



Vic Skeptics July 2021

Cults & Sects

by Ken Greatorex

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ACROSS:

6. Impressively splendid [6]
8. & 9 across: One who believes that the people of Great Britain are the direct descendants of the Ten Lost Tribes of ancient Israel [7, 9]
9. See 8 across
11. Consumed [3]
15. & 17 across: Fundamentalist Protestant sect most numerous in Australia, New Zealand, UK, and North America; noted for ostracism of family members and others who leave the congregation [9, 8]
17. See 15 across
18. A mass meeting for the purpose of displaying or arousing support for a cause or person [5]
21. Auto-luminous spherical celestial body [4]
22. & 24 across: Marshall Applewhite's millenarian group, famous for the suicide of 39 members in order to reach an alien space craft following Comet Hale-Bopp [7, 4]
24. See 22 across
26. Divest, dispose of [3]
27. Steer a course [8]
30. Guiding belief or principle [5]
32. Mass utterance of enthusiastic approval in Spanish [3]
33. L Ron Hubbard's quasi-religious construct [11]
35. Buddhist prayer / meditation hall [5]
37. Donkey [3]
38. To entice to do something ill-advised by promise of pleasure or gain [5]
39. Decorative knot formed by doubling a ribbon or string into two or more loops [3]
40. A combat pilot who has brought down at least five enemy airplanes [3]
42. Middle-Eastern country [5]
43. & 45 across: Colloquial name for The International Society for Krishna Consciousness [4, 6]
45. See 43 across
47. Voracious animal's mouthparts [3]
49. Mischievous and often poor and raggedly clothed youngster [6]
52. Colour [3]
55. Continent [4]
56. Small drink of spirits [3]
57. A devotee of the Giant Spaghetti Monster, (aka His Noodly Appendage), whose cult extends all the way back through the mists of time to 2005 AD. [11]

59. Base of cereal crops remaining attached to the soil after harvest (or crop-circle making) [7]
60. Small wingless bloodsucking insect [4]
61. Violent sect formerly known as Aum Shinrikyo or Aum Supreme Truth [5]
62. Sea eagle [6]
66. A member of the UFO religion founded in 1974 by Claude Vorilhon, which teaches that life on Earth was scientifically created by a species of extra-terrestrials [8]
67. one of the sayings of the Buddha that make up Buddhist scripture [5]
68. Expire [3]
69. Communication, dispatch [7]
72. Point or essence of an argument [3]
76. & 77 across: Indian guru with an international following who died in 2011; his "miracles" have been frequently debunked [3, 4]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFavZe9CYNc>
77. See 76 across
78. & 79 across: Founder (and martyr) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints [6, 5]
79. See 78 across
81. Fracture [5]
83. Temporary quiet interval in activity [4]
85. The affirmative [3]
87. Talon [4]
89. Kipling poem [2]
90. Scythed, sheared, clipped [4]
93. Mortuary [6]
95. & 96 across: Japanese "Supreme Truth" sect responsible for two Sarin gas attacks on the population in 1995 [3, 7, 5]
96. See 95 across
97. Sole [4]
99. A structure within an organism resembling a bag [3]
101. Before the present [3]
104. An ancient British and Irish alphabet [5]
107. Colloquial name for adherents of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints [7]
110. Minted [6]
112. Lowest even prime number [3]
113. in ancient Greece, an open space within a city's precincts that served as a meeting ground for various activities of the citizens [5]
114. Not bright [3]

- 116. Major approximately equal divisions of the calendar year [6]
- 117. & 118 across: 76 of these perished in a siege at Waco, Texas [6, 9]
- 118. See 117 across
- 119. Site in Guyana where The People's Temple migrated, then died in a murder/suicide en masse [9]

DOWN:

