

Report on the Perversion of Science to Support Mysticism

"And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold."
As he said this, he called out,
"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."
Luke 8:8

I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use.
Galileo Galilei

Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity...
and I'm not sure about the universe.
Albert Einstein

You are a forerunner in this field, breaking down barriers of race consciousness, the accumulated effects of misconceptions, and the morbid fears of the universe in which we live. When science, common sense, and a right philosophy combine, the half-gods will have to go.
Ernest Holmes

Dear Conrad,
I support you work 100%.
David McCarthy – Former Member Ramtha School of Enlightenment

Report by Conrad Askland
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For a free hard copy send mailing information to Askland@aol.com
Or download a free PDF copy online at www.Religious-Science.com

Report on the Perversion of Science to Support Mysticism

Purpose: To assist in retarding the spread of pseudo-science and misinformation, to present topics currently circulating our churches and to encourage critical thinking.

Addressing the topics of:

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With writings and excerpts provided by Ernest Holmes, Robert L. Park, James Randi, Dr. Kathryn Turner (Director of Education, United Church of Religious Science), the Google Answers research team, Columbia University Mathematics Department and others notated and credited.

A copy of this report is available free of charge
E-mail Conrad Askland at askland@aol.com
Please include name and mailing address
Or download a PDF copy at www.Religious-Science.com

Author's Note: There are frequent references in this report to "RSE" which stands for the Ramtha School of Enlightenment led by JZ Knight, aka "Ramtha". RSE has NO affiliation with Religious Science, Science of Mind or the teachings of Ernest Holmes. Sometimes Religious Science will be referred to as "RS" or the United Church of Religious Science as "UCRS". Please make note of this very important distinction.

This report released April 20, 2005

Dear Conrad,

As a former student of RSE for over seven years I have witnessed first hand the systematic erosion of critical thinking minds into a mass of brainwashed Ramtha devotees led by JZ Knights and her groomed cohorts. If ever there was a definition for a cult, RSE would have my vote. I support you work 100%. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Best regards, David McCarthy

Opening Quotes

Man's responsibility increases, as that of the gods decreases. Andre Gide – French moralist

Excerpts from Living the Science of Mind by Ernest Holmes

Science, Superstition, and Common Sense

"True religion, true science, and true common sense should go hand in hand, together with that other subtle something which is the essence of feeling - that which is beyond words."

"You are a forerunner in this field, breaking down barriers of race consciousness, the accumulated effects of misconceptions, and the morbid fears of the universe in which we live. When science, common sense, and a right philosophy combine, the half-gods will have to go"

Ernest Holmes excerpts provided by Dr. Kathryn Turner

Director of Education, United Church of Religious Science

Seminar Lectures (1953):

If I believed I had a "revelation," I would shudder at the thought, for there is no man so hypnotized as the man who coerces himself. I have wondered if it is possible to avoid this mesmeric state. If any group ever avoids it, we will, but in order to do so we have to keep our minds open at the top for a new influx of wisdom, and we have to set up a sign which says "stop, look and listen; does this that I believe measure up to Truth?" for there are certain inevitabilities that the ages have declared to be true. (p. 106.4)

Discover a Richer Life (1961):

What we must avoid, however, is the confusion which arises from a belief in final revelations, from the belief that all truth is at last discovered, or that some one person or some one system of thought has delivered the last word. There are no finalities in any science, any philosophy, or any religion. Through the continual emergence of the creative Principle any last finality proves to be but the beginning of a new creative series. This eternal spiral, finding its base in the everlasting Reality, will never cease to emerge. (p. 20.2)

Science of Mind Magazine (after his death):

Shorn of dogmatism, freed from superstition, open at the top for greater illumination, unbound and unlimited, Science of Mind offers the student of Life the most understandable and intelligent approach that the world has so far achieved. (October 1971, p. 16)

David McCarthy – Former student of Ramtha's School of Enlightenment

For JZ Knight/Ramtha students to brush off this report as "very demeaning of the intelligence of the student body of the Ramtha School of Enlightenment". Is a typical response to side step the real issues that this article presented.

Correspondence in preparation of this report:

Conrad, I would say that it is true that "Ernest Holmes himself challenged us to test and experiment for ourselves to discover truth."

– Dr. Kathryn Turner, Director of Education, United Church of Religious Science

"Religion and science are not incompatible. Scientific people and religion are not incompatible. Religious people and science are incompatible." Member response at physicsforums.com in response to the dissemination of pseudo-science among our RS communities.

Hi Conrad, The parts of the film (What the Bleep Do We Know) concerning science I'm expert in (quantum mechanics) were pretty much complete nonsense. As far as I could tell, the other parts, about science I'm not so familiar with, were equally unrelated to scientific fact.

Unfortunately there's a lot of this kind of stuff going around....

Best wishes, - Peter Woit – Professor of Mathematics, Columbia University, NY

Introduction and Address to the Religious Science Community



I have never read anything by Ernest Holmes that I disagreed with. I'm sure it's out there, but I haven't found it yet. In his writings I consistently find a balance of thoughtfulness and an uncanny ability to write for all times. Some examples in his writing and style of prose are dated for his time period, but the truth he speaks stands still today for me, as I'm sure it does for the RS community at large.

So my internal dilemma is this: Why am I surrounded by beliefs and presentation of alleged scientific facts within our community that consistently bring up my internal alarms and warning flags? It's my belief that in the quest for incorporating science and cutting-edge discoveries into our theology we have slipped down a slippery slope

into pseudo-science and unreliable fraudulent elements of the "new age".

Much of the material currently being presented as science in our communities is above the education level and expertise of most of the lay public and congregational members. Quantum physics itself is understood by a relatively few number of scientists, and those that do "understand it" and are recognized by accredited journals and scientific communities, are the first to admit that Quantum Physics itself is quirky, pliable, ever changing and does not fit into a box.

RS is a wonderful community of openness to a wide variety of beliefs. I have sensed a slow creeping perversion of logic that is capitalizing on our level of openness to new ideas and scientific discovery. I think there has been a growing social consciousness within our church to blindly accept mysterious practices, beliefs and fringe teachings that are faulty and undermine the theology originally put forth by Ernest Holmes. Among these ideas is that the scientific community is closed-minded to alternative medicine and thinking, that new cutting edge ideas are not accepted because the general public does not want to know the truth, and that there is a conspiracy among the scientific community to squelch the findings of those that espouse new thought principles.

I do not accept those statements to be true. In fact, I find that much of the reason that certain pseudo-science is not accepted into accredited mainstream journals is the fact that it does not hold up to the scrutiny of scientific investigation. The concept of a conspiracy theory among the scientific communities is a flawed logic to explain why the cropping up of certain new ideas and concepts are not accepted by established institutions of science, but yet fully endorsed by some of our church communities.

History has shown us that truth in science eventually prevails. Granted the truth shifts in time as we learn more and more, but this in itself is not evidence that what has not been proven is therefore true. Time takes care of many things. The process of peer review and the reputation of professionals in the field are elements that naturally debunk the false and eventually support the true.

By jumping on the latest bandwagon of the latest discovery, we neglect to honor the process of time that will weed out the propagation of lies. In the immersion of the latest fads and falsehoods that have not yet been proven false, we spin our wheels and chase our tails in a whirlwind of wasted time and haphazardly add to the groundswell of belief in scientific fraud. What I believe is happening now is that by the time a certain concept is proven false, it has already entered the mainstream and is propagated from there as fact. It becomes a landslide of misinformation to address. Given the current addiction to the spread of this disinformation, the people that need so desperately to hear the truth do not because their circles of influence are closed. It is my opinion

that these closed groups are in dire danger of being surrounded by pseudo-science and slowly entering into the borderline areas of the occult.

To assist in the spread of mistruths without knowledge of those mistruths is just a small flaw in my opinion, an innocent mistake. It is within our power to correct that. But to assist in the spread of mistruths when documentation has been presented, but parties are not willing to read or investigate the claims with a scientific approach of critical thinking, is in my opinion the closest thing to classic sin we will ever know.

After a viewing of What The Bleep Do We Know I went to their website at www.whatthebleep.com – As of the release of this report, their links page contains a link to my discussion forum website at www.Religious-Science.com – I would think that makes me a reference. This report contains my research on many topics included in that movie. The bulk of ideas and persons represented in this report have been represented to my church family as truth at one point or another.

I hope this report encourages discussion and debate in our communities as to our beliefs, and especially to critically evaluate the sciences that we are associating our church family with.

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Responsibility and Reputation of Church Leaders

Ministers and church leaders are powerful people. They may not always see themselves as such, but congregations look to them for guidance. When a church leader makes statements in any religion, congregation members may have a tendency to disengage their full forces of critical thinking and instant credibility can easily be established in those minds. The minister is an icon and we in the congregation are there for spiritual food and guidance.

Our RS churches have an accredited school of study and a lengthy process for ministers to undertake before they can take on the role of minister. I applaud our church for keeping that in place and keeping the bar high for our leadership.

We have the name Religious Science and science is often incorporated into our studies, lectures and obviously the writings of Ernest Holmes. The word science itself invokes authority, research and the process of finding truth.

I love the writings of Thomas Moore and his invitation to enjoy the mystery. In my opinion RS does a fantastic job of honoring the mystery of our faith and the joy of our creation. But I urge caution in presenting scientific fact when it is not. The combination of our church reputation with incorporating the scientific method and the endorsement of a minister on a presentation can give instant credibility to the general congregation. What is presented can spread like wildfire among our communities.

I know some of the professionals mentioned in this report are currently booked to make presentations at Religious Science churches. I would ask the leaders in those churches to read this information, to question the validity of their upcoming presentations and to discuss whether it should be presented as science, if presented at all.

My plea is for ministry leadership to take accountability for the factual truth of material they present. It is my opinion that to do otherwise directly counters the theology of Ernest Holmes.

Defining Critical Thinking

This material on critical thinking from www.criticalthinking.org

A statement by Michael Scriven & Richard Paul for the National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking Instruction

Summary

Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action. In its exemplary form, it is based on universal intellectual values that transcend subject matter divisions: clarity, accuracy, precision, consistency, relevance, sound evidence, good reasons, depth, breadth, and fairness.

It entails the examination of those structures or elements of thought implicit in all reasoning: purpose, problem, or question-at-issue; assumptions; concepts; empirical grounding; reasoning leading to conclusions; implications and consequences; objections from alternative viewpoints; and frame of reference. Critical thinking - in being responsive to variable subject matter, issues, and purposes - is incorporated in a family of interwoven modes of thinking, among them: scientific thinking, mathematical thinking, historical thinking, anthropological thinking, economic thinking, moral thinking, and philosophical thinking.

Critical thinking can be seen as having two components: 1) a set of information and belief generating and processing skills, and 2) the habit, based on intellectual commitment, of using those skills to guide behavior. It is thus to be contrasted with: 1) the mere acquisition and retention of information alone, because it involves a particular way in which information is sought and treated; 2) the mere possession of a set of skills, because it involves the continual use of them; and 3) the mere use of those skills ("as an exercise") without acceptance of their results.

Critical thinking varies according to the motivation underlying it. When grounded in selfish motives, it is often manifested in the skillful manipulation of ideas in service of one's own, or one's groups', vested interest. As such it is typically intellectually flawed, however pragmatically successful it might be. When grounded in fairmindedness and intellectual integrity, it is typically of a higher order intellectually, though subject to the charge of "idealism" by those habituated to its selfish use.

Critical thinking of any kind is never universal in any individual; everyone is subject to episodes of undisciplined or irrational thought. Its quality is therefore typically a matter of degree and dependent on , among other things, the quality and depth of experience in a given domain of thinking or with respect to a particular class of questions. No one is a critical thinker through-and-through, but only to such-and-such a degree, with such-and-such insights and blind spots, subject to such-and-such tendencies towards self-delusion. For this reason, the development of critical thinking skills and dispositions is a life-long endeavor.

Why Critical Thinking?

The Problem:

Everyone thinks; it is our nature to do so. But much of our thinking, left to itself, is biased, distorted, partial, uninformed or down-right prejudiced. Yet the quality of our life and that of what we produce, make, or build depends precisely on the quality of our thought. Shoddy thinking is costly, both in money and in quality of life. Excellence in thought, however, must be systematically cultivated.

A Definition:

Critical thinking is that mode of thinking - about any subject, content, or problem - in which the thinker improves the quality of his or her thinking by skillfully taking charge of the structures inherent in thinking and imposing intellectual standards upon them.

The Result:

A well cultivated critical thinker:

- raises vital questions and problems, formulating them clearly and precisely;
- gathers and assesses relevant information, using abstract ideas to interpret it effectively comes to well-reasoned conclusions and solutions, testing them against relevant criteria and standards;
- thinks openmindedly within alternative systems of thought, recognizing and assessing, as need be, their assumptions, implications, and practical consequences; and
- communicates effectively with others in figuring out solutions to complex problems.

Critical thinking is, in short, self-directed, self-disciplined, self-monitored, and self-corrective thinking. It presupposes assent to rigorous standards of excellence and mindful command of their use. It entails effective communication and problem solving abilities and a commitment to overcome our native egocentrism and sociocentrism.

What Is Science?

The following information is by Robert L. Park

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2843/is_5_24/ai_67691836/pg_2

How can it be, we ask, that brains designed for finding food and avoiding predators in a Pleistocene forest enable us to write sonnets and do integral calculus? We invent poetry and higher mathematics because our brains hunger for patterns. The wonderful pattern-recognition equipment residing in the higher centers of the human brain allowed our ancestors to adapt to changing conditions with remarkable ease, by quickly picking up the patterns that are characteristic of the new environment.

Animals with much smaller brains than ours also rely on pattern recognition. The desert Cataglyphis ant, for example, whose brain contains perhaps 100,000 brain cells, compared to a million times that many for a human, forages over enormous expanses of seemingly featureless terrain, wandering to and fro in search of food. When they finally encounter some wind-blown seed, they return with it at once to their nest in an almost straight line. They navigate by the position of the Sun--even if obscured by clouds--using patterns of polarized light. But the ability of Cataglyphis to recognize patterns, as marvelous as it is, is very specialized. Transplanted to a different environment, such as the forest floor where landmarks abound, but where the sky cannot be seen, Cataglyphis would be lost.

In humans, the ability to discern patterns is astonishingly general. Indeed, we are driven to seek patterns in everything our senses respond to. So far, we are better at it than the most powerful computer, and we derive enormous pleasure from it. Pattern recognition is the basis of all esthetic enjoyment, whether it is music, or poetry, or chess, or physics. As we become more sophisticated, we seek out ever more subtle patterns. So intent are we on finding patterns that we often insist on seeing them even when they aren't there, like constructing familiar shapes from

Rorschach blots. The same brain that recognizes that tides are linked to phases of the Moon may associate the positions of the stars with impending famine, or victory in battle.

That is again the belief engine at work. But once we recognize how easily we can be fooled by the workings of the belief engine, we can use the higher centers of the brain to consciously construct a more refined strategy that combines our aptitude for recognizing patterns with the accumulation of observations about nature made possible by language.

Such a strategy is called "science." Richard Feynman described science as what we have learned about how not to fool ourselves. Its success and credibility are anchored in the willingness of scientists to expose their ideas and results to the scrutiny of other scientists.

In practice, the process can be noisy and unpleasant. Heated arguments break out at scientific conferences. Reviewers are sometimes accused of obstructing the publication of results that contradict their own work, and editors are accused of bias. Rivalries develop that are as intense as anything that takes place on the playing field. Foolish work sometimes finds its way into print, while a spectacular insight becomes mired in some petty dispute. And yet, overall, the system works amazingly well; good work eventually rises to the top, while the clutter of shoddy science remains manageable. The process transcends the human failings of individual scientists.

