Cults and Other "Gospels"

Recognizing and Understanding the Differences



Cults and Other "Gospels"

- Remember our definition of a "cult"
 - ▶ I've recommended six questions to ask yourself about any religious groups that seem at least potentially suspicious to you...
 - 1. Does the group have a prophet/founder who is revered by followers and claims to have special revelation from God or from angels?
 - 2. Are there authoritative writings or scriptures in addition to or instead of the Bible?
 - 3. Does the group view itself as the one *true* church, founded because the *true* gospel was lost in the early centuries of the church?
 - 4. What does the group believe regarding the Trinity? Is Jesus fully God, the second person of the Trinity? Is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity?
 - 5. How does the group believe we are saved? By grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ, or by faith plus good works?
 - 6. What belief does the group hold regarding life after death? What is its concept of Heaven and Hell?



Cults and Other "Gospels"

- Introduction to Cults
- Peoples Temple
- Latter-Day Saints ("Mormons")
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Christian Science
- Scientology / Dianetics

NOTE: This is only one of several symbols used by Scientology—The "S" stands for Scientology. The top triangle represents knowledge, responsibility and control (i.e.; the "KRC triangle"). The lower triangle consists of the "ARC triangle" of affinity, reality and communication





Funky little teaching moment...

 L. Ron Hubbard once summarized Scientology for us "Scientology is the study of knowingness. It increases one's knowingness, but if a man were totally aware of what was going on around him, he would find it relatively simple to handle any outnesses in that."

 Ron Hubbard





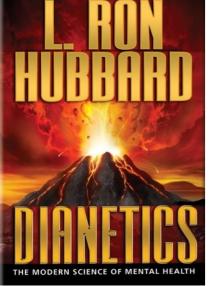


Funky little teaching moment...

L. Ron Hubbard once summarized Scientology for us

If at any point, Scientology sounds like gibberish, Hubbard assures you it's your fault, but he'll help you "The only reason a person gives up a study or becomes confused or unable to learn is because he or she has gone past a word that was not understood. The confusion or inability to grasp comes after a word was not understood. Have you ever had the experience of coming to the end of a page and realizing you didn't know what you had read? Somewhere earlier on that page you passed a word that you didn't understand. Here's an example: "It was found that when the crepuscule arrived the children were quieter and when it was not present, they were much livelier." You see what happens. You think you do not understand the whole idea, but the inability to understand came entirely from the one word you could not define, crepuscule, which means twilight or darkness. If, in reading this book, the materials become confusing or you can't seem to grasp it, there will be a word just earlier that you haven't understood... As an

misunderstood have been defined in footnotes where



they occur in the text..."
—from the flyleaf of *Dianetics*

aid to the reader, words that are sometimes

- Let's go through our six questions...
 - Who is their founder?
 - L. Ron Hubbard
 - "I believe L. Ron Hubbard resolved the human mind, and in resolving it he has also resolved human pain— that's what I really think has happened here."
 - -John Travolta, Scientologist
 - "I believe that L. Ron Hubbard knew what happened 13 trillion years ago."

Tom Cruise, Scientologist
(NOTE: In 1991, even Illinois Governor Jim Edgar declared March 13—
Hubbard's birthday—to forever more be "L. Ron Hubbard Day"—until he later found out who Hubbard actually was and

rescinded the déclaration later

on that March...)



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"I believe that L. Ron Hubbard knew what happened 13 trillion years ago."

—Tom Cruise, Scientologist

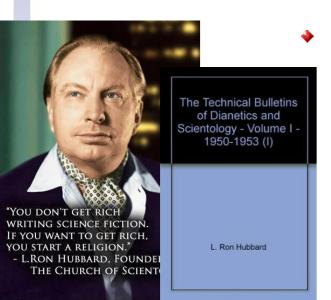
"You don't get rich writing science fiction. If you want to get rich, you start a religion."

-L. Ron Hubbard, at the Eastern Science Fiction Association in 1948

"The only way you can control people is to lie to them. You can write that down in your book in great big letters. The only way you can control anybody is to lie to them."

