

Fatal Clarity

Note: this is an abbreviated version of Chapter 2 of the book *Hungary in the (Spider) Web of Scientology*, written by renowned Hungarian psychiatrists András Veér and László Erőss, published in 2000.

The fate and the tragic death of this young medical doctor will be described in the following pages. The description of the events is based on lengthy conversations we had with their relatives.

“I came to you after a long period of indecision”, says the sister at the beginning of her lengthy confession (out of respect for the privacy of the family, the Hungarian doctor will be hereinafter referred to as *E.*), and she goes on “Sadly, we know the real background of the unfortunate souls who are the members of the Church of Scientology”.

E. was a cheerful and happy young woman, who was always on the lookout for new things, but respected her duties at the same time. (Born in 1961, she was only 37 years old when she took her own life.) Her parents were both doctors, so her choice of profession was an unsurprising one. She graduated from one of Hungary’s medical universities. She started to work in another city, completed her specialist training and performed well in her profession. She got married and later gave birth to a daughter, who attended a Catholic school.

When she joined Scientology (4-5 years before her death), it all changed. She read the Dianetics book, became a member, got her husband and daughter to sign up for Scientology courses. They started to support the local “mission” financially as well. Her husband was not entirely happy with this, which put a strain on their relationship and they divorced eventually.

Among the documents presented by the family, there was an employment contract signed in the presence of two witnesses. The little girl (who was a minor at that time) had promised to join their so-called “Sea Organization” for “the next billion years”. No, this did not happen in the Middle Ages, but on the 17th of July, 1998.

Their daughter was taken out of the Catholic school and transferred to a Waldorf one, as that type of institution was more in alignment with the expectations of Scientology. She then attended a Scientology summer camp for children for a week, where she completed a course based on the Hubbard book “The Way to Happiness”, supervised by a Hungarian Scientologist celebrity called Endre Beleznyai.

According to her grandmother, the little girl was also actively recruiting her classmates and tried to get them into Scientology, and also talked about various Scientology concepts and terms (e.g. engrams) at home. At one time, the grandmother, *E.* and the daughter were walking in the city and the grandmother wanted to give a few coins to a beggar. The daughter and *E.* stopped her hand and asked her: “And what about the exchange?” At that point, the grandmother realized the inhumane nature of Scientology, which does not recognize the concept of charity.

The daughter was treated as a small adult, which is in alignment with the writings of Hubbard. She was considered to be a “thetan” inhabiting a small body. When the little girl tried to ask for help from her mother, the reply was: “It is your problem and therefore you have to solve it”.

When her mother died, the daughter continued to attend to school as if nothing happened. Even on the day of the funeral, she went back to the school for the afternoon study activities after the ceremony was over. The Scientology indoctrination performed on children is done with the purpose of breeding some sort of "Übermensch", which has a destructive effect on the family unit. Children are often discarded and do not really love their parents, sometimes incapable of social co-existence. The grandmother saw these as the symptoms of the inherent inhumanity of Scientology.

The sister continued: "E. got rather deeply involved in this whole thing, and completed some sort purification program or 'purif' as they called it. She even got a graduation certificate on 13th July, 1995. Her daughter, who was not even 10 years old at that time, also completed that program."

According to the grandmother, they were spending a lot of money on Scientology, and they regularly took money out of the – then – prospering company of the father. "Their finances were highly suspicious", she added. But the Church needed the money and wanted more and more.

Meanwhile, E. left her job at the hospital for a better paying one – she started to work as a pharmaceutical sales rep. She quit three months later though (probably pressured by the cult to "stop selling drugs". Initially, they were able to finance the courses of their extremely greedy church using her salary as sales rep and money taken out from the company of the husband.

According to the certificates stored in her flat, on 1995 alone she completed the "Hubbard Dianetics Auditor Course", "Overt-Withhold Write-ups", Assists "Course". This was followed by "Success Through Communication", "Ups and Downs In Life Course", "Basic Study Manual" and "Dynamics of Money". So, E. was an eager student.

