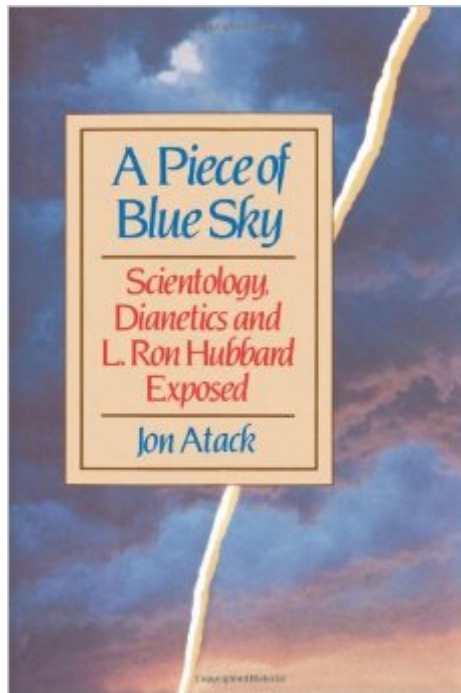


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A Piece Of Blue Sky: Scientology, Dianetics And L. Ron Hubbard Exposed



Synopsis

Atack exposes Hubbard's bizarre imagination and behavior, tracing the creation of Scientology in the years following World War II to perhaps its final schism following Hubbard's death in 1986. A shocking book that reveals all: the abuses, falsehoods, paranoia, and greed of Hubbard and his pseudo-military Scientologist henchmen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Piece of Blue Sky is not the latest expose of the Scientology scam. More recent dissections of brainwashing cults have touched on Scientology. But there has not been a later book sufficiently focused to justify including the word Scientology in the title, perhaps because Atack does such a thorough job of exposing this moneymaking scam posing as a religion, that there is little more to say. Human beings are not descended from any terrestrial lifeforms. The first humans were brought to earth by benevolent aliens millennia ago from a galaxy far, far away. If you believe that, you are not necessarily a Scientologist. But if you are a Scientologist, you are required to believe it, since the alternative is to recognize that you have been hoaxed by a cult that originated in the imagination of L. Ron Hubbard, a science fiction writer with such total contempt for anyone who could take his fantasy seriously, that he gloated to an associate, "Let's sell these people a piece of blue sky." When the associate expressed skepticism, Hubbard bet him that he could invent a new religion and have it showing a profit within a year. He won the bet. While no other evidence survives that Hubbard had a sense of humor, his naming the aliens' home planet "Arslycus" cannot have been a random choice. But while it was L. Ron Hubbard who first organized the conspiracy to pass off science fiction as a religion, the cult leaders' true role model was Benito Mussolini. When A Piece of

Blue Sky was first published, the Scientology hierarchy were able to intimidate into removing it from their catalogue, out of fear of the vicious reprisals that got eleven members of the cult, including Hubbard's wife, convicted and jailed in 1979.

I guess I've always loved reading about cults, their leaders and their followers. I think it started with the Baghwan section of the book "Cities on a Hill" ...that was just gripping. There seem to be certain similarities between the personalities who head truly dark cults and charismatic figures who are viewed as legitimate even heroic. The Secret book on Frank Lloyd Wright is a good one...generally admired as a genius, but also a completely unprincipled huckster. There's even a little bit of it in Wilhelm Reich, who is often viewed as one of the good guys. I have read quite a bit on Hubbard and mostly I have just derived a good chuckle out of it. He's so obviously a Charlatan and a buffoon... it's written all over his face for one thing. He reminds me a lot of Mussolini. The book though actually ended up being rather sad; especially the undercover operations, personal vendettas and the insane internal machinations of the cult during the latter years of Hubbard's life. I gotta say it's a hoot that there are actual scientologists posting one star reviews on this book! Way to go guys, why not order a couple of dozen copies of Battlefield Earth while you are here! The book is not a literary masterpiece but it's pretty clearly written considering density of the material to be presented and all the mentions of orgs, OSTs, PRTs, Body-Thetans all all the other CoS jargon that cannot be avoided in telling the story. I wish there had been slightly more humor since some of the material is potentially so funny. I realize of course that the effect on thousands of people's lives has been tragic and overall I finished the book feeling that the organization was far more sinister than I had previously given it credit for.

As I type this review, "A Piece of Blue Sky" still remains firmly within the top 1000 sellers here at after years of obscurity. Ironically, if it weren't for the aggressive efforts by the Church of Scientology to eradicate this book, it probably would have disappeared off the shelves years ago. The Scientologists ought to apply the lesson learned ten years ago during the controversy over Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses": Threaten it, and it gains notoriety. "A Piece of Blue Sky" is one of those Books Scientology Doesn't Want You to Read. As they did with "Bare-Faced Messiah," Russell Miller's excellent biography of founder L. Ron Hubbard (unfortunately now out of print, although available on the Web with the author's blessing), the Church has attempted to stop publication of this book. They will tell you it is libelous. It is not - it has been challenged in the courts and vindicated. They will tell you it has been banned in Britain. It has not - one single paragraph did

not meet Great Britain's stricter standards for documentation, and was removed (the book survives unexpurgated elsewhere). Given the Scientologists' well-known habit of aggressively defending their interests in the courts, surely they must accept the authority of the courts in this case, as well? In addition, "A Piece of Blue Sky" will tell you Things Scientology Doesn't Want You to Know. If you read the Scientologists' own publication, "What is Scientology?", for example, you will learn that during the late 1970s, the Guardian's Office (GO) of the Church was "infiltrated and set up to fail."

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