—L. Ron Hubbard, in *Technical Bulletins of*

Dianetics and Scientology



- Let's go through our six questions...
 - Who is their founder?
 - L. Ron Hubbard
 - Hubbard was born in Nebraska in 1911, but moved around quite a bit because his father was in the Navy
 - Some activities—like being in the Boy Scouts—he excelled at, while others—like his schoolwork—he repeatedly failed at
 - But to be honest, it's kind of hard to nail down a lot of specifics about his early life with any certainty, because the details are often fairly unreliable







- Scientologists are very proud of the exciting life that Hubbard led, gaining wisdom and life lessons
 - As a child, he became a full-fledged blood brother to the local Blackfoot tribe
 - Then again, the Blackfoot tribe doesn't have a "blood brother" rite...







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 - As a child, he became a full-fledged blood brother to the local Blackfoot tribe
 - As a teen, he traveled throughout the Orient, learning from Tibetan monks and various mystics
 - ◆ Actually, though he did live in Guam for a time when his father was stationed there, he referred to Orientals as "gooks" and "lazy, ignorant" people







Funky little teaching moment...

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 - He served in Naval intelligence during World War II, getting injured in combat, healing himself and others
 - He actually only served in Naval Intelligence for four months—and his "injury" was that he contracted conjunctivitis in his eye and developed a chronic hip infection (neither due to combat, and he drew disability for the rest of his life)

In fact, his service record includes several negative reviews from his commanding officers, including one that said,

"This officer is not satisfactory for independent duty assignment. He is garrulous and tries to give impressions of his importance. He also seems to think that he has unusual ability in most lines."

C.S. Noral Attachs,
M. for House
Of Field Carlies St.
Software, C.I. Voc
Australia
OO/RUSBARD, L.Ron

Lieut.(jg)USIR

14 February 1942.

13372

From: Naval Attache.
To : Commandant, Twelfth Naval District.

Subject: Lieutemant (jg) L. RON HUSBARD, U.S.N.R.; Suggestion as to nature of duty assigned.

- 1. The subject officer arrived in Brisbane via the SS PRESIDENT POLK. He reported to me that he was ordered to Manila for duty and asked for permission to leave the SS PRESIDENT POLK until a vessel offering a more direct route to his destination was available. I authorised his-to remain in Brisbane for further transportation to his destination.
- 2. By assuming unauthorized authority and attempting to perform duties for which he has no qualification he became the source of much trouble. This, however, was made possible by the representative of the U.S.Army at Brisbans.
- 3. . On February 11, 1942 I sent him dispatch orders to report to the Commanding Officer USS CHAUNGHT for passage to the United States and upon arrival report to the Commandant Twelfth Naval District for further assignment.
- 4. This officer is not satisfactory for independent duty assignment. He is garrulous and trib to give impressions of his impretence. He also seems to think that he has unusual ability in most lines. These characteristics indicate that he will require close supervision for satisfactory performance of any intelligence duty.

Copy to Bullav. X

L. D. CAUSEY.



Funky little teaching moment...

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Hubbard nonetheless liked to think of himself as "an old Navy man," and is frequently referred to as the "Commodore" of Scientology's "Sea

Organization"

(i.e.; a "fraternal order" made up of the cult's most powerful and influential leaders, who wear fake Naval uniforms for official actions) (NOTE: When cult members are reborn, they always return to the Sea Org—thus its motto, "We come back")





LECEVIENTIANS (5



SEA ORG

"In all the broad universe there is no other hope for Man than ourselves. This is a tremendous responsibility. I have borne it too long alone.

