

November 15, 2000

Dear Tom,

We will be having Christmas at our house for Carol and I and our kids on Saturday, December 23. Amy doesn't know if she'll make it. We will probably go to South Haven on Christmas day.

You are a terrific writer. Your September 9 letter was very well written, even if I do not buy much of what you said. L. Ron was a good writer too – very prolific, anyway. He was a great bullshitter. Statements like “psychology offered the idea that man was only an animal and therefore could not improve his ability or his behavior and could not improve his intelligence” are simply not true. If that was how psychologists viewed man, what would be the purpose of treatment? Hubbard seems to be stuck on the notion that lobotomies and shock therapy were used. I don't think they are used much at all anymore, and his dwelling on it is misleading. In any case, psychiatry and psychology don't seem to have withered away in the face of competition from Scientology.

The “What is Scientology” book mentioned that the payments for auditing were “donations”. Is that true? Was the \$2000 you paid for 12 ½ hours a donation?

Another thing I got from the book is that all the technique was developed by L. Ron and must be applied just as he designed it. It is hard to believe he got it all exactly right in his lifetime. Isn't there anyone else in the Church capable of refining the methods? Sounds like the infallibility of the Pope.

Yes, I still think that all we are is bodies and that there is no separate spirit. I have no trouble with that. I am happy with my body and my mind. I enjoy living and will be sorry to see it end. I do believe it will end when I die. Don't be too proud of my rebuttal of Jesse Ventura. I did say I thought that religious fundamentalists are stupid. Other religious people may not be stupid, but they are still wrong. There are just other factors that make them believe these weird ideas about the spirit and stuff, like indoctrination from an early age, peer and family pressure, and the need to belong. Maybe the need to feel special. For many, not believing would feel like a betrayal of the people they care about. It would be too painful.

I don't doubt that you have been helped by auditing, but there are a lot of ways people can be helped to overcome psychological problems. Auditing may be quite effective, but can't it co-exist with other therapies? Why does there have to be one true way? If auditing is, as you say, an exact science, its results must be measurable. This scientific evidence of its success should quickly convince everyone. Auditing's reputation will spread and it will eventually replace all other therapies, so there really is no need for the Church's negative attacks on its competition.

I am concerned about your statement that you feel no moral obligation to pay taxes on your tips and do so only because it is Church policy. Is it Church policy just because they don't want to get in trouble with the law, or is it because not paying your share of taxes is morally wrong? Having disdain for anything exterior to the organization is one of the characteristics of cults.

Love,

Dad