizona and evaded arrest for two more years.

During this wild goose chase, Henson's allies and friends on USENET were outraged, denouncing Henson's trial as a mockery of justice. This didn't accomplish anything and eventually Henson served time in prison in Riverside, California. Fortunately for him, it was less than a year, and he didn't actually die as he claimed he would.

Using the DMCA

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act is a somewhat a controversial law that is intended to protect copyrights and intellectual properties online, you can [click here to read more about it](#). The Church of Scientology was unsurprisingly one of the first organizations to invoke this law in an effort to prohibit people from posting confidential information about the church online.

The law was used by Scientology to force internet service provider AT&T Worldnet to disclose the true identity of an individual known as "Safe" who was posting anonymously on alt.religion.scientology.

Winning the Battle but Losing the War

In typical Scientology fashion, the church went after a minor copyright infraction and ultimately made the situation worse for themselves in 2001. News group website Slashdot received legal threats from the Church of Scientology regarding the posting of excerpts from the infamous Operating Thetan III on one of its discussion boards.

At first it seemed as if the Church of Scientology had won when Slashdot removed the text without argument. However, Slashdot would have the last laugh when it then posted a ton of links to anti-Scientology websites.

Beating Google... or Not

In 2002 during the Church of Scientology's conflict with Google it made further use of DMCA laws to get Google to take down links to the anti-Scientology website "Operation Clambake." This victory was short lived however, as internet users made a ruckus and demanded the reinstatement of the site in the Google search results, which they did.

In the end, Google was never sued and the threat of DMCA laws lost some of their bite. In fact, Google began submitting all further DMCA threats to an archive known as Chilling Effects which catalogs all manner of legal threats against Internet sites and users.

Year of the Clam

The Church of Scientology wasn't finished with their efforts to bury Operation Clambake in 2002. If they couldn't get it removed from Google, they would do so elsewhere. Namely the Internet archive the Wayback Machine.

Scientologist lawyers contacted Internet Archive, the administrators of the Wayback Machine, and demanded that they remove Operation Clambake due to copyright infringement. The Internet Archive complied and removed the content. What sparked the

true controversy was the fact that they posted a false claim that the site's author had requested the removal. This false claim was eventually removed.

Ultimately nothing came of this but the false claim was eventually removed. The content still remains blocked to this day, though.

The Constitution of Sweden

Scientology once sued a Swedish citizen by the name of Zenon Panoussis for posting Scientology materials onto the internet. This wasn't a terribly big deal until the courts ruled against Panoussis who had claimed protection under the Swedish Constitution. This created a major controversy in Sweden due to the legal implications of the verdict. Some people even began calling for part of the Swedish Constitution to be re-written.

Trouble in the Netherlands

Scientology had a major conflict in the Netherlands in 1995 when it launched lawsuits against Karin Spaink and Internet service provider XS4ALL for copyright violations of confidential materials. With the full proceedings taking place in 1999, appeals in 2003, and the decision being upheld in 2005, the Church of Scientology tried unsuccessfully to sue Spaink and XS4ALL for just over ten years.

Chapter 5: Scientologist Celebrities

"The code of Scientologists says you respect the religious beliefs of others. That's part of being a Scientologist, and that's who I am as a person ."

- Tom Cruise

One of the things that the Church of Scientology is most known for is the fact that it has many celebrity members. Scientology, since its conception in the 50's, has always targeted celebrities for membership. In 1955, Hubbard created "Project Celebrity," a program that rewarded church members who recruited celebrities, for this very purpose.

In addition to this, Scientology has also built various "Celebrity Centers" to attract celebrity member as well. The most well-known probably being the one in Hollywood where Mario Majorski was gunned down.

Many people have speculated that one of the reasons that many celebrities join the Church of Scientology is for tax-evasion purposes. There has never been any solid evidence to support this though.

Let's take a closer look at some of the most well-known celebrities that have either been Scientologists or have had ties to the church in some way.

Tom Cruise

By far the most well-known Scientologist is Tom Cruise. He joined the church back in the early 90's, having been recruited by his first wife Mimi Rogers. At the time he didn't speak about his religious affiliation much, but that changed when he broke ties with his long-time publicist Pat Kingsley and hired his sister, fellow Scientologist Lee Anne DeVette. Despite the fact that she only worked for Cruise for around a year, he began speaking about Scientology publicly since that time.

In recent years, however, Cruise and his new publicist team have been working to tone down their association with Scientology. While Cruise is still a huge Scientology supporter, he has been notably less vocal about it. Some speculated that his marriage to actress Katie Holmes had something to do with this.