You share it with me now." - LRH



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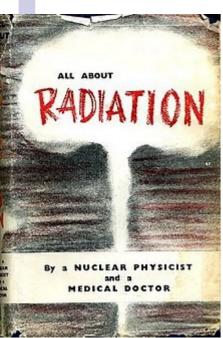
In 1992, the Church assured the IRS, "There is no such "organization" as the Sea Organization, the term Sea Org has a colloquial usage which implies that there is..."—though it owns three ships





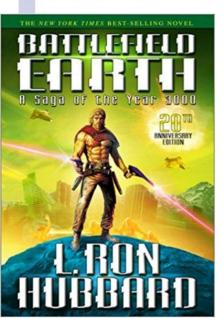


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 - He served in Naval intelligence during World War II, getting injured in combat, healing himself and others
 - After the war, he earned a Master's degree in nuclear physics from George Washington University, and a doctorate in nuclear physics from Sequoia University
 - Actually, he flunked out of George Washington University (failing the only course in nuclear physics that he ever took), and Sequoia University is just an unaccredited diploma mill
 - Nonetheless, Hubbard felt qualified to write a book called "All About Radiation" in 1957 in which he authoritatively assured people, "Scientology is the only specific (cure) for radiation (atomic bomb) burns."





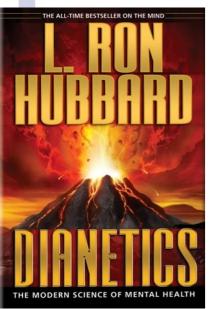
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 - After the war, he earned a Master's degree in nuclear physics from George Washington University, and a doctorate in nuclear physics from Sequoia University
 - Eventually, he invested his extensive life experience into writing a phenomenally successful series of science fiction novels
 - Actually, a large part of his novels' success was due to the fact that the Church of Scientology funded their publication, and then purchased thousands of copies for church use
 - Rule of thumb: Never follow a religion that was founded by a science fiction author...

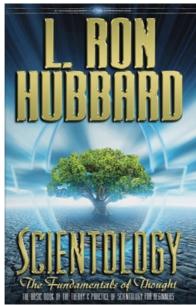


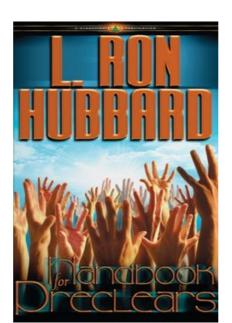
Let's go through our six questions...

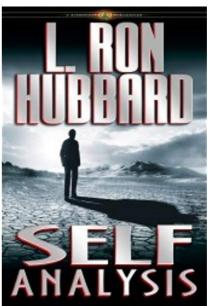
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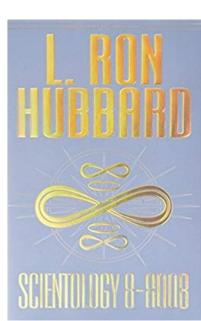
Dianetics, Scientology, multiple other writings (Note: Some titles, like Scientology 8-8008, may seem odd to you, but they officially define it for us— "The book's title serves to fix in the mind of the individual a route by which he can rehabilitate himself, his abilities, his ethics and his goals the attainment of infinity (8) by the reduction of the apparent infinity (8) of the MEST universe to zero (0) and the increase of the apparent zero (0) of one's own universe to infinity (8).")



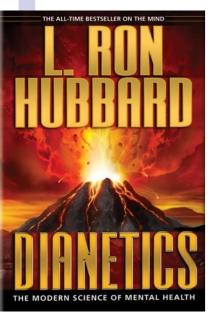


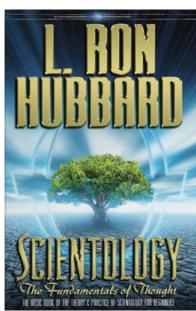


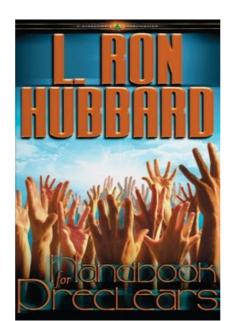


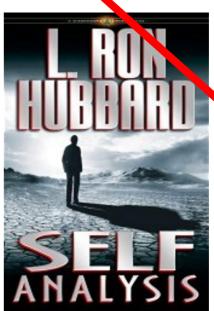


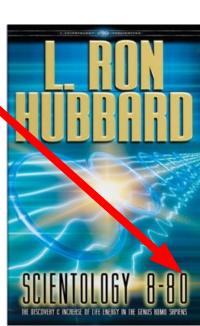
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 (But is this really a "θ" here?)



