ABILITY

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MAN'S SEARCH FOR HIMSELF

by L. Ron Hubbard

have vast universities and libraries and mountains of books to avoid answering the question of "Where is he?" and "What is he doing?"

For 2,000 years Man held the idea that there is such a thing as a human soul. That was close enough to the truth that it went a long way, but when Man used this idea as a control measure, such as happened during the Inquisition, it corroded. But some went so far away they negated the whole subject of the spirit and went back to battering down walls, but this time for a peculiar reason: just to batter down walls. They didn't think anybody was there! And today modern thinking is: "There's nobody there, but knock the wall down anyway."

When Man began to use the subject of the spirit as a control mechanism (Religion) it is not surprising that the world began to look at the subject of the spirit as an interesting game, but not a very good one as pursuing it leads one to getting burned at the local stake or at best paying tithes to the local Abbey. Man would be expected to negate against the search for the spirit after this treatment, but nobody expected him to negate it so thoroughly. But he did.

In Leipzig, Germany, in 1879, the whole thing came to a dull, grinding halt when a man called Wundt announced to the world his conclusion that Man was an animal with no psyche, no spirit. The result was that psychology, which is a study of the human psyche, became a study of technology and psychology as it is taught today is totally a physiological study. Psychology today is not the cause but the symptom of the total negation of the human spirit which has taken place. We now have a "spiritless individual consisting of neurons, tissue, blood, bones and a stimulus response mechanism, but no soul to rise above situations."

And all this came about because Man, in his studies, got into very serious troubling trying to follow through on the theory of the human spirit, and so invented a philosophy which would abandon the whole idea so he could go on battering down walls without having to meet anybody. All this because he thought it would lead to less trouble.

Admittedly, it takes a brave man to stand out and breast the world. The nobility of Man, the idea of a better nature, of a high purpose, of being able to rise above your own troubles, that too must have got Man into a lot of trouble because to a large degree he has abandoned it.

We are now watching the entire Anglo-American society go by the boards for its lack of pride. Whereas once a Briton or American would stand up and announce his nationality with pride, he is now almost self-effacing about it. He is unwilling to make his weight felt. He is more likely to say "Oh, do I look too awfully American to you?" He is not willing to be self-sacrificing and noble. If you try to talk to the man in the street about self-sacrifice he'd laugh at you. There was a time he

would have listened raptly and agreed with what you had to say.

What we are looking at is a deterioration of Man's better nature into a more stimulus-response nature,and sciences of the mind have followed this downward curve. They have not dominated it. So, long ago, when Man started to rise high on the spiritual curve, when he began to mount high in spiritual values, he did not know enough about it and fell on his face. He did not know enough about it and could thus be victimized. His fatality was not being a spiritual being. His fatality was not knowing enough about the spiritual being. He never pushed through and found the answers. This was a terrible mistake on his part. It is odd that he did not push through, because he obviously knew more about it then. However, it was left to Scientology in an age where the popular thinking is that we are mud and that when we get better we'll be better mud. Scientology had to come along and do the impossible and push through and find out more about Man than Man knew when he was a noble, spiritual being.

The only mention of the spirit of Man actually existing in high philosophical works is the nonsense of Socrates who talked about a little demon that told him what to do. Gautama Buddha wrote a lot of things down when he discovered that he was a spirit wrapped in flesh, but he never wrote down a method of discovering this and going on from there. All he said was "Conceive mind essence," and Buddhists have been trying to do it ever since.

Since trying to conceive mind essence, conceive self, is exactly the wrong way to do it, it is little wonder that Buddhism is dwindling. If you want to get really sick, all you have to do is sit down for a year and try and conceive mind essence.

Man's search, then, has really been for himself, but words like that are prone to complete misunderstanding. A spirit of a man looked at by that man poses an impossibility. Can a diamond admire its own glitter, or a stream its own water?

What we have to say is that Man's search was really for the spirit of others. He used catapults, torture chambers, fire and all manner of devices but never did he see a spirit ascending on high or dropping down below when he'd finished battering the body. Nobody saw anything, and so we were left without exact information.

The sober truth is that there isn't anything to know about you from your standpoint. There is a bunch of stuff you dreamed up so that you could thereafter know it, but there is nothing to know about you.