- 1. Hairy [7]
- 2. & 20 down: Australian-based sect, eugenically motivated and largely based around children "adopted" by Anne Hamilton Byrne [3, 6]
- 3. Situated behind a ship or boat [6]
- 4. Tracks, trails [5]
- 5. Otherwise [4]
- 6. Large body of water [3]
- 7. Kept afloat [6]
- 10. & 48 down: Group best known for door-to-door preaching, distributing literature and refusing military service and blood transfusions [7, 9]
- 12. A quadrilateral with at least one pair of parallel sides [9]
- 13. Organ of hearing [3]
- 14. & 47 down: Translates as "organisation for the propagation of the path of bliss"; founded in India in 1955 by Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar. Described as a practical philosophy for personal development, social service and the all-around transformation of the society, it came to attention in Australia in 1978 when followers were accused of bombing Sydney's Hilton hotel [6, 5]
- 16. & 41 down: Any of the belief systems originating in Melanesia which links ritual practices with the reward of material goods; largely inspired by war surplus left by WWII US forces. [5, 4]
- 19. & 26 down & 46 down: Scientology's inventor [1, 3, 7]
- 20. See 2 down
- 21. Of champagne: moderately dry OR the trigonometric inverse of Cos. [3]
- 22. Hurry up [6]
- 23. Tree-dwelling mammal OR one of the seven deadly sins [5]
- 25. In geometry, the figure formed by two rays sharing a common endpoint, called the vertex [5]
- 26. See 19 down
- 28. Change [5]
- 29. Short plastic stick with a cup-shaped top on which a golf ball is put to be hit, or the area where this is used to start the play for each hole [3]
- 31. Overnight condensations of water on cool surfaces [4]
- 34. Fruits consisting of hard shells around edible kernels [4]

36. & 65 down: Collective name for followers of 98 down, with Sheila as his spokesperson [6, 6]
39. These people subscribe to the idea that one can live without food and drink, and subsist only off of "pranic light", which is accurate, channelled information from a huge invisible spaceship hovering over North America. Best-known practitioner is Australian Jasmuheen [12]
41. See 16 down
44. Regard with respect or approval [6]
45. Malay or Indonesian dagger with a wavy-edged blade [4]
46. See 19 down
47. See 14 down
48. See 10 down
50. & 84 down & 102 down: Original name of The Family International, founded by David Berg [8,2,3]
51. Transfixed by a sharp instrument [7]
53. Discredited far-right American conspiracy theory much to the fore in influencing pro-Trump support after the 2020 Presidential elections [5]
54. Freshwater fish native to Europe and Asia, but an invasive pest elsewhere [4]
55. Insect
58. Most noticeable, prominent, important [7]
63. Moved quickly by foot [3]
64. & 82 down & 115 down: Korean-born founder of the Unification Church, noted for mass marriage ceremonies; Died in 2013 leaving US\$3 billion despite a gaol term for tax evasion [5], [4]
65. See 36 down
70. Small venomous snake [3]
71. To expose the falseness of an idea or belief [6]
73. North American republic consisting of 46 states and 4 commonwealths [3]
74. Bread maker [5]
75. & 105 down: Chinese spiritual practice with an international following which has reportedly been the subject of extensive human rights abuses within China [5, 4]
78. Flag flown from the bow (front) of a vessel [4]
80. A great amount [4]
82. See 64 down
84. See 50 down
86. Slippery fish [3]
88. David Koresh and seventy-five of his followers perished in a shoot-out and fire in this Texas locality [4]
89. Muslim prayer leader [4]

90. Any learning technique that aids information retention or retrieval in the human memory [8]
91. Alternatively [2]
92. Neo-pagan movement introduced in Britain in 1954 by Gerald Gardner [5]
93. Popular name for members of the Unification Church of 64 down [7]
94. Proceed, depart [2]
96. Male offspring [3]
98. _____ Shree Rajneesh: a.k.a. Chandra Mohan Jain or Osho, an Indian guru and mystic (d. 1990); with a large American following and a predilection for Rolls Royces [7, 5, 8]
100. Unconcerned with the rightness or wrongness of something [6]
102. See 50 down
103. Mary Baker _____; founder of Christian Science [4]
105. See 75 down
106. Truncated remnants, e.g. of a pencils, cigarettes, or tickets [5]
108. Respond, reciprocate [5]
109. Cult-worshipped by some as "The Prince of Darkness" [5]
111. Portents [4]
115. See 64 down

SOLUTION

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