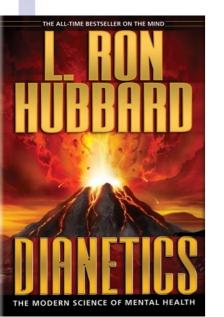








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 - Basically, in 1952, science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard published the book *Dianetics* (a word ostensibly built from the Greek "διά" or "dia"—meaning "through"—and "νοῦς" or "nous"—meaning "mind")





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(in fact, the ad for the book claimed that it was so intensely profound that "four of the first fifteen people who read it went insane" —a claim that he used again for his later

book, "Self Analysis")

Lafayette Ron Hubbarc A

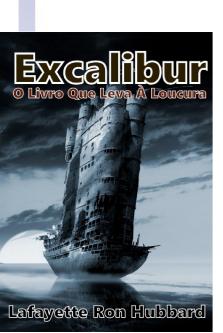
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(Hubbard himself declared that the book "was somewhat more important, and would have a greater impact upon people, than the Bible")

(in fact, in general—on top of making far more money creating a religion than creating science fiction stories, Hubbard said,

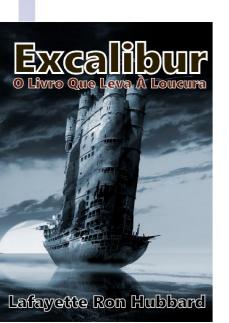
"I have high hopes of smashing my name into history so violently that it will take a legendary form even if all books are destroyed. That goal is the real goal as far as I am concerned")



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(unfortunately, the Russians stole a manuscript in 1950, and Hubbard wrote a letter to President Kennedy in 1962, warning that the Reds now had access to world-changing power...)





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 - He went bankrupt, losing the rights to Dianetics
 - This was in part due to a messy divorce with his second wife, Sara

(whom he'd met while living in Pasadena as part of a sex magick cult run by occultist Aleister Crowley that used orgies to try to summon the goddess Babalon, Mother of Abominations—I am not making this up)



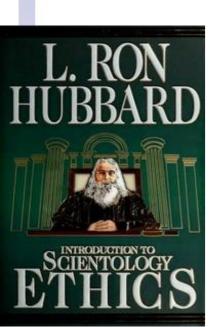




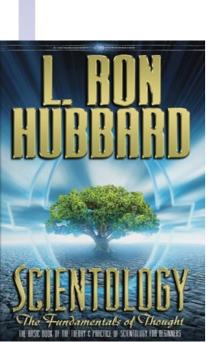
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 - By the 1950s, both Hubbards were having affairs, and she threatened to take their daughter, Alexis, away from him entirely —so Hubbard and cult members forcibly kidnapped Sara and Alexis, subjecting

Sara to beatings, starvation, sleep deprivation, and more—all while trying to have her declared insane by a local medical doctor

 In the end, Sara got Alexis back by dropping all charges and settling out of court with L. Ron —who'd found a wealthy backer...



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 - He went bankrupt, losing the rights to *Dianetics* —and it became the "Church of Scientology" (a word ostensibly built from the Latin "scientia" —meaning "knowledge"—and the Greek "λόγος" or "logos"—meaning "word"... even though "-logy" usually translates "λογία" or "logia") or, as Hubbard himself put it all together, "It is formed from the Latin word, "scio," which means KNOW, or DISTINGUISH [and] from the Greek word "logos," which means THE WORD or OUTWARD FORM BY WHICH THE INWARD THOUGHT IS EXPRESSED AND MADE KNOWN: also, THE INWARD THOUGHT or REASON ITSELF. Thus, SCIENTOLOGY means KNOWING **ABOUT KNOWING, or SCIENCE OF KNOWLEDGE.")**

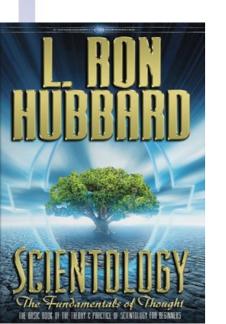


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 - (then again, this is the same guy that taught in a series of lectures in Phoenix,
 - "The Hebrew definition of Messiah is One Who Brings Wisdom a Teacher. Messiah is from 'messenger'...")