Scientists must also be prepared to abandon their most cherished notions. When better evidence becomes available, science textbooks are rewritten with hardly a backward glance. Many people are uneasy standing on such loose soil; they seek a certainty that science cannot offer. For these people the unchanging dictates of ancient religious beliefs, or the absolute assurances of zealots, have a more powerful appeal. Paradoxically, however, yearning for certainty is often mixed with respect for science. People long to be told that modern science validates the teachings of some ancient scripture or New Age guru. The purveyors of pseudoscience have been quick to exploit this ambivalence. Scientists generally believe the cure for pseudoscience is to raise science literacy. We must ask, however, what it is we would want a scientifically literate society to know. There are a few basic concepts--Darwinian evolution, conservation of energy, the periodic table--that all educated people should know something about, but the explosive growth of scientific knowledge in the last half of the twentieth century has left the scientists themselves struggling to keep up with developments in their own narrow specialties. It is not so much knowledge of science that the public needs, as a scientific world view--an understanding that we live in an orderly universe, governed by physical laws that cannot be circumvented by any amount of piety or cleverness.

Although the old belief-generating machinery of the brain is still in place, habits of critical thinking can be adopted that subject each fledgling belief to skeptical analysis before continued reinforcement renders the belief hopelessly resistant. For example, does B really follow A any more frequently than we would expect from chance? Any such analysis must be consciously imposed by the higher centers of the brain. The belief engine knows nothing of the laws of probability.

What The Bleep Do We Know – Movie Release

The official website for this movie is at www.WhatTheBleep.com – As of this report it is owned by an individual in Yelm, WA. You can verify this by searching the domain on a WHOIS query online. Ramtha's School of Enlightenment is located in Yelm, WA and many of the "experts" in the movie are followers of Ramtha. For more details see my section on movie expert credits and section on JZ Knight aka "Ramtha". Ramtha is a 35,000 year old spirit from the lost city of Atlantis that is channeled by JZ Knight.

The school of enlightenment is commonly referred to as a cult, and is the driving financial and creative force for this movie. So much so that many are calling it a veiled recruitment film for Ramtha followers. You can see video footage of JZ Knight channeling the spirit of Ramtha on her very own website at www.Ramtha.com

Ironically, as of the printing of this report they are linking to my little discussion forum at www.Religious-Science.com – I have taken the opportunity to post my findings on that website.



One of the experts in the film is Dr. David Albert, Professor and Director of Philosophical Foundations of Physics, Columbia University. So I contacted the Math Department at Columbia University for a comment and received this:

Hi Conrad, The parts of the film (What the Bleep Do We Know) concerning science I'm expert in (quantum mechanics) were pretty much complete nonsense. As far as I could tell, the other

parts, about science I'm not so familiar with, were equally unrelated to scientific fact.

Unfortunately there's a lot of this kind of stuff going around....

Best wishes, - Peter Woit – Professor of Mathematics, Columbia University, NY

Turns out Dr. David Albert was horrified how his comments were heavily edited to misrepresent his views. He has since canned the movie and does not support it's claims. You can read for yourself about this as reported by another professor at Columbia University, Peter Woit at <http://www.math.columbia.edu/~woit/blog/archives/000083.html>

Read the report in Salon magazine which says that the whole thing is really the production of a cult based in the Pacific Northwest that believes that a woman named JZ Knight is able to channel a 35,000 year old mystic named Ramtha
http://salon.com/ent/feature/2004/09/16/bleep/index_np.html

Information from Columbia University website

<http://www.math.columbia.edu/~woit/blog/archives/000083.html>

1. In addition to the films three directors, there were actors and others involved in the production who are long time "students" of Ramthas' School of enlightenment.
2. A disproportionate amount of time was given in voice and film to Ramtha, Dr. Joe dispenza, and Miceal Ledwith.
3. Dr Joe Dispenza and Miceal Ledwith are both long time students and "appointed teachers at Ramthas' school of enlightenment (RSE)

4. Dr Joe Dispenza (the one who creates his day) has gone to court and testified that his teacher (Ramtha) has told him that terrible times are coming and that he needs to protect his family. He also invested over \$10,000.00 in an infamous scam that infected RSE and was touted by Ramtha as a vehicle to gain fabulous wealth and many of the schools membership lost substantial sums of money. Some lost their entire life savings. This is the person who teaches the brain science in RSE.

5. Miceal Ledwith a clergyman with a rather dubious past (see http://unison.ie/irish_independent/stories.php3?ca=36&si=770458&issue_id=7565) is the one chosen by the film makers to be the theological spokesman. He is also the theologian in residence of RSE. He also has been marketing several products within the school and its followers. Guess that could not have been done so easily in the Catholic church.

6. The following persons in the film have all spoken at RSE and sold books there.

Fred Allen Wolf
Dr Candice Pert
Amit Gotswami
John Hagelin
Joe Dispenza
Miceal Ledwith
and of course the big guy himself, Ramtha

7. One of the scientists who was in the film and had never appeared at the school is Dr David Albert Professor and Director of Philosophical Physics at Columbia university.

He has stated in several venues that his views were totally misrepresented in the film. He claims that in over 5 hours of interviews he explained to the film makers why their concept of how Quantum Physics works has virtually no support in the scientific community.

He even called in to a radio program the director was on to discuss this and was cut off. The host of the show said this was done because it was "negative" so much for no good or bad, that is unless it is convenient.

8. To date, there has been no response as to where the information which led to the story about the Indians not being able to see the ships of Columbus originated from. There appears to be no evidence to support this claim. In addition, the film mentioned "clipper ships" which were not even in existence at that time. Perhaps that is why they couldn't see them.

There were many more, but I will leave them for others. If anyone has any information to refute any of the facts laid out here, I will be more than willing to retract them.

They are relevant because of the deliberateness on the part of the film makers to keep certain facts unknown (ironically, it is I making the unknown known) and misrepresent others.

John Hagelin – Expert from What The Bleep

Here are comments from Peter Woit, Math Department Columbia University

<http://www.math.columbia.edu/~woit/blog/archives/000083.html>



But whenever one is dealing with highly speculative ideas that have no connection with experiment, there's a danger of becoming delusional and thinking that you're doing real science when you're not. People tend to believe that the fact that a certain kind of research is pursued by sizable numbers of people with very good credentials is enough to mean it must be good research. I think it's a good idea for people to consider the example of Hagelin: he's completely delusional and has zero common sense, but able

to function at a high level in the particle theory community. One should take seriously the danger that he's not the only one deluding himself.

Peter Woit was friends with John Hagelin in college and you can read more about this on the link provided above.

JZ Knight – aka Ramtha



Carl Sagan spoke out against JZ Knight before he died. He questioned why a 35,000 year old spirit was not able to tell us more enlightened material beyond banal quotes akin to what you might find on a Hallmark card. He questioned why those that channel ancient spirits are not able to tell us scores more than we already know. Certainly there should be volumes of details we are unaware of from architecture, to currency, customs, etc. If I were personally transported 500 years into the future I would be able to talk for years non-stop about all sorts of topics from my time. Virtually anyone would be able to do this.

See JZ Knight channel the spirit of Ramtha on her site at www.Ramtha.com

From Willamette Week Online – Portland's Weekly Magazine

<http://www.wweek.com/story.php?story=5860>

The year's sleeper hit was inspired by a 35,000-year-old warrior spirit from Atlantis.

The most intriguing movie of 2004 has nothing to do with George W. Bush, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, or killer zombies. No, the topic is metaphysics--and the movie is *What the Bleep Do We Know?*

Shot in Portland, the film stars deaf actress Marlee Matlin as a Xanax-gobbling photographer whose world turns inside out after a chance encounter on a basketball court. Her story is punctuated by a Greek chorus of physicists, philosophers, psychologists and mystics slinging soundbites about quantum mechanics.

Think Stephen Hawking on an acid trip.

The premise may sound outlandish, but the film has become a cult classic. More than 60,000 people saw it at the Bagdad Theater, where it played for 18 weeks. "It's been a huge success,"

says Peter Boicourt, the film buyer for McMenamins theaters. "We've never played a film that long before."

The Chicago Tribune called it "modern science for dummies." The Dallas Morning News described it as "a film that dares to treat people as smart and deeply curious rather than dumb and deeply cynical."

"It's the best movie I've ever seen," declared teacher Brooke Kaye-Albright, who attended an event with one of the film's directors at the New Renaissance Bookstore last week. "It helps me realize what I'm really capable of."

"I loved it," added Leisa Vandehey, an office worker for Multnomah County. "I wish I could bring everyone I know to see it."

To date, the film has drawn more than a million viewers and grossed \$9.6 million--piddling by Hollywood standards (Spider-Man 2 grossed \$373 million) but a smash hit for an indie film.

What most viewers don't realize is that What the Bleep (which also screens as What the #\$*! Do We Know?) is the work of a strange sect headquartered a couple of hours north of Portland in the prairie town of Yelm, Wash.

The sect is dedicated to Ramtha, a mighty warrior-spirit from Atlantis, who speaks in a hokey English accent through his channeler, a former cable-TV saleswoman named JZ Knight, who plays herself in What the Bleep.

On the surface, Ramtha's message sounds like a cross between New Age spirituality and Amway optimism. Everything happens for a reason. Take charge of your life. Don't be a victim.

But delve a little deeper, and you find some strange, even disturbing ideas. Ramtha says mirrors are portals to a parallel universe. Ramtha says children with Down syndrome have "chosen" their condition. Ramtha says you can read minds, alter your own DNA, reverse aging, teleport, travel through time, and prolong your life with Twinkies.

Seriously.

All religions have an article of faith. Mormons believe the angel Moroni spoke to Joseph Smith. Catholics believe the wafer and wine become the body and blood of Christ. And "Ramsters" (as they're known in Yelm) believe that when a 58-year-old woman strides on stage, settles into her ceremonial chair, and speaks in a low, strange voice, she is no longer a blue-eyed grandmother named JZ Knight but an enlightened being named Ramtha, who flourished 35,000 years ago.

In 1997, parapsychologists from the Saybrook Graduate School in San Francisco measured Knight's pulse, respiration and other vital signs before and after channeling Ramtha.

"The type of results we got from the psychological and physiological tests are so unique that it's beyond my ability to imagine how someone could fake them," says researcher Stanley Krippner.

Knight refused to speak to WW, but her autobiography describes a difficult childhood. Born in Roswell, N.M. (a year before the infamous Roswell Incident), she grew up dirt-poor in a family with nine children. Her father was an alcoholic who beat her mother. She married a gas-station attendant and had two boys before leaving her husband and moving to Washington state.

She was just another Tacoma housewife until a Sunday afternoon in 1977, when she put a cardboard pyramid on her head and was startled by a shining apparition, 7 feet tall, with "black dancing eyes" standing in her kitchen.

"My name is Ramtha the Enlightened One," he intoned. "And I have come to help you over the ditch."

Whatever Ramtha's reasons for slumbering through the millennia, his timing--in commercial terms--was impeccable. The Age of Aquarius was dawning, channeling was all the rage, and Ramtha's gospel of self-empowerment seemed to strike a chord, especially among women (celebrity fans include Salma Hayek, Linda Evans and Shirley MacLaine.)

Ramtha's disciples (known as "masters") have now swelled to an estimated 5,000 people around the globe, who plunk down \$1,000 for a weeklong spell of ancient wisdom every year. To cater to this spiritual hunger, Knight ...

employs 60 people churning out books, tapes, CDs, videos, posters, scents, lotions, candles and elvish capes.

Her company, JZK Inc., refuses to divulge any financial information, but one observer pegs its annual income at \$10 million at least. Whatever the figure, it is substantial enough that the girl who was born in a one-room shack now lives in a 12,000-square-foot French-style chateau with six bedrooms, seven fireplaces, a spiral staircase and an indoor pool.

Driving through Yelm (population 3,300) you can't help but feel that the town seems miscast as a mecca. Set 20 miles southeast of Olympia, where the Nisqually River wends its way from the jagged peak of Mount Rainier, Yelm is the kind of place where men wear overalls to work, green moss sprouts on the roofs, and the Christmas parade is front-page news.

On the edge of town, behind a high stone wall, sits the Ranch, a.k.a. Ramtha's School of Enlightenment--a 49-acre spread that functions as a sort of intergalactic headquarters. Here, in an indoor horse ring dubbed the Great Hall, Ramtha holds court before audiences of a thousand masters or more, who sit cross-legged on a floor paved with AstroTurf.

WW was barred from attending any of Ramtha's appearances, which typically occur a couple of times a month. But videos and eyewitness accounts depict a charismatic woman thundering from the stage, sometimes challenging the masters, sometimes lecturing them, sometimes leading them in "wine ceremonies" where the entire assembly gets plowed.

On a recent visit, my tour guide was Greg Simmons, RSE's marketing director. With his blue jeans, black wool sweater fraying at the elbows and piercing gaze, Simmons somehow broadcasts both intensity and calm, like a transistor radio tuned to two stations at once.

Simmons' first audience with Ramtha was 22 years ago. He was so awestruck that he eventually quit his job and moved to Yelm.

Ramtha's appeal is plain to see. Stripped to its essentials, the idea is that you possess untapped hidden powers. If you could just channel your own potential, all your problems--your depression, your coke habit, your crummy marriage--would melt away.

This idea is hardly unique--ask your local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous. But Ramtha takes it one step further. By creating your own reality, Ramsters believe, you can violate the laws of physics. Ramtha teaches that with proper training, you can learn to see in the infrared

wavelength, transmit thought or predict the future. To hone their mental powers, disciples wander through a vast outdoor labyrinth with blindfolds duct-taped to their heads for up to eight hours at a time, concentrating on the "void" at the center of the maze. "It builds focus within," says Simmons. "It's just a question of mind over matter."

They also practice telepathy. One will take a scrap of paper, sketch an image--a canoe, for example--and focus on transmission. A second will sit, blindfolded, across the Great Hall, and sketch what they receive. Hundreds of apparently successful transmissions are taped up on the walls, side by side: bicycles, numbers, triplets of colors. "These people don't even speak the same language," Simmons says.

We have lunch together at Annie's Bistro, a well-known Ramster joint in Yelm. He orders the calamari. I choose the stroganoff. Afterwards, we walk out to the parking lot, where I discover that I somehow left my headlights on. My battery is dead. We string a pair of jumper cables from Simmons' immense pickup to my Honda, which fires right up.

"I probably could have done that by just touching the battery," he smiles. "But I didn't want to freak you out."

Approximately 2,000 masters now reside in the Yelm area (only JZ Knight actually lives at the Ranch). While there is no overt hostility, the spiritual immigration has created some friction. The mayor of Yelm refused to make any comments about Ramtha, and local residents roll their eyes at talk of telepathy and quantum potentials.

The fact is that Ramtha has become a significant part of the Yelm economy. The School of Enlightenment draws thousands of masters every year--some of whom have set up cafes, bookstores, galleries and auto shops.

Most of these businesses would seem at home in the dreadlock district of any American city. But deep in the woods between Yelm and Rainier, masters have also set up an operation that would raise a few eyebrows on Hawthorne Boulevard--a private school where 40 children learn, along with the three Rs, how to read minds and sense the unseen.

Sitting on a minuscule blue chair in the first-grade classroom of the Children's School of Excellence, teacher Cheryl Nichols spreads a deck of cards face-down, invites me to choose one--and then guess what it is.

