

Lecture: Scientology Definitions III

Hubbard discusses reality and certainty and their relationship to brainwashing.

A Scientologist actually takes off philosophically in this particular direction with relationship to the universe. If he does this, why, he's perfectly safe and it's all very rational. This is one of the basic problems, by the way, of most philosophers.

Is somewhere in his texts there will be this discussion of reality. Now, when we're getting down to reality, we're getting down to the subject of certainty, and we're on the subject of nothing else but certainty, see?

Now, there is a wall. There is a wall. And now, certain philosophers would have you believe that before you can accept the fact that there is a wall there, you have to know from where the wall came. But that is silly. Do you see? So a Scientologist simply starts out, not on the basis of "Is there a wall there because it came from someplace?" or "how long the wall is going to be there" or anything else. His sole question with regard to reality: "Is the wall there?" The wall is, so therefore he is then certain the wall is. What is he certain of? He is simply certain that the wall is. See, he doesn't have to be certain of anything else. And this is a reduction to simplicity of one of the greatest philosophic conundrums that philosophers have ever boxed the ears of students with. You have to ask the question "What is?" to make people uncertain.

That would be the greatest mechanism in the world, of the generation of uncertainty. "Is the world really?" And you start asking questions about it, you shake people's certainty.

Now, brainwashing simply is the trick of mixing up certainties. All you have to do if you want to know and extrapolate or develop the entire field of brainwashing as developed by Pavlov, is simply to make somebody certain that the wall is black and then certain that the wall is white and make it less black and less white and have it eventually become gray. But not have him certain that it is gray at all; leave him with the two certainties that it is white and that it is black. And with those two certainties merged and confused one with the other, he gets into a confused or hypnotic state in which he can believe anything.

So to unconfuse somebody, it is only necessary to let them regain some certainties. Therefore, you ask somebody to pat his foot against the floor as we used to do. Well, he becomes certain that the floor is there. He doesn't have to become certain where it came from, what it's composed of or how much money is still owed on the mortgage. The only thing you're asking him to do is just to make sure that it is there. And so you get the increase of certainty which is attended in processes such as CCHs and spotting processes and so forth.

It's quite remarkable. An individual is displaced after he's been in an accident. Because of his mental image pictures made at the time of the accident, he tends to remain at the moment of the accident and in that moment of time and in that location in space. Now, he dimly sees the room around him. So he can't be certain, because he sees dimly the accident around him and he sees dimly the room around him. So he really cannot be certain that he is in the room or in the accident. Now, by asking him to spot the room, gradually we increase his certainty so that he becomes unconfused. Then he feels straighter and more comfortable. His certainty is up. Do you see?

— L. Ron Hubbard

Lecture 13 December 1966: Scientology Definitions III