(NOTE: "Messiah" comes from the Hebrew "מְשִׁיחַ" or "māšîach," meaning "anointed one," while "messenger" comes from the Latin "missus," meaning "to throw or dispatch," so maybe we shouldn't trust Hubbard...)

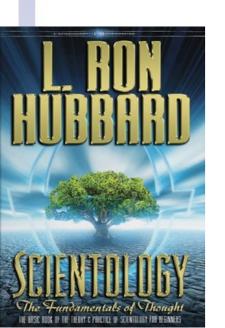


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 - 1) Every human being is a thetan, "an immortal spirit with potentially limitless powers" (though "Body Thetans" are actually bad things—but more on that in a minute)





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 - 2) Every individual has a Reactive Mind Bank containing engrams, which suppresses these limitless powers over MEST (Matter, Energy, Space, and Time)



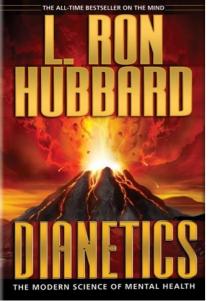




Funky little teaching moment...

As Dianetics explains,

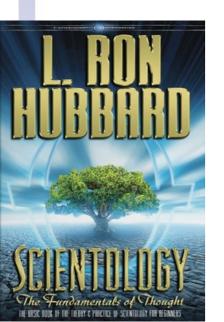
"The reactive bank does not store memories as we think of them. It stores engrams.* These engrams are a complete recording, down to the last accurate detail, of every perception present in a moment of partial or full "unconsciousness." They are just as accurate as any other recording in the body. But they have their own force... The difference between an engram and a memory, however, is quite distinct. An engram can be permanently fused into any and all body circuits and behaves like an entity. In all laboratory tests on these engrams, they were found to possess "inexhaustible" sources of power to command the body... The only thing which could even begin to shake these engrams was the technique which developed into Dianetic therapy..."



* "The word engram, in Dianetics is used in its severely accurate sense as a "definite and permanent trace left by a stimulus on the protoplasm of a tissue." It is considered as a unit group of stimuli impinged solely on the cellular being."



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 - 2) Every individual has a Reactive Mind Bank containing engrams, which suppresses these limitless powers over MEST (Matter, Energy, Space, and Time)
 - 3) Through "auditing" the engrams are erased and the Bank emptied, and then thetans can be restored "to their original powerful state" (Note: "Auditing" is an ongoing, increasingly expensive process where an individual is asked increasingly bizarre questions to get them to react with alert but non-rational responses)





Funky little teaching moment...

- "Auditing" makes use of the E-Meter, which monitors electrodermal activity in clients
 - Clients are informed: The E-meter is held to be infallible. It "sees all, knows all. It is never wrong."
 - Nonetheless, the FDA required them to clarify: "The HUBBARD Electrometer, or E-METER, is a device sometimes used in Dianetics technology. In itself, the E-Meter does nothing. It is not intended or effective for the diagnosis, treatment or prevention of any disease, or for the improvement of health or any bodily function."

(Note: Yes, that's a picture of a young John Travolta being audited by using the E-Meter—a number of Hollywood stars have become ardent followers of Scientology, including Kirstie Alley, Will Smith, and Tom Cruise)

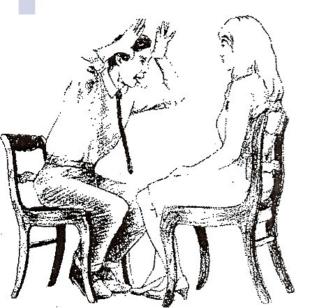




Funky little teaching moment...