I pull a card from the deck and lay it down on the table, staring at the yellow smiley face on the reverse. Focus. After 30 seconds, the face starts to shimmer. It seems to float up off the table, mocking me.

"Think about it this way," Nichols says. "You've already chosen the card. Now imagine that you've already turned it over. You just have to look and see what it is."

Suddenly, a card appears in my mind's eye--the Seven of Diamonds. I write it down in my notebook, then turn the card over.

It's the Six of Diamonds.

Suddenly, my pulse is racing. Nichols looks at me and smiles.

In 1988, David McCarthy's life was falling apart. A musician and cabinetmaker living in New Zealand, he was stretched to the breaking point by the pressures of raising two daughters, paying

a mortgage, and the suicide of his best friend. "I felt like if I stopped for a day, everything would fall apart," he says. "I had to find some answers."

Then he stumbled across a book by Ramtha. "A lot of it rang true for me," he says. "It said, 'Love yourself into life,' and I thought that sounded pretty good."

McCarthy came to Yelm in 1990--and was blown away. "When you're with a thousand kindred spirits, all seeking enlightenment, from all over the world, there's an enthusiasm and camaraderie that's very powerful," he says.

He signed up for classes, workshops and retreats, generally immersing himself in Ramtha's world. To advance through the school and join elite groups such as the Blue College, the Red Guard or the Comrades, masters are required to attend at least two events every year. Skip a mandatory event and you're busted back down to the bottom rank.

Year after year, McCarthy kept coming back, working at his disciplines, seduced by the promise that his new powers were right around the corner. He suppressed his doubts. "You're taught that doubt is your problem," he says. "We are sleeping Gods, and Ramtha will wake us up."

One day, McCarthy and other masters were working on "manifesting"--creating a physical object out of nothing by focusing on a mental image, like a gold coin, a rose, or a blue feather. "After several days, I'd not created anything solid," he says.

Then, across the Great Hall, he heard people shouting. He saw a woman walking through the crowd holding a blue feather over her head. Pandemonium broke out. Over roars of appreciation, the woman took her place next to McCarthy. He leaned over and asked her how she did it.

"She says she went into the store and bought it. I said, 'That's not creating something out of nothing!' And she said, 'Yes it is!--I've created my own reality.' And I thought, 'I have to get out of here.'"

McCarthy, who still lives in Yelm, is now fiercely critical of Knight. "It was a scam," he says. "I have no doubt but that JZ is a fraud."

Another former student, who asked that she be identified only as "Stephanie," spent hours every day following the school's disciplines--focused breathing, meditation, and concentrating on a list of positive thoughts, such as I am fabulously wealthy, I am radiantly healthy, I am 20 years younger, I never age. She believed that she could heal her own illnesses by generating a high-frequency force field where decay could not survive. If she got sick, she thought it was because she wasn't disciplined enough.

Then, one day, she developed a toothache. She went to the dentist for the first time in 10 years and had to get two teeth extracted. "That was my first indication that something was wrong," she says. "I did the disciplines every day for years. But it didn't work. I thought, 'I did not maintain my teeth. I did not reverse aging.'"

"The whole thing is rigged," she says. "I just don't want to do it anymore."

Stories like these sound familiar to Robert Menna, who started collecting information about Ramtha 12 years ago, after his teenage daughter, Alex, ran away to Yelm (she has since quit the group.)

"These are not stupid people," says Menna, who is working on a book about Ramtha. "They're open-minded, idealistic. They want to change the world. But the longer you're in, the harder it is to get out."

Menna says masters follow Ramtha's every pronouncement--no matter how bizarre. In the '80s, when his teachings were filled with tales of UFOs and alien abduction, Ramtha declared that copper could ward off extraterrestrial attacks. Masters lined their ceilings with copper strips and copper pennies. Ramtha warned of apocalyptic battles, or a catastrophic flood. Masters built underground shelters by the score. Ramtha said drinking seawater could boost psychic powers. Masters actually flew to the Dead Sea to scoop up buckets of brine.

In September, Ramtha revealed that Hostess Twinkies contain an ingredient that can prolong life. Masters cleared the nutritious treats from grocery-store shelves. "Ramtha made some kind of announcement, and now everybody's going nuts about Twinkies," says a manager at the Yelm QFC.

"This is a future Heaven's Gate," Menna says.

Simmons dismisses the criticism. "A 'cult' is a dirty little four-letter word you call people you don't like," he says. "The school is too difficult, too scientific, and too wonderful to be a cult."

The most intriguing concept in *What the Bleep*--and in Ramtha's teachings--is the idea that quantum mechanics is the ultimate proof that the universe is a sort of metaphysical putty we shape with our minds. But one of the experts quoted in the film says this claim is nonsense.

Philosopher David Albert, who runs the Philosophical Foundations of Physics program at Columbia University, says the filmmakers totally misrepresented him. "They must have filmed me for four hours," he told WW. "It became clear to me they believe that...by positive thinking we can alter the structure of the world around us. I spent a long time explaining why that isn't true, going into great detail. But in the movie, my views are turned around 180 degrees."

"The film is pushing a claim that quantum mechanics shows that consciousness is the basis of external reality," he continues. "And that's not an accurate representation."

Back at the Ranch, the masters don't worry too much about the skeptics. They are convinced their "disciplines" produce authentic miracles. They boast of incredible healings--tumors shrunk, T-cell counts restored, cancer destroyed.

"It's all been documented," says Simmons, who personally claims to have levitated (something about counter-rotating magnetic fields spinning fast enough to create an anti-gravity matrix).

Pressed for evidence, however, Simmons demurred. "We're not interested in convincing people," he says finally. "It's not about trying to convince anybody--we're not in the convincing business. We know we have the proof."

It's hard to know whether to be amused or alarmed by the Ramtha phenomenon. History is replete with prophets claiming miraculous powers. Some soar to spectacular heights. Others barely clear the runway. Some genuinely believe they are appointed by God--others are basically con artists in cloaks.

Which is Ramtha? Only JZ Knight knows. Certainly, she has achieved some spectacular results. Since she started channeling Ramtha, she has gone from being a Tacoma nobody to a million-dollar prophet who commands thousands of followers. Whether by divine inspiration or savvy

marketing, she has given birth to a creed, a cult or a circus--or maybe, if you go for the quantum outlook, all three.

What the Bleep Do They Know? **Film's "experts" boast intriguing résumés**

Several authorities appear in *What the Bleep Do We Know?* offering mind-bending insights about reality and perception. But who are they, really? Here's a look at some of the more controversial speakers.

David Albert is a professor and the director of the Philosophical Foundations of Physics program at Columbia University. He says the film completely misrepresented his views.

Dr. Joseph Dispenza is a chiropractor and a master teacher at Ramtha's School of Enlightenment.

Dr. Masaru Emoto is a doctor of alternative medicine who has written three books about messages from water.

Amit Goswami (above) is professor emeritus (in theoretical physics) at the University of Oregon and member of its Institute of Theoretical Science, as well as author of a slew of New Age books. He also lectures at Ramtha's School of Enlightenment.

John Hagelin is a physicist and fan of Transcendental Meditation. He is the director of the Maharishi University of Management's Institute of Science, Technology and Public Policy, and has twice run for president as the candidate of the Natural Law Party (whose platform included natural health care, deep tax cuts and "conflict-free politics").

Mgr. Miceal Ledwith is a Catholic priest and former president of Maynooth College in Ireland who resigned after a seminarian accused Ledwith of abusing him as a boy. He is also a master teacher at Ramtha's School of Enlightenment.

Dr. Jeffrey Satinover (above) is a psychiatrist, physicist and author of several books (*The Quantum Brain* and *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*) who supports reparative therapy for homosexuality and lists Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas as one of his heroes. --Chris Lydgate

A Message to Current Students of Ramtha's School of Enlightenment.



David McCarthy
Former student of RSE Ramtha's School of Enlightenment.
<http://www.wweek.com/storyforum.php?story=5860>

For JZ Knight/Ramtha students to brush off this report as "very demeaning of the intelligence of the student body of the Ramtha School of Enlightenment". Is a typical response to side step the real issues that this article presented.

The movie "What the #\$*! Do we know"., speaks of quantum science and universal truths, philosophies and thought provoking concepts, this is the ploy to draw the unsuspecting public into the clutches of RSE.

If you are unfortunate to be drawn into this RSE deception you will be taught by Ramtha that you are a God "A sleeping God" he will elect himself as the spokesperson for your God, until the sleeping God has awakened within you.

By this you will gain immortality to enlightenment with all you could wish for in between. All this for a price of course.

There is a climate of fear in RSE to speak out, for who dare challenge "Ramtha the Enlightened One" an ascended Master from 35000 years ago.

I have many dear friends who have locked up there lives and spirit within the RSE

A message to current students of RSE.

I do not attack your sincerity and quest for knowledge; I have many dear friends among you.

David McCarthy

Dear Conrad,

As a former student of RSE for over seven years I have witnessed first hand the systematic erosion of critical thinking minds into a mass of brainwashed Ramtha devotees led by JZ Knights and her groomed cohorts. If ever there was a definition for a cult, RSE would have my vote. I support you work 100%. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.
Best regards, David McCarthy

Masaru Emoto – Healing Water Research

The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine
Volume 10, Number 1, 2004 pp. 19-21

Photo Essay

Healing With Water by Masaru Emoto, M.D.



Masaru Emoto is currently traveling the world with his water experiments purported to show the healing effects of thought on water. It is a beautiful idea that fits hand in hand with the ideology of most RS members, myself included. The problem is it is being presented as science. It is not. It has the academic weight of a 5th grade science report.

Mr. Emoto (I refuse to put “Dr.” in front of his name) claims that different words taped to bottles of water change the water crystals. The word “love” produces a beautiful crystal that looks like a snowflake, the word “I hate you I want to kill you” produces crystals that are ugly and distorted. When beautiful classical

music is played to the water, we again get beautiful snowflake arrays, but when heavy metal music is played the crystals turn ugly and distorted.

So according to his research the conclusion can be made that nature finds music by Smetana to be beautiful, while nature finds heavy metal music to be ugly. I realize the bulk of people believing his studies probably do not listen to heavy metal music so it must instantly register as making sense.

“I like classical music, I don’t like heavy metal; so nature is agreeing with what I already know”. I personally have performed with Seattle Opera, I have also produced albums for dozens of heavy metal bands. I find both styles of music equally beautiful, though not equally complex. Classical music is more complex in orchestration and arrangement, so it would seem obvious to me that classical music should produce distorted results rather than heavy metal. And I could no doubt repeat the experiment with this result. In this same manner, Mr. Emoto has chosen samples to support his desired outcome. He has been open that he chooses samples to support his preconceived idea of a proper outcome and that he uses no double-blind approach in his “research”, in fact he refuses to. If he did, he would receive one million dollars from Mr. Randi.



Love & gratitude

I would remind you that the beauty of a snowflake is subjective, as is the ugliness of heavy metal music. It is us who have labeled these things beautiful or ugly, not nature. This test was not done double-blind, much less blind. There is nothing to say that the observer did not know in advance what they were looking for, leaving the obvious possibility and probability that observers chose the sample they wanted to correspond with the outcome.

His work is of particular interest to me because he has been quoted to me for over a year as scientific fact. I have presented documentation to refute his claims within our church community but it remained closed and unread. For those that have ears to hear, let them hear.

As support for his work it is claimed that his findings have been published in a peer reviewed scientific journal. This is true. His essay entitled “Healing With Water” did indeed appear in the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine, Volume 10, Number 1, 2004, pp. 19-21. You can obtain a report yourself from his website or for \$29 from the publisher www.LiebertOnline.com, which is where I obtained my copy.



Because peer-reviewed journals contain articles that are not necessarily peer-reviewed, I contacted Mary Anne Liebert publishers. Here is the response: "In answer to your question, yes, the paper you referred to was indeed peer-reviewed, as are all our original papers." Vicki Cohn Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers. So there you have it. I guess I was wrong. Or maybe not.

This still didn't settle me. If he is an established academic then why is he selling water bottles and trinkets from his website? Why is he primarily involved with new thought churches and consulting with hotel chains while being mysteriously absent in the scientific community?

I engaged researches at Google Answers to look further for me. Indeed, this one journal entry is the only that any of the researchers could find. It is interesting that it appears only in the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine, but conspicuously absent from a more accredited journal.

I downloaded the report and have read it. First of all, it is not a scientific report at all and is clearly labeled a "Photo Essay". There was no real peer review needed at all because it is indeed not a scientific paper, simply a photo essay. It is just a hair over two pages long, and the bulk of one page is mostly pictures. For the following information you can go to www.LiebertOnline.com or currently directly to <http://www.liebertonline.com/toc/acm/10/1.jsessionid=jV2-kSTVgTBg>.

If you have never read an academic journal entry before, I would challenge you to download for free from that page the article Quanta and Coherence Effects in Water and Living Systems by Cyril W. Smith. This will give you a sample of a real scientific study and how it is presented. Now if you're serious about following this up, you can download Healing With Water by Masaru Emoto and read it for yourself. I cannot reprint his article because it is copyrighted and I had to agree not to copy it in order to download. I would venture to guess that a lot of people have gotten as far as I did with this, but simply didn't want to pay the \$29. You can also get a free copy from Masaru Emoto's website, but I preferred to obtain it from the original source of publication.

Here are some excerpts from his two page photo essay:

"It is impossible to reproduce the same crystal twice perfectly" – This makes sense to me. What doesn't make sense is that only five pictures were included in the report. Even on his site I've only seen around thirty pictures total. Out of the multitude of water crystals available to select, who chose which ones to select and on what basis? This isn't mentioned. Is it possible that the observer was able to choose samples to match the outcome they wanted? Well, not if the experiment was performed double-blind.

"In many cases, the observer did not know what type of water was observed." – This means that also in "many" cases the observer DID know what type of water was being observed and had the ability to choose samples to rig the outcome. How many is "many". Of hundreds of tests, this could be as few as ten, couldn't it?

"The client drinks the special HADO water that will deliver the necessary vibration and bring balance and harmony to the diseased area. As the process is repeated more and more, healing will occur within the client." – Mr. Emoto is selling healing water! Very reminiscent of the snake oil salesmen that traveled the old west from town to town. His wife runs his publishing company, he has several self-published books and is making lots of money selling books and water related products, yet NO other entry in scientific journals or acceptance by the scientific community at large? I would think he could qualify for a Nobel Prize if his works were established. He quotes Albert Einstein at the beginning of his essay, a travesty in itself. I don't

remember Albert Einstein selling trinkets.

“Alternative therapists, religious leaders, spiritual researchers, artists, and musicians have found this research to be instrumental in their work.” – No mention of scientists. I notice that the groups mentioned seem to be in a general category of those without scientific backgrounds or general reputation for critical thinking. I will put forth the idea that he has specifically targeted areas of the population that he knows do not have the tools to counter his claims. Or, that these groups are the only ones he can still operate in because the scientific community realizes his deception.

“In closing, I would like to state that, in the near future, I believe our water-crystal method will be recognized as one of the innovative technologies in the twenty-first century and applied in various aspects of our ordinary living environment. It is truly an honor for me to be given the responsibility of such an important task as a researcher and a lecturer.” – And I will translate that to this: “Very soon all of you will be using my water every day and I will make millions of dollars by taping words onto bottles. You Americans will buy anything.”

From Kakarat on physicsforums.com – It looks like random crystals form in there and then you go searching for one that suits your needs and go “hey look Satan formed when I played Marilyn Manson!”. They don’t show a wide sample of crystals from the same sample.