What we are facing here is the oldest and most perfect control mechanism on earth for trapping people, which is to say to someone: "Be curious about self, you must know yourself better," and "You have a lot

of advice for other people, why don't you take some of it yourself?" and "You think you are competent, but have you ever really looked at what you do?" That is the common denominator of all bad, unknowing control.

If a diamond wishes to see its own sparkle it has to stop that sparkle, catch it, bring it back and look at it and when it does that often enough it introverts thoroughly. It is saying "Curl back on yourself," "Introvert," "Don't reach out for space," "Hold it, pull it back, do not outflow," "If you start to outflow at once inflow," "If you find yourself being overtly friendly know there is something wrong," and "If you outflow in anger, realize that the anger belongs against your own breast." This is a natural mechanism in this universe and also a deadly one.

We are all required to outflow a certain amount. We have to answer our boss's queries. We have to outflow money to get on a bus.

It is all very well for man to check himself, to be sociable and live with his fellow man knowingly and know that he is playing a game. But if he is doing it unknowingly and believes the reason he is looking into his own soul is that something is wrong with him and that there is really something he doesn't know about himself he becomes a very sick man.

If a man was out paddling a canoe and talking to a girl and all of a sudden he shifts the paddle to the other side and upsets the canoe, he would say "There must be some reason I did that." Of course there was. He was tired of listening to the girl. It doesn't matter what the reason was, what counts is how you handle the situation from there on.

Freud would have written eight volumes of answers. He would have written on the symbologies of the paddle, the symbologies of the canoe. You didn't know all these things before, but you read them and say "Wow, all these things in my head! Boy, I'm tricker than I thought."

What is this mechanism of "look into yourself"? It is the aberrated activity of the other fellow in trying to make you pull back. If you make nothing of yourself then he doesn't have to.

But even supposing for a moment that man did know all about himself and nothing about the other fellow, which is the final result of self-inspection. What you would have is a lot of inventiveness stacked up to know about, but you wouldn't know a thing about yourself. It is a completely pointless search.

For example, if a man is worried because he hiccups every time he kisses a girl, he feels bad about it and says to himself, "Why do I do that?" Sometimes he'll be lucky and remember somebody who hiccupped when they kissed him as a child and he'll stop doing it. Was it himself? No, he had to remember somebody else hiccupping before he stopped and he doesn't know a bit more about himself.

Man has depended on philosophers for his writings and learnings on the subject of Man. All the involvements you've ever read on the subject will have a philosopher in there somewhere. In the main,philosophers were tremendously introverted people.

You have a man like Nietzsche, a puny fellow who suffered from hay fever and chilblains and couldn't stand the thought of blood. He sat down and wrote, of all things, about the Superman. Along came Hitler and read "Thus Spake Zarathustra" with great, expert anger and overflew Europe, simply because the Germans were trying to be Nietzsche's Superman.

Man goes adrift when he invents a lot of things to know about himself and then invents a group theory as Nietzsche did. That really leads to trouble.

It was up to the philosopher to answer the question "What is Man?" It is the one question he never answered satisfactorily.

Scientology has answered it. We have precise answers in the *Axioms.

What is wrong with Man is his ideas about other people. This gives him ideas about himself as another person, and in order to think about himself he thinks about ideas of other people.

If you have an improper idea or an incomplete or erroneous idea of the other fellow then you are actually reduced to the necessity of going out of communication with him. But man, rather than go out of communication entirely, usually drops down to the level of bullets or the catapult.

Where you have a broad lie about the other fellow you have trouble of the magnitude of World War II, where Germans lied about Germans by saying they were Supermen and everybody else was a louse.

The principle here is that your ideas about the other fellow to a large extent monitor your behaviour. Ideas about yourself do not.

After all these thousands of years of search what has been attained? We have achieved knowledge of the other fellow. We can state it to him mathematically, pedantically, simply or complexly. But most effectively for us, in Scientology, we can state it in such a way that he becomes amenable to talking to us. We can communicate with him.

Finding out about the other fellow then is the most important enquiry. Finding out about yourself is the least profitable enquiry you could get yourself into.

We do know about the other fellow. This is a solved problem with us today in Scientology. Man's search, long and arduous as it has been, has come to a happy conclusion. We have reached the star that others

*Axioms: self-evident truths (as in geometry).

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L. Ron Hubbard

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✓ JULY 1 AND 2

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