



BRAINWASHING--WHAT IS IT?

#6 SACRED SCIENCE

A Series on Lifton's* Eight Points of Thought Reform

Sacred Science: The dogma or doctrine taught by the cult is considered so sacred that it is *never* to be questioned, even if it conflicts with your own personal experience of what you know to be true.

In essence, although the cult leader(s) aren't really God/Jesus (and some cult leaders/members would even profess this to be true), the leader(s) word is as good as the Divine Being's and he/they are held up by the followers as being divinely inspired—i.e., having the exclusive track to God. When the leadership falters, it oftentimes blames the member rather than accepting responsibility; e.g., after 1976 came and their failed prediction for the end in 1975 became obvious, the Watchtower Governing Body covered their faux pas by blaming a few overly zealous members, even though their literature clearly raised the level of anticipation amongst members in preceding years.

In the Watchtower organization the universal “rule” is: “Theocratic ones will appreciate the Lord’s visible organization and not be so foolish as to pit against Jehovah’s channel their own human reasoning and sentiment and personal feelings.” (*Watchtower*; 2/1/1952, p. 80) Being “foolish” enough to use your own “human reasoning” in the Watchtower cult can result in shunning by friends/family. In one of their articles they even made the following statement:

We are not living today among theocratic nations where such members of our fleshly family relationship could be exterminated for apostasy from God and his theocratic organization, as was possible and was ordered in the nation of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai and in the land of Palestine... Being limited by the laws of the worldly nation in which we live .. we can take action against apostates only to a certain extent. (*Watchtower*, Nov 15 1952)

Well thank GOD Jehovah’s Witnesses don’t “exterminate” dissenters today but rather only cut them off from their families!

The Jonestown cult (where over 900 people died in 1978), however, didn’t observe the law’s limitations. I recall the audio clip in which one of the women stood up and questioned why they had to “kill our babies.” She offered, “As long as there is life, there is hope.” The other followers asked her how she could question Jones’ motives. Didn’t *he* love them? *His* voice, *his* dogma, *his* beliefs were considered sacred.

When People’s Temple members didn’t want to die, they were held down and injected with poison. Others were shot trying to escape. No one in a cult is permitted to question the sacred science of the leader(s)!

Keep in mind that just because you join a cult, doesn’t mean you get to leave physically or psychologically intact! Remember, the cult leader’s words are sacred!

*Robert J. Lifton, *Thought Reform and the Psychology of Totalism—A Study of Brainwashing in China*