I hired Google Answers, you can read my questions and all answers at <http://answers.google.com/answers/threadview?id=511382>

Response - I'm glad to add what perspective I can, from my vantage point as a microbiologist with more than 25 years in the field.....The Emoto article ran as what they called a "PhotoEssay", and was not written up in conventional scientific style, but was much more informal.

Products available from Masuro Emoto

You can find these on his own website at hado.net

Water Crystal Oracle - This deck of forty-eight cards features Dr. Emoto's dramatic photographs divided into four sets of twelve cards each, Healing Cards, Power Cards, Wisdom Cards, and Earth Cards. Use the Water Crystal Oracle to amplify your positive thoughts and feelings and bring the qualities and emotions you desire to yourself.

Water Crystal Stickers - 28 water crystal stickers to change the atmosphere of whatever you place them on in a positive way. Includes blessing such as, "Thank You" and "Wisdom"

Water Bottles - "Words Purify Water" 28oz. refillable water bottles from Dr. Emoto. Available in three colors: Ice Blue, Royal Blue and Emerald.

Admission of Refusal for Double-Blind Research

This is from Emoto's own website at: <http://www.hado.net/lecture.html>

Q. Any criticism about your work that I have read suggests it's not valid because there are no double blind studies. What is your response?

When I consider hiring a new researcher to take crystal photography, I first give that person a blind test on water crystals. For example, I will provide some samples of water that we know will definitely form crystals, and some samples that will not produce any (such as Tokyo's tap water) without telling the candidate. Depending on the test result, I will register that person according to his or her level. However, I do not require any blind test on any samples after that. I believe that

the researcher's aesthetic sense and character is the important aspect when taking crystal photographs. Therefore, I try to make sure that they can take photographs in a relaxed and positive atmosphere. I urge each one of them to try their best because beauty exists in everything.

Admission of Lack of Scientific Background

This is from Emoto's own website at: <http://www.hado.net/lecture.html>

Q. Do you know any other scientists who are pursuing similar research with water? If not why do you think this is so?



Even though my book, "Message from Water" was first published in 1999, June and have been translated in over twenty languages now, I have not heard of anybody else conducting a similar research. It is a wonder that there is nobody that thought of the same thing yet. The procedure is not very difficult and the equipment not too expensive. I have to guess that the realm of acceptable "science" had been too small to urge more people in this field. Luckily as for me, because I did not start out with any modern scientific background, I did not even know the limit of "science" to stop me from giving this research a chance.

Says His Work Proves How God Created the World

From Emoto's own website at: <http://www.hado.net/lecture.html>

Q. The conclusion that one can draw from your work is that positive words enhance us while negative words can damage us and we should be careful what we think and say. Do you think this is true?

Of course, I believe it is true. The Bible says, "In the beginning was the Word" as well. The Lord created this world with words, or the vibration. My research has proved this point.

Mr. Emoto Offered One Million Dollar Prize to Duplicate Test Double-Blind

That's right. If Mr. Emoto will simply duplicate his test in a double-blind environment he can qualify to collect the one million dollar paranormal prize.

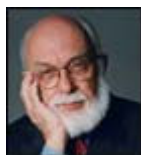
My question to you: This is very simple what's being asked of him. Simply perform the experiment where the observer does not know which sample they are looking at. For this he will receive ONE MILLION DOLLARS! I guess Mr. Emoto is too busy doing research to be bothered by this. But yet he seems to have time to sell water bottles, stickers and decks of cards.

Read the offering of the one million dollar prize from Mr. Randi himself at:

<http://www.randi.org/jr/052303.html>

Excerpt of Mr. Randi's essay on Emoto

<http://www.randi.org/jr/052303.html>



Then he really got into the swing of pseudoscience, simplifying matters by just writing words — in any language, of course — on pieces of paper and taping them to a clear glass container to see if anything happened. Positive words like "love" and "thank you" produced beautiful and delicate crystalline patterns, we're told. He tried "You Make Me Sick. I Will Kill You" and he observed distorted, frightening, muddled patterns. We show here the pattern produced by this last phrase. He even experimented

with names like "Gandhi," "Mother Teresa," and "Hitler," and the same kind of results occurred. Wow, again!

And, not to our surprise, Dr. Emoto discovered that the water crystals dutifully form up in response to different ethnic versions of the languages impressed upon them. Here's the expression "thank you" in both Japanese and English. You can see the distinct variations, can't you?

Well, if that didn't convince you that Dr. Emoto might not have both oars in the water, try this, a quotation from him in answer to his thoughts on what the crystals are: "I came to the realization that these crystals are spirits." Okay. Where's the door?

Let's spend a moment to wonder about how such a view can be brought about. Dr. Emoto might very well believe that he's doing science. But he's not. He does no double-blind procedures, for one thing, which dooms these amateur efforts, right from the beginning. If he were to be blind to which words were being used to influence the water crystals, his search through the results looking for confirmation, would be inconclusive. I'll risk the JREF million-dollar prize on that statement. If Dr. Emoto wants to win the prize, let him agree to perform his tests in a double-blind fashion, and I predict he'll get fuzzy results that prove nothing.

Christopher Columbus Historical Facts



In What The Bleep Do We Know a woman says, "The following story, which I believe is true...." She starts the story and then an official sounding documentary voice finishes it.

She says that when Christopher Columbus first landed the natives could not see the Clipper ships on the horizon. The Shaman of the village stood for many days on the shore and finally was able to see them. One by one, he convinced the natives that indeed they were there, and one by one the natives could finally see the ships.

For this I hired Google Answers for assistance.

You can read my questions and responses at <http://answers.google.com/answers/threadview?id=511386>

Response 1 - I saw What The Bleep last autumn, and found that my rectum was rifled with hemorrhoids thereafter. That apocryphal anecdote of the natives' inability to see & understand anything not spoon fed to them by experts is just a tactic on the part of the filmmakers, to teach the audience to accept their words as authorities on mystical issues. This is, to say the least, the antithesis of healthy scientific skepticism.



Response 2 - This is a ridiculous idea. Columbus's ships weren't very big. I had a chance to visit a replica of one of them a few years ago and it was quite small. The native peoples of the West Indies used fairly large dugout canoes and were quite familiar with the sea.

Here are some links that give some perspective on the scale of the ships Columbus arrived in that supposedly so boggled the natives.

<http://www.sailtexas.com/columbusships.html>
Columbus Ships

http://www.kwabs.com/columbus_log.html#SHIPSANDNAVIG2
Columbus Ships and Log Book

<http://www.sfu.ca/~csmith/genstuff/manteno/manteno2.html>
The Manteño Expeditions
Investigating the Sailing Vessels of Ancient Ecuador

<http://www.webster.edu/~corbetre/haiti/history/precolumbian/tainoover.htm>
PRE-COLUMBIAN HISPANIOLA -- ARAWAK/TAINO NATIVE AMERICANS
The Arawak/Taino had no large animals like horses, oxen or mules to ride or use for work. But they did have river and sea transportation. They used dugout canoes which were cut from a single tree trunk and used with paddles. They could take 70-80 people in a single canoe and even used them for long travels on the sea. These dugouts allowed fishing the few lakes of Hispaniola as well as fishing out a bit off the coast.

From <http://www.math.columbia.edu/~woit/blog/archives/000083.html>
To date, there has been no response as to where the information which lead to the story about the Indians not being able to see the ships of Columbus originated from. There appears to be no evidence to support this claim. In addition, the film mentioned "clipper ships" which were not even in existence at that time. Perhaps that is why they couldn't see them.

Maharishi Effect

The results of this experiment were misrepresented in What The Bleep Do We Know
The following information on the Maharishi Effect is from:
Voodoo Science and The Belief Gene by Robert L. Park
http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2843/is_5_24/ai_67691836

How do people decide what to believe? And why do some believe while others doubt? Science offers a strategy for sorting out the truth.

In the summer of 1993, more than 5,000 experts in Transcendental Meditation (TM) from around the world spent two-week shifts in the nation's capital as part of the National Demonstration Project to Reduce Violent Crime in Washington, D.C. Mostly young, white, professionals, they were there to create a "coherent consciousness field" by meditating in unison. They expected this to reduce stress and promote tranquility, not just among those meditating, but throughout the city. Organizers of the \$6 million project predicted that violent crime in the city would be reduced by 20 percent.

The head of the project was John Hagelin, a 39-year-old physicist with a receding hairline and a perpetual cherubic smile. His high forehead was unfurrowed by negative thoughts. A summa cum laude graduate of Dartmouth, Hagelin had gone on to complete a Ph.D. in physics at Harvard. In 1983, he held a postdoctoral research appointment at the Stanford Linear Accelerator. One day

he simply vanished, reappearing a year later as chairman of the Physics Department at Maharishi International University in Fairfield, Iowa. The University was founded by the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, the Indian guru who vaulted to fame after becoming the spiritual advisor to the Beatles.

At a press conference, Hagelin explained that the Project to Reduce Violent Crime was firmly grounded in superstring theory, an abstract and highly speculative theory that seeks to connect all the forces of nature. According to Hagelin, one such force is a collective consciousness of society. Transcendental Meditation taps into that force.

The weeks that followed seemed like something out of an old mad-scientist movie--an experiment gone horribly wrong. Each Monday morning, the Washington Post would tally the gruesome weekend killings in the city. Participants in the project seemed serenely unaware of the mounting carnage around them as they sat cross-legged in groups throughout the city, eyes closed, peacefully repeating their mantras. The murder rate for those two months reached a level unmatched before or since.

At the end of the demonstration period, Hagelin promised that over the coming year the results would be carefully analyzed according to strict scientific principles. As promised, he was back in Washington a year later with a 55-page report. It was a clinic in data manipulation. Smiling his unworldly smile, Hagelin announced that during the period of the experiment their analysis showed a significant reduction in psychiatric emergency calls, fewer complaints against the police, and an increase in public approval of President Clinton--all consistent with the hypothesis that a coherence-creating group of TM experts can relieve social stress and reverse negative social trends.

More significantly, he said, violent crime in the city had been reduced by a remarkable 18 percent. "An 18 percent reduction compared to what?" asked a puzzled reporter for the Washington Post, no doubt recalling the previous summers dreadful murder rampage. Compared to what it would have been if the meditators had not been meditating, Hagelin explained patiently. "But how could you know what the rate would have been?" the reporter persisted. That had been arrived at, Hagelin responded with just a trace of irritation, by means of a "scientifically rigorous time-series analysis" that included not only crime data, but such factors as weather and fluctuations in Earth's magnetic field.

The belief of the Maharishi's followers in the power of TM had not been influenced in the slightest by the outcome of the "experiment." This was pseudoscience--all the talk of "string theory" and "consciousness fields" and "time series analysis" was technobabble, meant to give the appearance of science.

Which is not to say that those involved were not sincere in their belief. They may believe so fervently that they are convinced that, properly interpreted, the data must support their belief. But how do people decide what to believe? And why do some believe while others doubt?

Sai Baba Exposed

Fraud, Fakery & Molestation

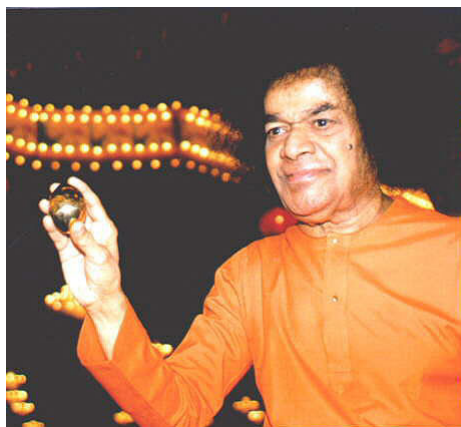
I include this section on Sai Baba because I have personally seen an RS minister use Baba's holy ash for a ceremony, and the validity of his manifestations of ash and rings are taught by that minister as truth. I am not attacking any of his teachings, which I personally have no knowledge of. Interesting that I have not been taught his teachings, only about his miracles which have been debunked. No doubt he has beautiful teachings that have truth and beauty in them. But to present his manifestations as proof of the divinity of his teachings is absolute folly. The strength of his words should speak for themselves, and should be taught as such.

From Nexus Magazine

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<http://www.nexusmagazine.com/articles/SaiBabaExposed.html>

A SHORT HISTORY OF SATHYA SAI BABA



Sri Sathya Sai Baba was born in South India, in the tiny village of Puttaparthi, on 23 November 1926. His given name was Satyanarayana and his family name was Raju. On 20 October 1940, at the age of fourteen, he declared to his family and to the people of his village that he was the reincarnation of an Indian saint who had died in 1918, named Shirdi Sai Baba, and that he would henceforth be known as Sai Baba.

Sai Baba's ashram, built by his devotees close to the village where he was born, was inaugurated on 23 November 1950. It is called Prasanthi Nilayam (Abode of Divine Peace). It has been the gathering place of millions of spiritual pilgrims of various faiths from all over

the world.

During the period 14–23 November 1995, the celebrations for the 70th birthday of Sathya Sai Baba took place in Prasanthi Nilayam. More than one million people, including the President and Prime Minister of India, assembled in Prasanthi Nilayam to pay homage to Sathya Sai Baba during these celebrations.

Today, the Sai Organisation claims over 1,200 Sathya Sai Baba centres, spread through 137 countries around the world.

It is fair to say that Sai Baba is a highly revered spiritual leader, whose life and message has inspired millions of people throughout the world to turn Godward and lead more purposeful and moral lives. The stories of his "miracles" are many and legendary in their telling and retelling. Scores of famous Westerners have added their own exciting synchronistic accounts of how Sai Baba saved them from certain death by "appearing" before them at crucial moments. Accounts of Sai Baba-related manifestations and materialisations are also widespread, adding to the air that Sai Baba is literally the reappearance of God on Earth.

Unfortunately, this is where the fairytale ends.

A growing number of boys and young men are coming forward with allegations of sexual harassment, sexual abuse and rape. And now that attention has been focused on the Swami, one finds many more accounts of faked miracles, suspicious deaths, massive financial fraud,

weapons and explosives being found in the ashram, an assassination attempt, and yet more cases of paedophilia and homosexual abuse.

With news of these events and other incidents, the seeds of doubt have been sown in many minds. How is it that Sai Baba's own brother-in-law died of rabies? Why did Baba have to be hospitalised for a ruptured appendix and a broken leg? Why does he travel in Mercedes cars and require heavy protection? Why does Sai Baba have to wave his hand in circles before producing anything? Does his occasional transvestism and derision for women really illustrate the male-female principle of the universe?

It is possible we will never find the real truth to many of the above rumours and allegations, with the exception of the sexual abuse cases. We have extracted the following accounts from just three of the many testimonies now emerging. We have also spoken to many former long-term devotees who have now left the organisation.

For those wishing to pursue the matter further, we suggest as a starting point that you get onto the Internet and visit <http://www.myfreeoffice.com/saibabaexposed/>. (Note: that site has been closed - other current websites in English are: www.sathyasaivictims.com/ and www.snowcrest.net/sunrise).

Let me emphasise that this information does not reflect one or two disgruntled devotees "who did not get enough attention". It reflects the fact that many, many boys and young men have been sexually abused by someone in whom they gave their total trust. Their silence was maintained because the victims knew that no one would believe them.

I hope this article can rectify that situation somewhat.

— Duncan M. Roads (Editor – Nexus Magazine)

TERRY GALLAGHER'S TESTIMONY

What began as a wonderful spiritual journey ended with total disbelief and bitter disappointment when we found out the truth.

Perhaps I should start at the beginning with a brief account of that journey. After reading a book called *Man of Miracles*, I set off for India (and Puttaparthi) with my wife and three young daughters, in an organised group for Christmas 1983.