- "Auditing" makes use of the E-Meter, which monitors electrodermal activity in clients
- As part of this "auditing" process, clients take part in a series of TRs ("Training Routines") that cost the client \$500 per hour
 - TR0 Confronting/Bullbaiting

(which requires no movement or response from the client for hours, as their "coach" attempts to bait them and force them to respond to them—the coach may even use "Tone 40" attacks to bait a client response—and if the client responds at all, the coach shouts at them in "Tone 40" and they have to start all over again)







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 - TR2 Acknowledgements

(which allows the client to respond with canned "acks" as the coach reads the most bizarre quotes from Lewis Carroll books)







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TR0 Confronting/Bullbaiting

TR1 Dear Alice

TR2 Acknowledgements

TR3 Duplicative Question

(in which the coach asks the same question over and over and over again until it no longer makes rational sense to the client)







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TR0 Confronting/Bullbaiting

TR1 Dear Alice

TR2 Acknowledgements

TR3 Duplicative Question

TR4 Pre-Clear Originations

(which is the same as TR3, but now includes information from the client's case history)







Funky little teaching moment...

- "Auditing" makes use of the E-Meter, which monitors electrodermal activity in clients
- As part of this "auditing" process, clients take part in a series of TRs ("Training Routines") that cost the client \$500 per hour
 - TR0 Confronting/Bullbaiting
 - TR1 Dear Alice
 - TR2 Acknowledgements
 - TR3 Duplicative Question
 - TR4 Pre-Clear Originations
 - TR6 Body Control

(in which the client physically moves the coach around the room)

(NOTE: TR5 was "Hand Mimicry" but it has been obsolete since 1967)







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(in which the client physically manipulates even the coach's head and appendages, and orders the coach around the room using "Tone 40" commands)





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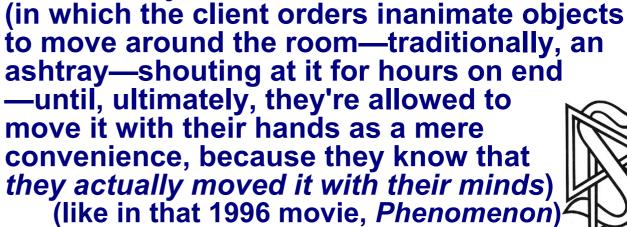
TR3 Duplicative Question

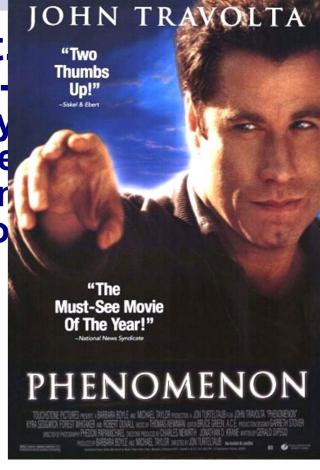
TR4 Pre-Clear Originations

TR6 Body Control

TR7 High School Indoctrination

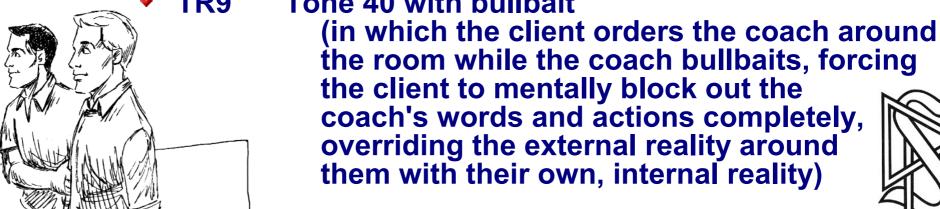
TR8 Tone 40 on objects (in which the clie





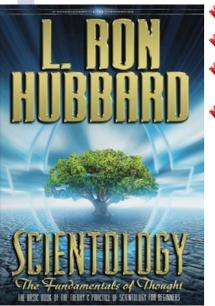


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 - This is all designed to eliminate your critical thinking
 - "Asking the preclear to think something over can be an error. Asking the preclear to do exercises which concern his mind alone can be entirely fatal."
 - —Scientology: The Fundamentals of Thought





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 - This is just the first round of Scientology courses