Speaking of Katie, the recent divorce between her and Cruise has sparked another controversy despite the fact that the Church of Scientology has been doing its best to distance itself from the situation. The controversy stems from the fact that Katie, who was raised Roman-Catholic, filed for divorce due to concerns about Scientology's influence on their daughter, Suri. While Katie did study Scientology material while married to Cruise, it is unclear whether or not she completely embraced the religion.

In any event, her and Cruise have been divorced, and Suri will be staying with her mother, a decision that both Katie and Cruise agreed upon. The details of their settlement remains unknown as the documents were sealed by New York law.

Cruise has been involved in a few other controversies as well. In 2005, he openly criticized actress Brook Shields for taking anti-depressants. This wasn't surprising since the Church of Scientology is opposed to all forms of psychiatry and associated medications. Cruise's statements resulted in a backlash from various people, including Shields and various medical authorities.

There have been other instances of Cruise being criticized by medical authorities. He has said that Scientology helped him overcome his dyslexia and also raised donations for a detoxification program based on the teachings of L. Ron Hubbard for the firefighters and rescue workers of 9/11. Both of these instances drew heavy criticism from various medical professionals.

It is also worth noting that a Tom Cruise interview video, and its subsequent removal from YouTube, is what sparked the protests and attacks by Anonymous.

Will Smith

Will Smith has gone on record stating that he is not a Scientologist. However, he has donated money to the Church of Scientology and has praised it on several occasions. This has led to a lot of speculation with rumors of how he may be a closet Scientologist. This has never been proven.

When asked about it Smith said the following:

"I just think a lot of the ideas in Scientology are brilliant and revolutionary and non-religious,"

as well as:

"Ninety-eight percent of the principles in Scientology are identical to the principles of the Bible.... I don't think that because the word someone uses for spirit is 'thetan' that the definition becomes any different."

and:

"I am a Christian. I am a student of all religions, and I respect all people and all paths."

Perhaps the most controversial thing Smith has done in regards to his affiliation with Scientology is founding with his wife a private elementary school that uses a teaching methodology known as Study Technology, a system developed by L. Ron Hubbard. The school is called New Village Leadership Academy and is located in Calabasas, California.

Smith has donated money to the Church of Scientology, but has also donated money to various other religious organizations including those affiliated with Christianity and Islam.

Isaac Hayes

Isaac Hayes is a well-known singer, songwriter, voice actor, radio personality and musician, most known for creating the Shaft theme song from the movie of the same name. He was also the recipient of three Grammy Awards for his music as well. Towards the end of his life his most well-known role was that of the voice actor of the popular South Park character "Chef."

Hayes joined the Church of Scientology around 1995. He contributed to the church in various ways, most notably by writing endorsement blurbs for Scientology books. He, along with fellow Scientologist Doug E. Fresh, created a Scientology inspired music album entitled *The Joy of Creating – The Golden Era Musicians and Friends Play L. Ron Hubbard*.

Hayes was pretty much a low-key Scientologist celebrity until the *South Park* incident. *South Park* is a show on Comedy Central created by Trey Parker and Matt Stone and known for its satire and lampooning of a wide variety of subjects, including various religions.

In November of 2005, Comedy Central aired an episode of the show entitled "Trapped in the Closet" a satire of Scientology that poked fun at Tom Cruise. The most infamous part of the episode was a segment in which the Xenu story is shown with the words "This is what Scientologists actually believe" superimposed on the screen the whole time. Hayes, as Chef, did not appear in that episode.

Since Hayes was a known Scientologist, people began asking what he thought of the episode. On the Opie and Anthony radio show in December he stated "One thing about Matt and Trey, they lampoon everybody, and if you take that serious, I'll sell you the Brooklyn Bridge for two dollars. That's what they do."

Later, when asked about the episode again during an interview for the A.V. Club, he said that when he spoke with Trey and Matt about it he said, "Guys, you have it all wrong. We're not like that. I know that's your thing, but get your information correct, because somebody might believe that shit, you know?" However, even with that statement he still defended Trey and Matt saying that he "understands what Matt and Trey are doing."

While it seemed as if nothing would come of this, all that changed on March 13, 2006 when a statement written in Hayes' name was released saying he wanted to be released from his contract with Comedy Central. The statement cited religious satire of recent episodes as being intolerant. The press statement is quoted as saying, "There is a place in this world for satire, but there is a time when satire ends and intolerance and bigotry towards religious beliefs of others begins."

Matt Stone responded by stating that "[Hayes] has no problem – and he's cashed plenty of checks – with our show making fun of Christians, Muslims, Mormons or Jews." and "[We] never heard a peep out of Isaac in any way until we did Scientology. He wants a different standard for religions other than his own, and to me that is where intolerance and bigotry begin."