What we found when we arrived in India was something I had been searching for all my life: the most beautiful, peaceful atmosphere, with wonderful people searching for their own spiritual truth, living in a community whose whole objective was that of improving self-awareness and achieving self-realisation through the teachings of a living guru—Sai Baba.

Adjacent to the ashram, and provided free of cost to the students, was a primary school for boys and girls, and various colleges for boys where spiritual teachings were incorporated into the normal academic disciplines.

We were all very impressed and motivated towards learning as much as possible about what Sai Baba had to teach us.

The celebration of Christmas came and went, after which our family was called for an interview with Sai Baba. As a result of this interview and what appeared at the time to be the most perfect environment for students and devotees to advance their spiritual lives, I made a substantial donation to the Central Trust to help them fund their educational programs.

Upon leaving the interview, I was told by Sai Baba that I should sit on the verandah of the mandir in future, with students from the colleges and other devotees. As it turned out, this gave me the opportunity to meet people and observe events very closely that I otherwise might not have had the opportunity to do.

We all had mixed feelings when we had to leave the ashram and return to Australia—sad in having to leave, and joy in what we had experienced. We returned to the ashram again in 1985 for one month; and then in 1986 we stayed for seven months, at which time our daughters attended Sai Baba's school.

It was during this time that I began to observe things that made me question what I had experienced on previous visits. Having a scientific background, I began to observe a set routine that Sai Baba followed each morning and evening during darshan and, in particular, how he materialised vibhuti (holy ash).

I will never forget the look of anguish on Sai Baba's face when he came onto the verandah of the mandir early one morning and dropped two vibhuti pellets in front of me as he attempted to accept a rose from a college student. There was no vibhuti materialisation during darshan that morning!

In the months that followed, I observed how he transferred these vibhuti pellets from one hand to the other, using the letters he collects from devotees to disguise his movements. In the many interviews that followed, I also observed more than thirty instances of rings, "diamonds", japamalas, vibhuti containers, etc., all being produced by sleight of hand and deception. At first I kept this information to myself. I reasoned that if this was what made people come to see Sai Baba, resulting in their becoming more spiritual, what harm could it do? Eventually I told my wife and children, who also saw through this "materialisation" trickery. It was the observations and information that followed on from these initial findings that concerned me most, especially those relating to students being sexually interfered with in grotesque ways by Sai Baba. We returned to the ashram several times during the following years, making further observations and having these confirmed by college students and long-term devotees living at the ashram.

During this time, I was the Central Coordinator for three years for the Sathya Sai Organisation in Australia. It wasn't until 1993, following the [6 June] assassination attempt on Sai Baba, resulting in the murder of four college students and two assistants in the mandir, that we made our last visit to India.

The purpose of this visit was to find the reason why former students of Sai Baba's college would want to kill him, particularly when they had been given a free education!

The eyewitness accounts were horrific! After bursting into the mandir, four students found themselves trapped upstairs where Sai Baba was staying. Each was interrogated by police, then one at a time they were executed. The stench of death was everywhere.

I made further inquiries about Sai Baba having sexual relations with college boys and male students—some of these as young as seven years of age—and whether this was the reason for former students wanting to kill him. I was told, to my horror, that this was an acceptable Indian practice!

I felt sick, and just wanted to take my family and leave the ashram and India as quickly as possible. Before we did, we were all called for interview with Sai Baba, and we told him what we had experienced and been told.

Sai Baba made no comment on our accusations and was only anxious to know who had told us these details, requesting us to tell him several times! Having had dozens of interviews over the years, this was the most stressful and uncomfortable interview our family had ever experienced. Sai Baba was tense and agitated, and his body language told us all that what we had found out about him was the truth! We left the interview and returned to Australia.

The following years were very difficult spiritually; we concentrated on all the positive aspects we had experienced over the past ten years and found this comforting.

When we attempted to tell others about our experiences and the truth about Sai Baba, no one would believe us, except those who had also had similar experiences—and mostly fear prevents them from telling others.

It has only been in the past twelve months that former students and devotees of Sai Baba have begun communicating with each other, confirming experiences to be true and supporting each other spiritually and emotionally when necessary.

I now know the truth about Sai Baba and sincerely pray that others, too, will follow both their logic and intuition and also find the truth.

Terry Gallagher

Ex-Central Coordinator of Sathya Sai Organisation, Australia.

(Source: Terry Gallagher's letter to Faye and David Bailey, The Quarterly, UK,

HANS DE KRAKER'S TESTIMONY

I travelled to India extensively for a period of four years. During this period (1992–94), I had many (35) private audiences with Sai Baba.

I got to know him in 1988 through a friend in Italy who had passed on a book. After about four years, I made my first trip to India with my girlfriend, mother and father. The years that followed were making for some very intense years in my life.

Sai Baba, fairly much from the first private audience, had suggested to me and my girlfriend that we were to split up from each other for our own good. He did this in a very public and embarrassing way, purposely humiliating my girlfriend and myself. We had built a lot of "faith and mystery" around him and had by now accepted him as a God incarnate on Earth, the epitome of spirituality, the epitome of human divine spiritual expression.

There were many books written by people from all parts of the world that spoke about miracle after miracle. People had been cured from fatal diseases by virtue of touching jewellery "materialised by Swami". He "appeared" in front of people in all different parts of the world. Millions of people travelled to India to see "God on Earth". Millions of people came and cried upon his sight; some were cured of their illnesses, some freed of their anxieties of life, and some died in peace. Some left laden with trinkets or real golden rings, watches, pendants, all "materialised by Swami".

Sai Baba has been enjoying a lot of popularity in the West. He has a great ability to play with and communicate to large crowds of people. It is this particular power that allows him to manipulate people. It takes a Great Man not to abuse this power...

During these four years of travels to India, Sai Baba would perform a certain ritual each time he would call me in for a private audience or interview. He would ask me to take down my pants. He would then "oint" my umbilical area, testicles and penis with oil which he "materialised". After this ritual, he would ask me to pull up my pants and tidy them up. I had heard of this ritual and it

seemed to be "common knowledge" that this was done to balance the sexual energy or kundalini. I had never thought anything of it. When I was in Elementary School in Holland, the school doctor used to check and touch your testicles to see if you were growing properly. I likened this ritual to a visit to the doctor. It was just for a different purpose. Very unassumingly I continued to receive this treatment, convinced it was going to do me some good!

Each and every trip he would "materialise" trinkets, jewellery, vibhuti and oil. I noticed that he was particularly generous with the people that donated a lot of money or equipment for the various kitchens in the ashram. I did also notice that he would call in a lot of young guys out of the crowd, and never girls.

In one particular interview, I saw him take a ring from under the handkerchief that was on the armrest of his chair. I thought not much of it. I never really attached much value to the materialisations and knew that the receiver was going to be an ecstatically happy person... Shortly after, one of my friends in the group said to me: "Gosh, what a test! Swami wanted to show me that he did not materialise the ring, but that he took it from under his handkerchief! Isn't he funny! He is really testing us!" I did not give it any focus; I never had focused much on these materialisations, and the thought of accepting that he was not actually materialising these objects was probably very unattractive, tough for my mind. I had also received a ring, two bracelets and a necklace, so I guess I had satisfied that desire!

Through the years I got more and more attention on a personal level from Sai Baba. This went accompanied with receiving VIP seating for doing work in the kitchen. As the crowds grew over the years, it became increasingly difficult to see "Swami" up close. There was a preferred seating area for people who worked in the kitchen, since they were not able to "do the lines". They often worked until 30 minutes before darshan. Arriving that late, they would always find themselves sitting in the back of the large crowd, so by getting this "reserved seat" they were able every now and then to have a close encounter with "the Master". These groups were organised in lines of two or three and rotated so that everybody got a fair chance. Although initially I was very much against this way of operating, I succumbed to my desire to get a close encounter with "the Master" and accepted a preferred seat the third time it was offered to me.

After two years I had become a "steady member" of a group that would travel to India three times a year to do volunteer work in the ashram. The group would cook food for up to 6,000 people around the festivals and various multi-religious celebrations (Christmas, Shivaratri, etc.). The group would bring thousands of kilos of food at its own expense as well as a lot of industrial kitchen machinery, etc. There were many other groups that brought help in some form or shape, and it was beautiful to be part of this enormous "collective effort".

Our group had a place of its own. We did not have to wait in line and always had front-row seating. On some occasions (on festivals and celebrations), we were even allowed to sit on the verandah. We would always get to see "Swami" from up-close and feel very fortunate. The ego was certainly satisfied with this powerful position! So many people wanted to be close to him. Millions of people travelled to get a glimpse of him, and here we were right up front! It is incredible how the mind comes up with justifications when it suits our personal purpose.

In my last trip to India (November 1996), I arrived early from Australia and my friends from Europe had not arrived yet. The usual kitchen managers were no longer running the kitchen. Upon arrival, Sai Baba asked me to reopen the western canteen and start making food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I collected a group of people and started working. (I was ordered/recommended by ashram management not to allow any Sri Lankans in the kitchen! All people I appointed were screened by the management.) Several days later, my friends from Europe joined me.

We had several interviews together. It was around 10 December that they left, except for one of my close friends. We spent some beautiful moments together. It was almost as if we were like the apostles around Jesus. We were moved even further ahead now and we were seated in the ashram management area, very close to the front. Sai Baba came to us every and each darshan and would have a chat with us. These were very special moments. We felt very privileged.

The day of my friend's departure, we were called in for an interview together. Sai Baba materialised another bracelet for my friend and for me. In this same trip, he had "materialised" (one of my friends was "tested" and saw him bring the object from the neighbouring room) a jar of amrita, "divine nectar", with a spoon which he used to give us all a spoonful, after which he said: "From now on, no more bad karma and no more bad luck in your life. You are very special people; this is a privilege! There are so many people out there and you are the lucky ones!" When I asked him why, he said that all our hearts were pure and that there was not self-interest involved in the work we did (we had many power-struggles and quarrels over positions in the group, just like any other group of humans may have).

My friend had now left. I was by myself and was called in a few days after he had left. I went into the interview room and was given a private audience in a separate room. When in this separate room, he asked me how things were in Australia. He told me that he would give me everything: money, a house, a wife—everything!

He then signs me to come closer and hug him. He then hugs me (I am on my knees and he is seated on his chair; there are no people present). He now turns his face and puts his lips on mine; my head is spinning and my mind is running at 500 kilometres per hour. I don't know what to do! My mouth tightens up, and I feel extremely uncomfortable and confused with this "perceived incarnation of God on Earth trying to kiss me on and in my mouth! Sai Baba slaps me on my cheek and says: "Loosen up! With other people, not okay; with Sai Baba, okay." I am even more uncomfortable now and feel disgusted at the same time.

Sai Baba realises his and my predicament and decides not to continue. He now tells me again that he will give me everything, and stands up and tells me to do padnamnamaskaar. As I go on my knees and touch his feet with my forehead, he pulls up my arms and indicates he wants his calf muscles massaged.

Although very uncomfortable with everything that had happened, I still continued to listen to him. Many people knew how he liked having his calf muscles massaged and I had seen respectable men and women of all walks of life do the same thing...

He now takes my head and pushes it quite firmly into his groin... He then pulls up my arms and asks me to go higher and higher and higher... Now I am holding his buttocks and wonder what the hell my Divine Master is asking me to do! I let go my arms and now I am even more shell-shocked...

He pulls up his dress, presents me his half-erect penis and invites me to take up my "good luck chance": "This is your good luck chance."

I am now on my knees facing his erect penis, being asked to perform oral sex. He stands there, and I think: Am I supposed to do this? Could I do this?

I then instinctively stretch out my right arm and put it on the part of his chest which hides his heart, and say: "I don't want this, Swami; I want your heart."

He now drops his dress and tells me: "Yes, yes, yes; of course you have my heart."

He now asks me to take my pants down, "discovers" my penis is not erect and tells me that that is how it is supposed to be!

"Swami is inside there, see; Swami is inside there."

Hell no! That is mine and mine! And you are certainly not in there, I thought.

He asks me to do padnamnamaskaar again, and again he pulls up his dress. "This is your second good luck chance," he says.

I refuse and get up without saying anything.

I am now angry, confused and dazed. I feel burning! God just took a back door! A very clever manipulator and professional deceiver had just trashed the fundamentals of the past eight years of my life. I had abstained from any sexual activity because he had suggested it was good for my spiritual evolution. He had harassed and embarrassed my girlfriend and myself because of our difference in age, while he was hitting on someone 42 years his junior. He had told us to break up our relationship, and for what reason? So he could have a go?

In reality, I pulled the carpet myself from under a mental castle which I had built myself. I am responsible for that. He is responsible for abusing the good faith of people, their trust, to the point of putting their life on the line and actually losing it.

He asks me to keep this quiet, not to say anything to anyone.

I walked out of the interview room and ran to my room. I locked myself in. I blacked out until 6 am the next morning (from 5 pm the day before).

A few weeks passed. There was a big power shake-up in the kitchen and I had no interest to participate in the whole situation any longer. I had a chat with the leader of the group because I had not been going to darshan any more.

My last day in the ashram, I talked to the leader of the group. She insisted that I tell her what happened. "So did he try to have sex with you?" was the question. Tired of it all, I told her what had happened. This was the evening of 4 or 5 January 1997. Immediately afterwards she had an interview with Sai Baba, by herself this time.

After she came out of the interview room several hours later, I was summoned to meet with an elderly gentleman from Security, whom I knew well, with whom I had built a friendship. This gentleman looked very awkward and asked me if he could take my photo. I said "Of course"—not knowing what was happening, but understanding something had gone wrong. He was accompanied by two seva dals. One of them took a picture from the front and then asked me to turn to the side. When I asked my friend what was happening, he nodded uncomfortably and said "I don't know".

They then escorted me to the secretary of the ashram who told me I was ordered to leave as soon as possible. I had behaved improperly and had to leave. When I asked what the reason was, he commanded that I was not allowed to ask anything, and that I was only allowed to leave. "You are to leave the ashram. You are strongly advised not to hang around the village, but to go as soon as possible to Bangalore and catch the first flight out."

I left...

Hans de Kraker

Australia, 19 May 2000

(Source: Letter to Faye and David Bailey, The Quarterly, UK)

JENS & GURPRIT SETHI'S TESTIMONY

I am giving you a thorough account of my traumatic experiences with Sathya Sai Baba and hope

that this will help people understand what he is all about. All the details are the truth and can be seen as testimony. I could and would testify to the following in an open court.

I am thirty-five years old and have been interested in spiritual matters since my childhood. For a long time I worshipped Jesus and Padre Pio; then after reading Yogananda's Autobiography of a Yogi, I turned towards the yogic path.

In October 1988, I became an ardent follower of Sathya Sai Baba, and came to Puttaparthi for the first time in September 1989. Since then, I visited Puttaparthi regularly every year and was totally absorbed in the "aura" of Sai Baba. I was fully convinced of his avatarhood and became so devoted that I was thinking and contemplating all the time about him alone.

In 1989, I read Lord of the Air [Lion Publishing, Herts., UK, 1976] by Tal Brooks, a young male USA ex-devotee who wrote of Sai Baba's sexual abuse of him, but I did not believe, thinking "Tal only wants to decry Baba".

Over the years, I had hundreds of darshans but never an interview. In 1993, I became a little suspicious about Sai Baba's lifestyle and the activities in the ashram. Every year I could see costly new buildings and felt an increasing commercialisation was going on. In 1996, I saw Sai Baba leaving the ashram in an expensive Jaguar and other costly cars like Mercedes and BMW of the big class. But I still believed him to be the Kali avatar of the age.