After quitting her sales rep job, she began to work for the mission. In order to pay for even more courses, she sold her valuables (computer, fax machine, other devices, car etc.) and even some rare paintings of her parents were sacrificed for Scientology, which was increasingly turning into a bottomless money pit for them. Her job at the mission was to organize and start a local chapter of the English language school network LITE (which is owned by Scientologists).

Her daughter was also attending courses, so by 1997, they spent thousands of dollars on Scientology courses (including one called "TRs 0-4"). E. was also receiving in auditing in Budapest and in other cities as well. Judging by the invoices found at her apartment (according to the family, these did not represent the full amount spent by E.), she paid almost 1000 USD to one "field auditor" in the course of seven months.

E. went to the US for additional Scientology services at two occasions. She went deeply into debt and she started to harass her family and friends for loans, which they could not or did not want to provide. She came back to Hungary at the beginning of 1999. She was suffering from severe depression due to her mounting debts and was finally admitted to a psychiatric ward. As soon as she was released, she quit her meds and went back to Scientology. They made her redo the purification program and buy and take a lot of vitamins of questionable origin – she was threatened with expulsion if she took any psychiatric medicine. She was going through a horrible ordeal. She felt guilty for taking a lot of money from her parents to finance her progress in Scientology, but she ran out of money (and into deep debt) and did not get what she wanted at all.

On 12 September 1999, tormented by her failures, facing a huge debt, feeling guilty and despised by her fellow “parishioners”, she jumped out of the 10th floor of the apartment building where she lived. She left a suicide note to her sister, and we got permission to quote the first few sentences: “I could not bear it any longer. I could not live without meds. The anxiety is unbearable... Love you, E.”

She made a last attempt to save herself before that. Between 23 August and 2 Sept 1999 she was hospitalized at a lung clinic, under the supervision of a Scientologist doctor. Her discharge summary stated the following: “The patient was hospitalized due to enduring cough. She was treated with antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs, her condition markedly improved. In addition to the aforementioned physical symptoms, the patient is suffering from psychological depression, stemming from a social conflict. She received a drug therapy as recommended by professional medical consultation, but the patient left the institution on her own volition before the treatment was complete.” This is the last medical entry about her life and illness. How knows what the truth is.

One can only wonder that the “professional medical consultation” and the “drug therapy” consisted of. As far as the author knows, she received vitamins instead of antidepressants. The Scientologist medical doctor refused to talk to me. Who knows why she left the hospital (and who pressured her to do so) just to commit suicide 10 days later. She was allegedly alone in her apartment when she took her own life. It must have been horrific for her. Her death shook the city. The Scientologists are definitely responsible for her death – they had led a misguided and completely exploited lamb of theirs to her death.

Her ex-husband told me this: “When she came back from the USA, I was shocked to see that half of her face was paralyzed and her mouth was swollen – as if that part of her face was lifeless. She told me that this happened while she was getting auditing in the US, and she had to buy extra auditing hours for that, but she ran out of money and went into debt. I got really mad at the Church at that point [even though the ex-husband was also a member – the authors].”

He continued by retelling the events after her death: “A week after the death of E., the head of the local Scientology mission called me and asked whether anyone from the family wanted to take action against Scientology, or report the case to the police. I expected condolences, not a question like that, and I noted this to the person who called me from Scientology. It was really weird.”

He was right to consider this sort of conversation weird. However, anyone who is familiar with Scientology knows that they were only interested in one thing: prevent any fallout from the death of a goose that laid golden eggs. The ex-husband added that he spent around a few thousand dollars on Scientology.

The interrogation minutes of the head of the Scientology mission speak for themselves. “E. had no problems with studying, and she seemed to have huge wins when she was doing these training courses. She was happy and smiling.” She added that E’s financial problems were caused by her extravagant lifestyle (her friends were also frowning upon that) and not her spending on Scientology. She did admit though that E.’s travels to the US might have been expensive. She was confident when talking to the police and she denied any responsibility.