Even odder than Hayes' apparent flip-flop on the issue of religious satire is the fact that the original statement may not have even been written by Hayes at all. Roger Friedman of Fox News reported that he had been told that the March 13 statement was made in Hayes' name, not by Hayes himself. Friedman wrote "Isaac Hayes did not quit *South Park*. My sources say that someone quit it for him. ... Friends in Memphis tell me that Hayes did not issue any statements on his own about *South Park*. They are mystified."

Hayes himself is only on record as having spoken directly on his reasons for quitting once, and stated "they [Parker and Stone] didn't pay me enough... They weren't that nice." in 2007. This is seemingly contradicted by the fact that after quitting the show Hayes' income decreased sharply, forcing him to tour and perform for additional income despite his health issues.

Unfortunately, during this time Hayes' health began to go downhill and at times he exhibited stroke-like symptoms. In October of 2006 he confirmed that he had suffered a stroke on March 20, 2006. On August 8 2010, Hayes was found unresponsive in his home and later pronounced dead due to "devastating recurrence of a stroke."

John Travolta

John Travolta has been a quiet member of the Scientologist faith since converting in 1979. He converted while filming the movie "The Devil's Rain" in Mexico after having been given a copy of the book *Dianetics*. Since then he has remained virtually controversy-free for the most part.

One odd incident that was reported, though, details how Travolta allegedly healed Marlin Brando's leg after he suffered an injury. The account, reported by actor Josh Brolin, states that Brando arrived late at a dinner party with a painful cut on his leg due to helping a stranded motorist. Travolta allegedly claimed to have reached a "new level" in Scientology and could heal the injury.

Travolta then allegedly told Brando to close his eyes and began to touch the injured leg. After about ten minutes Brando opened his eyes and stated, "That really helped. I actually feel different!"

Whether or not this incident is true is unknown. Travolta's attorney has gone on record as saying that the entire scenario was "pure fabrication."

About the only other notable thing Travolta has done in conjunction with Scientology was during the 2010 Haitian earthquake. To help with the relief efforts he flew his 707 full of doctors, supplies, and Scientology Volunteer Ministers to the disaster zone.

Other Celebrities Associated with Scientology

Kristie Alley

After going to Scientology's drug rehab center, Narconon, for cocaine addiction, Alley converted to the religion and has practiced it ever since. She donated \$5 million to the church and has reached OT level VII.

Nancy Cartwright

The voice actress for Bart Simpson, and many other popular animated characters, joined the Church of Scientology in the late 80's under the pretense of finding a husband and starting a family. Impressed by the "thriving careers" of various Scientology members, she became committed to the religion. In 2007 she donated \$10 million to the church, nearly double her annual salary.

Jerry Seinfeld

Jerry has praised Scientology on several occasions and admits to dabbling in it during his 20's. He denies being a Scientologist, though.

Lisa Marie Presley

Along with Isaac Hayes, Presley created the Literacy, Education, and Ability Program (LEAP). The institution is free of charge and available to all age groups, helping people focus on how to study and meet goals. LEAP is run by Applied Scholastics, which some say is a front organization for Scientology.

As of May 2012, there have been rumors of Presley leaving the Church of Scientology. Some say the song on her latest album "So Long" is about her leaving Scientology. Also of note is the fact that she has removed all mention of Scientology from her website.

Jason Lee

The actor who played Earl in the show "My Name is Earl" is a Scientologist who's mostly gone under the radar. The only incident involving the religion would be the fact that his ex-wife, Carmen Llywelyn, said that his devotion to Scientology made the marriage unbearable.

Conclusion

“Happiness and strength endure only in the absence of hate. To hate alone is the road to disaster. To love is the road to strength. To love in spite of all is the secret of greatness. And may very well be the greatest secret in this universe.”

- L. Ron Hubbard

That's going to do it for this book. I hope you've learned a lot about Scientology and have a better understanding of the religion. That being said, I understand that even when you get all the facts straight it can still be difficult to wrap your mind around Scientology due to all the controversy, rumors, and opinions out there. Scientology is probably one of the most controversial major religions of the past century, if not all of human history, and has definitely left its mark on our world for better or for worse.

Also, remember that despite the rampant controversy, this book wasn't meant to bash Scientology. Everyone is entitled to their religious and philosophical beliefs. At the same time, that must be balanced by the understanding that a person's religion or philosophy doesn't entitle them to victimize others. There are bad seeds in the Church of Scientology, no doubt about it, but the same could also be said of all religions, as well as those who have no religion.

I think the real lesson here is that regardless of what a person believes they should be judged by their actions, not by their religion. It may seem strange to non-Scientists that someone could believe in concepts such as Xenu and thetans, but so long as they're working towards a better society and better future with the rest of us, they should be accepted for who they are and not persecuted for their beliefs.

On the other side of this point, no person or organization should harm another. If this does happen then they should be held accountable.

Your Friend,
L.A. Klein

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