On 17 January 1996, I got my first interview and he was very kind, telling me nice things like "I will give you everything" as he touched and stroked my head. He said: "I know you're not sure about your life and future and so on. Also, unhappiness from women. I know, don't worry. Also, you have some bad thoughts, not good." Then he said: "I give you everything according to health, spirituality and life. Everything. I give you infinite love. You and me will become one." I touched his robe and he put his hand on the top of my head, saying "I give you separate interview".

On 20 January 1996, I got the second interview. Already, days before, he had established a strange eye-contact with me, indicating the coming interview. My wife and I went to the interview and he acted very disappointed at seeing me together with my wife. He took me alone into the interview room and said: "She is diseased and much older than you. Please separate from her." I was really shocked, and replied: "She is attached to me."

I asked him to give her some spiritual instruction, which he readily agreed to do, but he had something else on his mind.

Without asking permission, he started kissing me on my lips for some time, and later asked me to open my trousers and he "materialised" some oil which he rubbed on the skin above my genitals. I felt very bad about all of this, but accepted, as I fully trusted Sai Baba.

Then he took my wife into the private interview room alone, and told her: "Either you separate from the boy or I throw you out of Puttaparthi!" He appeared wild and furious (my wife told me afterwards) and she shivered all over. When she reappeared in a very short time, looking red-faced and very scared, nobody dared ask her what had happened in there.

He saw me again some days later in darshan and asked whether I had separated or not. I said: "Not yet." He turned away and shouted, so all people could hear: "Bad, bad boy!" He was so aggressive and seemed to radiate such an aura of evil that I was really shocked. We immediately left and went to northern India for some pilgrimage.

This was a turning point, but after a time I decided to go once more to Sai Baba to clarify the matter. At the end of 1996, I returned to India and got an interview on 4 December... [I]n the private room, the greedy old man kissed me again directly and continuously on my lips for about twenty seconds and gently stroked my back. By now I was certain that something was very wrong.

On 28 December, I was again called for an interview and he produced a golden ring which didn't fit well on my finger in spite of his blowing on it. In the private chamber he said "Come!", and again kissed me on the lips for some time as before. This time I resisted, and he gurgled: "Have no fear." I said: "I have no fear." Then he said: "This is a good opportunity; so many waiting for months and will not get." This baffled me. I'm sure people don't wait for mouth kisses in Puttaparthi.

Then his mood totally changed and I did have some fear. He commanded me to remove my trousers; he unzipped my fly and went with his right hand into my underpants. Sathya Sai Baba, "the divine", touched and massaged my genitals unasked. He expected some erection, but this didn't happen for I didn't feel any sexual excitement, no lust in the presence of a seventy-years-old man. I was really disgusted. Then he had the impudence to say: "It is very weak; don't waste energy." When I looked at him, I realised the truth about him and was shocked indeed. Soon afterwards, without another word, he sent me out of the room.

Back in Germany I did intense research on the Internet and came across an article from Jed Geyerhahn and was very relieved to have found somebody with similar experiences. As I still had some luggage in Puttaparthi, I returned in [late October] 1999 to collect it, taking with me two Internet pages to discuss with some friends there. Unfortunately, a lady came into possession of the material and took it to the Puttaparthi police station. Then I went through several interrogations with the police there... [who] took my passport away... I had another appointment on 1 November with the police, which was the day I intended to go to Delhi, but without my passport it would not be possible.

On 30 October, late in the evening, two people whom I know and an unknown person came to our unit and one of them warned me that my life was in danger and I should leave immediately... So we escaped and reached Delhi, and went immediately to the German Embassy. I got a travel document after telling them of my experience, and the embassy official said a protest note would be sent to the Indian Government. He told me such an act is illegal and they knew of similar cases...

I hope that this nightmare comes to an end; and I hope that by the grace of the Almighty, all people round the globe may know about the misdeeds of Sai Baba... He is a master—of deception.

Jens and Gurprit Sethi
Munich, Germany

(Source: Jens & Gurprit Sethi's letter to Faye and David Bailey, The Quarterly, UK)

Postscript:

1) The article above attracted a lot of feedback - more than any other article to date. I have been publishing controversial and cutting-edge information for more than 20 years - but never, have I had such a volume of foul-mouthed abusive, sick, perverted and hate-filled letters on any other topic. Ironically, these most foul-languaged, hateful letters have come from the followers of a person claiming to be bringing love to the world.

2) Not one official or representative has denied ANY of the allegations. Instead, I am repeatedly told that 'all the good done by Sai Baba outweighs any indiscretions'. I wonder how the millions of followers would feel about this, as most of them believe the allegations to be false.

3) The many responses I received prompted me to pen the following letter of clarification, particularly as to my motives, which came under question.

Dear List,

Since my email has been forwarded to so many others, maybe I should clarify my position.

- 1) I have been involved in promoting 'new age' and 'alternative' viewpoints since my teens, during the '70s. I have run and organised many conferences, lecture tours, expos etc all promoting self awareness, natural health and caring from nature.
- 2) I was made aware of Sai Baba in the late seventies. I know many people who have experienced miracles in their personal lives that they attribute to Sai Baba.
- 3) I also know many Muslims, Christians and Hindus who have experienced similar miracles in their lives, which THEY attribute to their respective figureheads.
- 4) Whilst a believer in Sai Baba's miracles and teachings, I chose NOT to become a follower. I perceived that the miracles were as much a creation of the believer as of the teacher. I chose to explore the path of 'creating our own reality'.
- 5) I had heard the many rumours about Sai Baba's sexual impropriety over the years, and like many, dismissed them as disgruntled devotees. Later on, I actually took those attacks as 'evidence' that Sai Baba was growing in influence, and that this was the 'system' attacking him.
- 6) Unlike Sai Baba believers, I have an open mind, one which allows me to read and listen to things that Sai Baba believers refuse even to allow into their consciousness. I read some of the more recent testimonies, and decided to investigate for once and for all to put an end to the rumours.
- 7) I ended up speaking to many victims, parents of victims, former Sai Baba centre 'leaders' and some respected 'figureheads' from the movement. All confirmed the same pattern of abuse and sexual misconduct.
- 8) I did not want to believe any of these testimonies, but I also had to be true to what I was uncovering. Sai Baba is, and has, been involved in sexual misconduct with boys and young men. The effects of this misconduct has caused unestimatable damage within many many families, including suicides.

I only investigated the allegations of sexual misconduct. I notice there are also many who claim the miracles are faked, there are many allegations of financial fraud, and there are many dead people who were supposedly 'healed' by Sai Baba or his vibuti.

In retrospect it would be easy to point the finger and say how evil and deceptive Sai Baba truly is. But in fairness, he would be a nobody if people did not give him their respect, money, and above all - personal power.

I look forward to an age where people respect and love themselves enough to be able to truly respect and love others. People who feel GENUINE love, joy and happiness in their lives do NOT follow the path of others-they ARE their own path in its making.

Shame on Sai Baba! Shame on the parasites that feed off his empire! Shame on the 'Centre Leaders' who knowingly turn a blind eye to the reports they have received of sexual impropriety!

Shame on the followers who are so insecure in themselves that they cannot open their ears to hear the cries their brothers and sisters! Shame on the sycophants who in their blind belief help perpetuate the suffering, injustice and deception that surrounds Sai Baba.

Above all, shame on those who dismiss the cries of pain from their brothers without investigation!

Manifestations

I have been taught that there are masters walking the earth that make tables of food appear before them. I have been taught that Sai Baba manifests Holy Ash and rings.

When I ask for proof of this I am told the Masters will not tempt God. When Jesus was in the desert the devil asked him to turn a rock into a loaf of bread, Jesus said, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Also alternatively, and incorrectly, I am quoted the same passage as Jesus saying "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

But then why manifest at all? Why manifest trinkets and rings. Why not manifest the cure for cancer? That would make more sense to me. The act of manifesting a ring with someone's name on it is an old parlour trick using "palming", a favorite vehicle of magicians and illusionists.

Every fraud seems to have one incident they can refer to where they have been scientifically observed and therefore proved to be real in their manifestation. But they won't do it again, and there always seems to be questionable approaches to the observation.

Why won't any of these people go on 60 Minutes to be observed and reported on? And if then they are still called a fake, why won't they do it again? I would. That is, I would if I had a real divine message to deliver AND I wasn't faking my manifestations.

But I guess I'm not a believer so the whole world of divining spirit is closed to me as punishment for my lack of belief. Interesting. God gave me a brain so I would imagine I'm supposed to use it to the best of my ability.

Can we manifest joy in our lives? Absolutely. Can we manifest pain? Sure. Can we manifest hate, beauty, intellectual capacity, the ability to serve, forms of healing, enlightenment. YES! YES! YES! YES! YES! And any of those can be easily documented. I would imagine there are very few of us, if any, that have not experienced a part of this in our lives.

So if Sai Baba's palming technique for manifesting cow dung has been exposed, how does knowledge of that fact diminish my spiritual capacity? How does it limit my ability to manifest peace in my corner of the world? It doesn't. This knowledge actually empowers me to not waste my precious time trying to replicate lies.

Sai Baba Medical Fraud

<http://home.hetnet.nl/~ex-baba/engels/findingsframe.html>

The writ petition has been filed by Balaji Triambak Rao Karavande, who has alleged that the doctors of the institute removed a kidney from his body and did not transplant the same to his father. He informed the court that after this revelation, he lodged a complaint with the Latur (Maharashtra) police, who in time, exhumed his father's body and conducted a postmortem, which confirmed that no kidney transplant had taken place.

Sai Baba – NO MORE HOLY ASH: RATIONALIST'S CAMPAIGNS EXPOSING SAI BABA SHOW RESULTS

http://www.rationalistinternational.net/archive/en/rationalist_1999/8.htm

"To uplift His devotees and to provide them merit the Lord in His mercy has Himself come down to Delhi" rejoiced a full page newspaper advertisement on 11 March 1999, announcing the arrival of Sathya Sai Baba, the godman of India's rich and powerful, in the capital. Sai Baba visited Delhi after a gap of seventeen years to inaugurate the multi million "Sai International Center", which houses Delhi's largest auditorium. Amongst other dignitaries the Indian Prime Minister was scheduled to attend the function.

Sai Baba is seen as the most powerful Indian godman. His public appearances are marked by the presence of half the Indian cabinet, his devotees include top politicians across all partylines,

diplomats, high bureaucrats and the top industrialists of the country. His seventieth birthday in 1995 was a state event and kept high profile national media attention over several days. Who expected his visit to Delhi to be a similar public sensation, was disappointed.

Something had changed. Sai Baba's power connections may still be intact and he may still be India's godman number one (at least since his competitor Chandra Swamy is facing criminal prosecution), but the fame of his miraculous capacities has taken serious damage since the days of his glory. Sai Baba's visit to Delhi showed that the public awareness about the simple tricks behind his allegedly divine "miracles" has increased considerably, thanks to the work of rationalists.

"Sai Baba has a trick up his sleeve, Rationalists tell PM", titled The Asian Age, one of the leading national English newspapers, slovenly. It was reported that Sanal Edamaruku had called upon Prime Minister Vajpayee to abstain from Sai Baba's function, as the PM prostrating himself in front of the religious leader was a contravention of the secular principles envisaged in the Indian constitution. More over, Sanal was quoted denouncing Sai Baba as charlatan and fraud and challenging him to perform his "miracles" under fraud-proof conditions.

This challenge had been already put up back in 1965 by the famous rationalist Prof. Abraham Kooror who was the first to expose Sai Baba's "miracles". Since then Indian Rationalist Association had from time to time called upon Sai Baba in public forums and in letters to face up to their demand, but for more than thirty years now the Baba kept mum. Meantime, the Asian Age quoted Mr. Edamaruku, Sai Baba was caught red-handed: During the celebrations of his 69th birthday, he "materialized" a golden chain by plucking it away from the bottom of a plaque, where it had been pasted up. The scene was filmed by a cameraman of the national TV Doordarshan. Though Doordarshan had blacked out this clipping, copies of a smuggled out cassette from Doordarshan studios were circulated all over India and abroad. The famous British documentary "Guru Busters" on Indian Rationalists, which was originally telecasted by Channel IV in the UK in 1995, reproduced this clipping in slow motion. The documentation has by now been shown in twelve countries. Sai Baba or his institutions have not denied its authenticity so far.

Sanal Edamaruku's statements in The Asian Age, followed by reports in several other newspapers and the evening TV news during the next days, sent out shock waves. Alarmed by the Prime Minister's Office, police appeared in the head quarters of Indian Rationalist Association to politely inquire about further action plans. Did we prepare a demonstration at the Sai International Center? Did we plan to embarrass the Prime Minister or the Baba during the inauguration? Or did we already sent our 'troops' to the air port to ridicule Sai Baba upon arrival? We told them that we did not intend to do either, but to be on the safer side, security arrangements were stepped up massively. Police was there in all its strength during the few public appearances of the godman. For all greeting ceremonies and "darshans", the public was moreover strictly limited to hand picked VIP devotees with invitations, amongst them besides the Prime Minister (who did not abstain), India's Vice-President, the former President, several cabinet ministers, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the speaker of the parliament. If there was a crowd, it consisted of volunteers of Sai Baba's organization: eight thousand volunteers were brought to Delhi and camped for several days in the premises of a big school complex. They were entrusted to look after the security and other arrangements for the functions.

But not only the general public was barred from his meetings. Especially the media were kept at safe distance from the Baba. Most of the few press photos which appeared had to be taken with tele-objectives. The godman made it a point that during the "darshans" all press personnel had to leave the premises. Sai Baba has become very careful. So, this time there was not a single picture, neither in the print media nor in television, that showed Sai Baba in action performing "miracles". Not even his trade mark miracle -producing holy ash- was seen. There was not a crumb of holy ash altogether. Sai Baba's media appearance was limited to comparatively short

reports, most of them in the inner pages and marred by mentionings of the rationalists' criticism. Some TV channels did not cover the event at all.

But holy ash was produced abundantly the next day. The Star Plus TV science show "Eureka!" had invited Sanal Edamaruku as special guest to show and speak about so-called miracles and he explained all of Sai Baba's trade secrets including the producing of holy materials from the mouth of a volunteer. Since he was not a godman, but a sportsman, he explained to the amused audience in the studio, no holy statues would come from his mouth, but table tennis balls.

Sai Baba – False Materialization of Crucifix

Excerpt – For full article go to <http://home.no.net/anir/Sai/enigma/Hislopcrucifix.htm>
The crucifix given to John Hislop was supposed to have been materialized by the paranormal powers of Sai Baba. The question might also be raised as to the plausibility of a true materialization which reproduces such details as air bubbles identical with those caused by techniques of inexpensive mass reproduction, and standard but historically inaccurate iconographic features such as nails through palms.

SATHYA SAI BABA

"GREEN DIAMOND" PROVEN A FAKE BY TOP DIAMOND EXPERT

I have been quoted Sai Baba's manifestation of rings as proof of scientific truth. Interesting that one of the recipients of these rings has proven it to be a fake.

<http://home.no.net/anir/Sai/enigma/Ring%20Exposed.htm>

by Robert Priddy - former long-term leader of the Sai Organisation in Norway



On 31/10/2002, my wife Reidun and I returned from three days in Copenhagen, Denmark, where the 'green diamond' SSB gave me in 1986 (shown above) was examined by Mr. Peter Hertz, the Danish Queen Margarethe's jeweller, a top Scandinavian expert on precious stones and diamonds. All was filmed in detail by Øjvind Kyrø's team for Danish TV. The result of the investigation, which took two days, is that the stone is a synthetic green sapphire. Value only about \$40 today in super-expensive Denmark. Its value in India today could therefore probably be around \$10.

