



THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THOUGHT

EXCERPT FROM THE CHAPTER
THE REASON WHY
by L. Ron Hubbard

LIFE CAN BEST be understood by likening it to a GAME. Since we are exterior to a great number of games, we can regard them with a detached eye. If we were exterior to life, instead of being involved and immersed in the living of it, it would look to us much like games look to us from our present vantage point.

Despite the amount of suffering, pain, misery, sorrow and travail which can exist in life, the reason for existence is the same reason as one has to play a game—interest, contest, activity and possession. The truth of this assertion is established by an observation of the elements of games and then applying these elements to life itself. When we do this, we find nothing left wanting in the panorama of life.

By game we mean "contest of person against person, or team against team." When we say games, we mean such games as baseball, polo, chess or any other such pastime.

It may at one time have struck you peculiar that men would risk bodily injury in the field of play, just for the sake of "amusement." So it might strike you as peculiar that people

would go on living or would enter into the "game of life," at the risk of all the sorrow, travail and pain, just to have "something to do." Evidently there is no greater curse than total idleness. Of course, there is that condition where a person continues to play a game in which he is no longer interested.

If you will but look about the room and check off items in which you are not interested, you will discover something remarkable. In a short time, you will find that there is nothing in the room in which you are not interested. You are interested in everything. However, disinterest itself is one of the mechanisms of play. In order to hide something, it is only necessary to make everyone disinterested in the place where the item is hidden. Disinterest is not an immediate result of interest which has worn out. Disinterest is a commodity in itself. It is palpable. It exists.

By studying the elements of games, we find ourselves in possession of the elements of life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Ron Hubbard', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

L. RON HUBBARD, FOUNDER