I gave permission for opening the ring, (the stone is encased at the back so the stone's underside cannot be seen, as are all so-called Sai Baba diamond rings that I have seen). It turned out to have a layer of green silver foil behind the stone to enhance the green colour and reflect light. Behind the silver foil, the golden casing was painted black. The metal is 18 carat gold. (The stone was formerly estimated by its surface size to be the equivalent of ca. 5 to 6 carats, the stone being 1.2 cm in diameter). Mr. Hertz estimated the total value of the ring as perhaps up to \$200 in Denmark today. So, if 'the Avatar' materialised it as he certainly made pretence of doing, why did he also put a silver foil in to 'foil' people? He really IS a trickster and a liar about his materialisations and their composition.

Mr. Hertz assured us that he was able to determine without any doubt that the stone was not natural but artificial or 'synthetic' - that is to say, manufactured by human beings. The film of this visit to the famous jeweller in Copenhagen includes a brief interview with me in which I commented on this. This is to be shown eventually as documentary evidence when the right

programme opportunity arises on the Danish National TV channel (DR1). For a preview of some pictures from the filming at the jeweller's [click here](#).

That the stone is a fake conflicts totally with what SSB let us understand about it when he gave it to me at an interview on Dec. 23rd, 1986. It was something for which I never asked, but to refuse in that situation was unthinkable. No more, however! Devotees said it was such a great honour and - until that time - very few persons had been given such large 'green diamond' rings. Among those few who had were: 1) the International Chairman of the Sathya Sai Organisation, Mr. Indulal Shah, 2) The Head of Administration at the Vidyagiri 'deemed' University - Mr. Kanhaia Jee, 3) Mr. Victor Kanu, and 4) Mr. Antonio Craxi 5) Mr. Robert Bruce. (Apropos, Mrs. Craxi stated the opinion that green rings are "power rings". But her husband was unable to help keep his brother, Bettino Craxi, in power, not with the help of his ring (nor with their Mafia connections, for that matter.) Mr. B. Craxi, who visited SSB in Puttaparthi while he was Italy's Prime Minister, died recently as a criminal in exile in Tunis, fleeing a conviction in Italy to about 18 years in prison plus massive multi-million dollar fines.

Can such trickery and lies be explained away?

Sathya Sai Baba had every opportunity subsequently to refute that this was a genuine green diamond he had given to me, for he accepted my book 'Source of the Dream' in 1994 and signed it on the inside cover. In that book the 'green diamond' is photographed very clearly and what SSB said when he gave it to me is stated verbatim (see below). SSB is supposed to know what is in any book (and anything anywhere!), and he has said as much in public numerous times too. So in no way can he be exonerated for fraudulent behaviour.

Many Sai devotees are deluded enough to explain away such facts in any conceivable fashion. Therefore, I can assure everyone that, when Mr. Hertz put the ring back together after opening it, the original stone WAS used (not exchanged by him with a fake). I can tell this by examining the stone through a strong magnifier, because the same few tiny specks as before can be seen within it and the same tiny broken edges on the stone after hard wear are still present. So the stone is exactly the same as before.

This new and wholly indubitable information backs up very decisively the assertions of David Bailey in his long exposé paper 'The Findings' about a similar discovery with a said 'diamond' ring given him by SSB. It is a pity that he did not have it filmed and documented with photos etc. when he went to a jeweller in Hyderabad in 1999, who actually produced such rings for SSB. Like many others, I was not then convinced by David Bailey's brief account (though I was in strong doubt about SSB already and had become uncertain about my ring's genuineness). The Hyderabad jeweller (whose name and address were unfortunately not given by Bailey) reportedly also showed that silver foil had been placed behind the enclosed stone to create a silhouette, and demonstrated how he himself did this, placing the foil on a blackened background. Mr. Hertz informed me that the technique of enhancing the brilliance in such rings - even those with genuine diamonds - was used back in the 18th century in Portugal and elsewhere. This was well before more modern diamond technology made this superfluous and allowed diamonds and other precious stones to shine fully without enclosing them or using silver or foil. (Incidentally, Portugal colonised Goa, where this technique could doubtless also have been taken up by Indians - or perhaps vice-versa).

I had occasionally wondered about the authenticity of these stones, such as when I saw the ca. 1 carat green stone in a ring worn by Mrs. Maynard Ferguson. She told my wife and I that the ring was "very worn down" due to her having worn it all the time, doing housework and washing up. The green stone certainly looked dull and much the worse for wear. The same applied to the same sized clear 'diamond' ring worn by Mr. Ron Laing, when we visited him and his wife, Peggy Mason, in Tunbridge Wells in 1987. Ron Laing said he had been told that it was a diamond. Diamonds simply cannot be scratched, except by another diamond. I held it and examined

closely, for it was so worn that it looked more like a piece of heavily scoured glass. I certainly have to wonder, now, how on earth I could have gone on believing in the authenticity of the claim of SSB that these were diamonds after seeing these 'worn rings'. But such is the power of faith, it overrides all reasonable obstacles evidently. Needless to say, it also easily lands you in the ditch with its back broken if you ride it too far.

I have a sneaking suspicion that, despite my not wishing to think myself any more blessed than the next man, it crossed my mind that Ron Laing's and Mrs. Ferguson's stones could possibly have become dull because they did not have enough faith (actually they had far too much faith in SSB and most of the hearsay about him, as if to the nth degree, poor souls). I could not but wonder at that time whether their stones were fake diamonds (an unpleasant thought which I rejected soon because I also believed or really hoped that mine was genuine). Devotees apply this 'doublethink' to all kinds of such incidents... anything unpleasant SSB says or does to them is attributed to their poor karma, their bad acts etc. Mostly, because of SSB's constant preaching on this, it is supposed to be lack of firm faith that causes others to meet such disappointments. I have heard this kind of fatuous hypocrisy from various devotees... those who doubt do not have enough faith, so SSB changes the objects from a distance so they lose their true nature (and also their 'spiritual power').

Numerous others have claimed that, if one acts badly or questions SSB's genuineness etc., a ring can disappear wherever you may be (because he makes it do so). But they overlook the words of SSB when he said: "Science transforms things, re-arranges them, studies their composition, re-groups their parts and releases the energy that lies latent in them. But I create the things themselves. And they are as lasting as any that is found in Nature!" (Sathya Sai Speaks - Vol. 2 New ed., p. 73). So SSB "creates" artificial, man-made sapphires and fixes them up with silver foil? I don't think so!

What Sai Baba and others say about his productions

I have heard most distinctly SSB say of one ring that he supposedly materialised before us that it was a "one carat diamond and 22 carat gold". He deceived me about the ring he gave me, saying it was a "better ring" than the clear diamond one he supposedly changed it from, which he verbally confirmed was a diamond. Never once to my knowledge has he stopped the constant statements by nearly all followers that his rings and earrings etc. contain real diamonds... the talk and the deception involved evidently suits him all too well. SSB also gave a "diamond" trinket to Dr. Michael Goldstein of the USA, a man who has demonstrated how easily he is flattered by SSB, and easily deluded to a high degree. Think of the donations this has inspired. It was just after I had said in the private interview that I wanted to make a donation that he told me he would make me a ring the next day. Altogether, we have given over £15,000 to SSB.

Mr. Hertz expressed surprise that SSB did not rather let us believe that the stone was an emerald, since this was his first impression of what it might be. When I replied to his initial question on what I thought the stone was by saying "it is supposed to be a green diamond", he told me later that he had known at once that it could not be a diamond, not least due to the unevenness in the light it reflected. This unevenness was evidently due to the manner in which the green silver foil was inserted incompletely behind the stone so a painted black background caused some shading, allowing a kind of shadowy, rough silhouette of a head and shoulders to appear from certain angles when shading it from above. This is no "mysterious appearance" of Sai Baba, as many devotees even believe, but a result of the manner of cutting and mounting the stone. (This rough kind of head and shoulders silhouette can be seen in the right hand picture above, where the ring is beside a silver medallion – a so-called 'Sai dollar' – that SSB gave to my wife during our first interview.)

Mr. Victor Kanu, very well-known within the Sai movement and now the principal of a Sathya Sai college in Zambia, had received a virtually identical ring a year or so before I did. When I asked him about it he told me, "Swami said one could see him in the ring from time to time". So SSB planted the suggestion in him that this silhouette, produced by a jeweller's cheap technique, actually shows him. Prof. N Kasturi wrote in his official biography of SSB (Sathya, Sivam, Sundaram Part II, p. 233): "Baba has granted many gem-set rings with the blessing, 'You can see Me inside this stone' ". This brand of wishful thinking has become a standard among nearly all Sai devotees, for the dark silhouette one can see - very unclear and variable with the lighting and surroundings etc. - is perceptible in most of the rings that SSB calls diamonds. SSB did this directly when he gave a ring with a smaller clear diamond to a Mr. Kaufmann from Denmark while I sat beside him at an interview in 1989, saying that the gold was "twenty-four carat" and the stone was "one carat diamond".

The famous diamond company of India, Tata Industries, was run by the famous Mr. Kamani. According to the long-serving Head of Administration at Sai Baba's Vidyagiri University in Puttaparthi, Mr. Kanhaia Jee, who had a ring and stone virtually identical to mine, Mr. Kamani told him while visiting SSB once that the green stone could be "nothing but a diamond". That was very convincing at the time, even though Mr. Kamani had not done any scientific analysis of his ring. Since then I have wondered about what Mr. Kamani may actually have said, or why he said what K. Jee reported... perhaps so as not to disappoint a devotee? Indians are very well-known for yea-saying so as not to cause embarrassment or loss of face etc., a very confusing trait that all who travel to India discover sooner or later. At all events, what Mr. Kamani actually stated remains uncertain, for there is no documentation of his views on SSB 'diamonds'.

Add to the above the report of Mr. Robert Bruce who told me he met a man who was claimed to be Australia's foremost expert on opals. Robert Bruce told me that he had estimated the value of his stone (also green and of the same size and cutting as is mine) at "between five and six million dollars". Anyone who wishes to check the value of the world's most expensive diamonds can soon see that this was an incredibly fabulous sum for such a small stone. The perfect clear diamond given to Elizabeth Taylor by Richard Burton in the 1970s was worth only £200,000. It now seems to me that that man, if he is any kind of expert at all, should stick to opals. I also heard at second-hand of someone who was claimed to have had his very similar green-stone ring examined at Tiffany's in New York, which firm had reportedly kept it for two weeks or so and that the result was that the stone was an extremely rare diamond of a sort known only to ancient India. Need I say it... there is no documentary evidence of any of the above claims anywhere to be found. It was evidently just a combination of imagining, wishful thinking, if it was not an out-and-out untruth... or simply the invention of misunderstood hearsay. Such hearsay is the basis of a mass of what is said and written about Sai Baba and to take it all in one's limits of credulity would have to be that of a 3-year old.

Decades ago, SSB told the editor of the Indian Marxist 'Blitz' magazine, Mr. Karanjia; "What I do is a different act of creation. It is neither magic, nor is it siddhi power either. For one thing, I seek no return. For another, I do not cheat people by transferring objects, but I create them." And "I totally create. Whatever I will, instantly materialises..." (from Spirit and the Mind, Samuel Sandweiss, p. 241).

SSB also said, "There is no miracle, mesmerism or magic in what I do! Mine is genuine Divine power. Small minds and limited intellects are too weak to perceive the Divine." (Discourse on Christmas Day in 1970 at Dharmakshetra, Bombay). Strange that he claimed then that there was 'no miracle'... fraud is hardly miraculous. What SSB so presumptuously calls 'small minds and limited intellects' can, however, manage to study the nature of a stone and discover that it is not at all what it is supposed to be! What is perhaps somehow near to 'miraculous'; is how so many people have been deceived and still take it all on trust, while not daring to test any of these claims by getting assays or any kind of certificates from renowned jewellers!

Common rationalisations of SSB's fraud

Some devotees impressed on me that SSB has warned people NOT to take his rings and things to jewellers. Even a child should be able to guess why in reality he wants to stop this. But then children do often see some matters more clearly than mind-conditioned adults. The story circulates that, when someone who tried to sell a ring from SSB, it simply disappeared. Surely just another way of hindering people from risking an objective test of their jewellery's genuineness. The whole Sai-disinformation system runs in a neatly closed circles which appear to leave no ends untied... and - since it is an extreme kind of subtle self-deception, it is also extremely difficult to unravel oneself from it once one has woven one's life about it.

All these kinds of delusory ideas that SSB has sown in devotees' minds, some once entertained briefly by me, are stubbornly upheld in the face of any amount of contrary evidence by leaders in the Sai movement like Anil Kumar of India, Art-Ong Jumsai of Thailand, Samuel Sandweiss and Al Drucker of USA, Jagadeeshan of Malaysia, Thorbjørn Meyer of Denmark and so on... Of course, they have all been 'tested' by SSB to the point that they will swallow whole anything SSB says, which is mainly why they are his trusted 'VIPs' and are rewarded with various privileges (of which they are patently very proud and make sure that everyone knows about the 'grace' they get). Besides, these people seem quite unable to face up to having to realise and admit that they have very largely been made by SSB into fools who deny all common sense and reasonable counter-evidence. In the Sai dogma, not to lose faith in him makes one superior spiritually, one has 'good karma' and may well qualify for 'liberation' from rebirth etc. Good luck to those who base their lives on this uncertain promise. Otherwise, by common sense questioning one can rather get liberated from the whole delusion and open one's eyes and mind to regain a respect for facts and the truth they naturally indicate. What is more, opening the heart towards the mass of suffering people deceived by SSB so thoroughly, and those who have been abused sexually etc., is almost impossible without being honest enough with oneself to investigate thoroughly.

During a visit to his Bayswater flat in London in 1987, Mr. Lucas Ralli told me that SSB had once "materialised" a ring for him with a clear (white) diamond. As soon as he had lowered himself with the aid of his bunched fists to sit cross-legged on the veranda outside the interview room, the unaccustomed ring came in contact with the floor, which is of marble, and the 'diamond' split into two pieces. (Diamonds can only be split by a sharp blow, but not by the sort of pressure involved in that instance). Ralli said that SSB had explained this to him the next day by saying that there was "some lapse in concentration while visualising" the product he was to bring forth. This same explanation from SSB has been published by some other devotee writer who experienced a similar faulty product from SSB's 'almighty' hand. One cannot help wondering why one who claims he is always perfect, is always in 'constantly integrated awareness', and so on and so on... can have such 'little' lapses. But lapses he certainly has, to the extent that they are becoming almost the norm... for example in his vague and non-factual discourses.

Are all Sai Baba's 'productions' fakery?

Obviously, there is now all reason to doubt most strongly whether a single one of his jewellery gifts are what they are claimed to be, either by him or by many thousands of devotees. I reckon that the only likelihood of getting such a proof is if SSB uses some money from his billions to buy a genuine diamond and give it someone to get it tested. The fact that, so far, all the rings that glitter at all are enclosed at the back is sufficient for us to assert that there is not a single such ring from SSB with a genuine precious stone of any real value. If official documentation from an accredited and known expert cannot be produced, could a person in full possession of their mental faculties believe otherwise? No such evidence exists. This is a rather amazing fact, one that illustrates the degree of mind control that the whole SSB 'story' and social movement exerts on people who receive anything from SSB. I have been a victim of it, despite my rigorous scientific and

philosophical training and reams of critical writings I have published about the methodological failings of various sciences and others systems of thought. So come on, you are not alone.

I challenge anyone to produce a genuine article from SSB worth more than, say, \$500, and produce sound documentary evidence by recognised authorities to that effect. But I doubt that any devotee would dare to try to find out whether a gift from SSB is a fake.

Nonetheless, it will surely surprise some that I am still almost certain - on the basis of extended personal observation - that SSB can and does carry out apports, which therefore can appear as materialisations from nothing. The amount of fraud that has been shown to be involved since astute persons began to notice legerdemain and find trinkets hidden in chairs on which he sits, further indicates that SSB's claims of divine creation are most unlikely to be true. That there are many phenomena connected with him, like the spontaneous appearance of ashes and nectar etc. on his pictures, I am told that he also has on occasion expressed surprise and interest when he hears of such things, for example by my friend and colleague Prof. Erlendur Haraldsson. Nevertheless he soon lays claim to many such distant phenomena as being his doing.

However, an increasing number of people have told of getting objects assayed and finding them virtually worthless junk. For example, a Dutch friend of Andries Kruger Dagneaux told that he had done this. (See <http://home.helnet.nl/~ex-baba/engels/witnesses/andries.html>). Though I am almost certain on the basis of personal observation that SSB can and does carry out apports, which therefore can appear as materialisations from nothing, the amount of fraud that has been shown to be involved since astute persons began to notice legerdemain and find trinkets hidden in chairs on which he sits, indicates that SSB's claims of divine creation are most unlikely to be true.

I would also remind that the Internet had an account of the Jesus figure on a small wooden cross which SSB got Hislop to believe was a piece of the original wood of the cross. A magnified photo of the amulet was examined by an emeritus professor and art expert and proclaimed most likely to be a commonly manufactured amulet from 19th century UK, with visible small defects due to the mass/casting process. The hole in the top of the cross is obviously for a locket chain, not for SSB's reason - i.e. hanging of the original cross from above. (See "The fake crucifix" and also comments at <http://home.helnet.nl/~ex-baba/engels/articles/premanand3.html>).

Further, the so-called 'little Bible' that SSB pretended to 'manifest' at Christmas some years ago and claimed was unique, was identical in appearance to one sold widely in India and elsewhere, and which can even be bought at SSB shops here and there, such as in Australia, according to Brian Steel's investigations. All of these 'miraculous' productions fit a pattern... the name of which must surely be 'cunning deceit'. Then there are the golden lingams that SSB doubtless swallows (an oft-demonstrated yogic technique, such as by the convicted Swami Premananda and wandering fakirs) within 24 hours of Shivarathri day, and which he then regurgitates with much ado, claiming that all the gold of which it supposedly consists was present in his body all along. This last is quite preposterous.

Many long-term devotees have demonstrated that - whatever happens and however much disgrace it casts on SSB - they believe it is nevertheless 'all only his divine play'. The faking, legerdemain, lying, boasting, power-seeking, sexual interferences with young men, as well as his criticising and damning his critics and worse things have been ignored by those whose faith in themselves and life has become highly dependent on continuing to believe SSB is God. They cannot free themselves of the various dependencies on SSB and attachments to their set beliefs which they have developed with much energy, usually over long periods of time. Anyone who speaks out against SSB or believes his critics is prejudged as suffering from what SSB teaches is 'a mad monkey mind' or yet worse moral conditions. But those who say this are unfortunately the ones who are trapped like monkeys with their hands in the gourd that cannot release the proverbial precious peanuts.

Devotees' praises of SSB as a wonderful example to humanity and their service and other efforts have not been sufficient to stop him railing on (in a recent discourse) that 90% of them are not good devotees. How deeply misguided must the 10% whom he considers 'good' actually be? The mind boggles at making an estimate. Well... after all, I should know. Quite uncalled for, SSB told my wife in front of me that I was a, 'good, good, very good man' on two occasions. So perhaps he is not always so wrong, ha ha... I would hope not. I still follow him in one thing, at least, for he also told me in a private interview to, "Write, write... what you are doing is right!"

Sai Baba Exposed

Fraud, Fakery & Molestation

BBC – Sai Baba – God-man or con-man?

Full article at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/this_world/3813469.stm

Excerpt:

Rumours about Sai Baba sexually abusing young male devotees have been circulating for years.

In 1976 a former American follower, Tal Brooke, wrote a book called Avatar of the Night: The Hidden Side of Sai Baba. In it, he referred to the guru's sexual exploits.

Architecture Retaining Positive or Negative Energies

I enlisted the assistance of Google Answers with the question: Are there any scientific studies from a reputable source that prove that architecture retains positive or negative energies from people/events residing in that room in the past and that this energy can be changed? By a study from a "reputable source" I mean an industry journal that is accepted by the scientific community.

You can read the original question and all answers at
<http://answers.google.com/answers/threadview?id=401398>

Response 1 - Before one can really investigate these sorts of things, one needs to actually define what is meant by "positive or negative energies", and define them in a rigorous enough manner so that one can ask meaningful questions about them. For example, how does one know if a room has neg or pos energies? If you have a good way of testing that, then it is easy to show if a particular practitioner can change neg to pos. In fact, if you have a good way of testing that, then as mentioned previously, you probably qualify for Randi's million dollars.

The idea that people only use a small percentage of their brain is a myth. See <http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/tenper.html> and the links contained there. The brain uses an enormous fraction of our energy, if people with smaller brains could get along with that smaller brain, we would have all ended up with smaller brains long ago in our history.

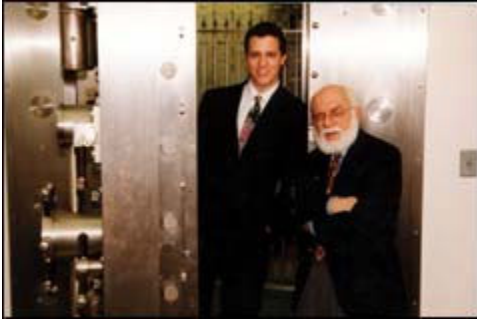
The idea that science cannot absolutely disprove anything may be true, but it is relatively easy to prove or disprove specific statements of particular abilities. If someone claims that they can detect negative energy, if you can get them to actually explain what they mean, then it is fairly straightforward to devise a test (using double-blinds, and other sorts of methods) that can confirm or refute their claim. So far, no body has ever been able to confirm the effects of neg/pos energies, and if/when they do, the million dollars is theirs.

Response 2 - To be clear, the answer to your question is "no". There are no scientific studies from a reputable source that prove that architecture retains positive or negative energies from people/events residing in that room in the past.

One Million Dollar Paranormal Challenge

<http://www.randi.org/research/index.html>

Statement of challenge:



The Foundation is committed to providing reliable information about paranormal claims. It both supports and conducts original research into such claims.

At JREF, we offer a one-million-dollar prize to anyone who can show, under proper observing conditions, evidence of any paranormal, supernatural, or occult power or event. The JREF does not involve itself in the testing procedure, other than helping to design the protocol and approving the conditions under which a test will take place. All tests are designed with the

participation and approval of the applicant. In most cases, the applicant will be asked to perform a relatively simple preliminary test of the claim, which if successful, will be followed by the formal test. Preliminary tests are usually conducted by associates of the JREF at the site where the applicant lives. Upon success in the preliminary testing process, the "applicant" becomes a "claimant."

To date, no one has ever passed the preliminary tests.

Application Rules can be found at: <http://www.randi.org/research/challenge.html>

This is the challenge to prove anything paranormal. The prize is one million dollars. To date no one has won the prize, although the guidelines are very reasonable and straight forward.

I have spoken with people who have told me they cleanse energies in rooms, they see spirits, they channel spirits, they can see auras, etc. When I ask them to prove it they become volatile. One said to me, "Give me one reason why I SHOULD prove it?" My answer was simple: "Well, you would receive a million dollars."

These masters among us must be too humble to tempt God. But ironically they are not too tempted to make millions of dollars off their followers and consumers.

Here are sites that counter the paranormal challenge and call it a fraud:

<http://www.skepticalinvestigations.org/whoswho/index.htm#JamesRandi>

<http://www.sheldrake.org/papers/>

I would like to point out that Mr. Randi has explicitly offered the one million dollar award to Mr. Emoto if he will simply duplicate the general results of his test in a standard double-blind testing format.

What The Bleep Do We Know Receives Pigasus Award

This material from <http://www.randi.org/jr/040105capitalizing.html#11>



PIGASUS

Category #3, to the media outlet that reported as factual the most outrageous supernatural, paranormal or occult claims: The prize goes to the film "What the #\$! Do We Know?," a fantasy docudrama cult hit supposedly about the "nature of reality." More than a dozen scientists, theologians and mystics appear. However, the product placement reveals that among the physicists, neurologists and academics who expound the film's thesis is "new age" icon J.Z. Knight, who claims to be channeling a 35,000-year-old god/warrior from Atlantis named Ramtha. The films' producers, writers, directors, and some of the stars are members of the Ramtha School of Enlightenment in Washington State. Several of the scientists are affiliated with Knight's school, and the film was largely financed by one of Knight's students. It's a blatant effort by religious, mystical, and New Age gurus such as Deepak Chopra to disguise their views as real science. Thrown in are the fantasies of Masaru Emoto, who claims to have proven that thoughts can change the structure of water; his "experiments" consist of taping written words to glasses of water. (See www.randi.org/jr/052303.html) The "Maharishi Effect" — an equally vacuous notion, is also offered. A rampant example of abuse by charlatans and cults, it is still filling theatres all over the world.

Anticipation of Flawed Logic Responses

My personal experience guides me to anticipate some stock responses to my report. I put those forth here with my own responses. Many of these points I have already heard ad nauseum.

- 1) **I don't have to read this report. I know truth** – I cannot argue that. What I am arguing is the teaching of those "truths" by church leaders when they refuse to academically support their statements.
- 2) **Why does it scare you that people might manifest or that we are on the cutting edge of science?** – It does not. That's a loaded statement. What scares me is when false statements and unsupported statements of paranormal and magic acts are made as a foundation that comments made by those entities are truth. Example: Sai Baba manifests, so his words are true. Mr. Emoto affects water with thought, you can too. I cannot prove that people do not manifest, but no one else has proven in a scientific environment that they do. I cannot prove thoughts do not affect water, but Mr. Emoto has not proven in a scientific environment that they do either.
- 3) **Logical Fallacies** – The great burden of proof lies with the one who makes the positive statement. If it's put forth that "sample x" is true, the burden is on that person to demonstrate truth. Ultimately the one who says "sample x" is NOT true, can only provide a stronger argument as to the truth of the original positive statement.
- 4) **It is well documented that science cannot ultimately prove anything as false** – This is true to my knowledge. This is why the burden of proof sits with the one who says it is true. Please see previous statement of Logical Fallacies.
- 5) **Why are you attacking Religious Science?** – I'm not. That's a loaded statement. In fact I feel that I am assisting in preserving it from theological distortion and falsehood. My opening statements give my reasoning for the report.
- 6) **What caused you to prepare this report?** – I have witnessed the teaching of a multitude of pseudo-scientific facts within my church. I have presented documentation showing otherwise and it has been shelved, unread. I decided it was time to address some of those issues and present them to our church family for discussion.
- 7) **Cute report but anyone can prove anything to be true or false** – Not true. Anyone can believe anything they want, but not anything can be proven within an established scientific setting that involves double-blind testing and repetition of results.

- 8) **You seem to be skeptical** – Yes, I am. I have become this way after repeatedly being subjected to mistruths and scientific deception. The writings of Ernest Holmes support my quest for scientific approach and personal testing. See opening quotes for documentation.
- 9) **Anyone can believe anything they want** – True. My specific goal is not to stop any single person from believing anything, but to stop mistruths from being taught by church leadership.
- 10) **I know truth directly from God, I don't need science** – I cannot argue that if it is truly your stance. What I can argue is the validity of church leadership teaching mistruths, and can open to discussion if that is supported by UCRS and church theology.
- 11) **You yourself have little scientific background and hold no academic credentials in any area of science** – True. That is why I have relied heavily on sources from established academic communities and from first hand accounts. Specifically I would like to thank Peter Woit from the Mathematics Department at Columbia University, NY for his assistance and to David McCarthy, formerly a student of Ramtha.
- 12) **Your information was largely from the internet. I could do that too and prove everything just the opposite** – I challenge you to do that. To say everything on the internet is true or everything is false, would be very similar to saying anything in print is true or false. I have taken care to reference the most reliable sources I could. I put more weight in the Columbia University math department when it comes to physics, than I would a website selling stickers. I put more weight in the BBC than I do a site with animated angels playing pop songs. Granted, you could find anything you want from the internet, but that does not mean it will hold up to scrutiny or scientific discussion.
- 13) **Why attack Mr. Emoto?** – Mr. Emoto's research has been presented within my church as scientific fact. Mr. Emoto himself is very careful on his website in his wording to avoid claims that his work is scientific. I would guess this has evolved over time with increasing scrutiny. Mr. Emoto's work has not been subject to any scientific testing method and he has been offered one million dollars if he can replicate his findings in a double-blind testing method. So far he has not. His work is not science, as is documented in this report and by his OWN ADMISSION. Yet, his findings have been presented in my church as scientific truth. I was challenged by church leadership to prove Mr. Emoto wrong and I have done so by detailing that he has not proven himself right in a scientific setting. I have read Mr. Emoto's original photo essay which is the basis for his work, and I cite findings directly from his essay and material on his own website. The burden of proof is now passed back to church leadership if they want to continue teaching his work as scientific fact. In my opinion this propagation of pseudo-science within the church is in direct conflict with the teachings of Ernest Holmes. Yes, it has become VERY MUCH a church matter.
- 14) **Are you a member of Religious Science?** – Yes. I have been attending Religious Science for over 17 years. I have held a position in a RS church for the bulk of that time, but I present this report as a simple member at large of the Hi Desert Church of Religious Science, Apple Valley, CA. Better yet, I present this report as a concerned human on planet earth.
- 15) **Do you support Religious Science?** – Yes. As stated in the opening statement, I have never read anything by Ernest Holmes that I disagreed with. I'm sure there's something out there, but I haven't found it yet. I have great respect for our church leadership at home office and for their academics.

For anyone interested in reading about Logical Fallacies, the art of twisting logic and tools commonly used in debate classes, please visit: <http://datanation.com/fallacies/index.htm>

Closing Remarks

Many years ago, I used to think that I was just a piano player. Admittedly I am probably not the best student of RS, you could argue I'm the worst. I humbly accept that as a possibility. However, 17 years of Religious Science has shown me in the past that I am not just a piano player and that one person has the power to enact great change. This is the core of the mystery, the core of the belief that engages my imagination and excitement for Religious Science. I doubt very much Ernest Holmes would tell me I'm just a piano player. God has created us rich and varied beyond definition.

The Father-Mother God made me the way I am and has presented me with attributes accordingly. It is with fierce conviction that I prepare this report. It is also with humility that I accept whatever the consequences arise there from.

I would like to personally thank Dr. Kathryn Turner, Director of Education, United Church of Religious Science for encouraging me to proceed with this report and submit it for discussion and debate to the ministers. I would like to point out that Dr. Kathryn Turner has not agreed or disagreed with anything in this report, but did encourage the exploration of truth as inspired by Ernest Holmes. She did confirm that Ernest Holmes challenged us to test and challenge. Those excerpts appear at the beginning of this report.

I have no problem being proven wrong on anything. It is truth I desire most, for myself and my church family locally and at large.

Let's talk about these issues openly, with passion and with clear minds.

In my favorite words of Martin Luther:
Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise.

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