

1 PRAY READ, TOO, BUT IT IS A SINISTER IMAGE. THEY ARE STANDING
2 AT THE ALLEY WITH THE NET."

3 Q IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT ABOUT THE SKILLED
4 PROSELYTIZER THERE IS A STORY ABOUT A YOUNG GIRL NAMED CEIA
5 WHO GETS ENSNARED IN THIS, IS THAT RIGHT?

6 A YES, AND AS I RECOLLECT, THE HEADLINE IS THAT IS A CASE
7 STUDY. WELL, A CASE STUDY OF WHAT? I ASSUMED THAT IT WAS
8 GOING TO BE SOME KIND OF EFFORT TO APPLY OUR MODEL. IT
9 RAMBLES AWAY AND DOESN'T WITH ANY GREAT CLARITY DO THAT, BUT
10 IT IS CLEARLY THERE.

11 MY STUFF IS USED AS A FRONT END, AS FROSTING ON THE
12 CAKE FOR A HORROR STORY THAT HE IS NOW GOING TO TELL AND I
13 GATHER WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, IT WAS ALL HEARSAY.

14 Q AND THERE IS NO SUPPORT FROM YOUR STUDY FOR WHAT HE IS
15 SAYING, IS THERE?

16 A NO.

17 Q LET ME ASK YOU THIS. YOU HAD A CHANCE TO STUDY THE
18 LOCAL CHURCH PEOPLE?

19 A WELL --

20 Q NOT A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY.

21 A I DIDN'T SIT ON THE COUCH WITH THEM OR ANYTHING BUT I
22 SAW AND TALKED TO THEM.

23 Q HOW ABOUT --

24 A HAD VERY NICE SHORTCAKE WITH THEM ONCE. I NEEDED IT.

25 Q LET ME ASK YOU, CAN YOU GIVE US YOUR OPINION AS TO
26 WHERE THEY FIT IN THE SPECTRUM OF CHRISTIANITY?

27 A WELL, BEING AS A SOCIOLOGIST OF RELIGION, I AGREE THAT
28 GORDON MELTON PUT THEM IN THE RIGHT VOLUME OF HIS BOOK. THEY

1 ARE WITHOUT A DOUBT AN EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT DENOMINATION,
2 SINCE THEY ARE GIVEN THE KIND OF MORAL TONE OF THE GROUP,
3 ONE WOULD CALL THEM A SECT RATHER THAN A CHURCH, A CHURCH
4 BEING A PLACE WHERE THE MINISTER SAYS WELL, A SPOT OF JACK
5 DANIELS IS OKAY AND LET'S GO PLAY GOLF. A SECT SAYING, WELL,
6 WE DON'T NEED THE GOLF COURSE AND A 7-UP, PLEASE. THEY FIT
7 RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF EVANGELICAL PROTESTANTISM. WE NEVER
8 THOUGHT TO CLASSIFY THEM AS ANYTHING ELSE NOR WOULD ANY
9 SOCIOLOGIST OF RELIGION THAT I WOULD KNOW OF.

10 Q ARE YOU SAYING THEY WOULDN'T BE CLASSIFIED AS A 'CULT'
11 IN THE PERJORATIVE TERM?

12 A OH, PERJORATIVE OR NON -- WELL, ONE OF THESE IDIOTS WHO
13 CLUNG TO TRYING TO USE THE WORD CULT IN A TECHNICAL
14 SOCIOLOGICAL SENSE TO MEAN A RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT NOT IN THE
15 MAIN TRADITION THAT THE SOCIETY WE ARE OBSERVING SO THAT
16 CHRISTIANITY IS A CULT MOVEMENT IN INDIA, HINDUISM IS A CULT
17 MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

18 I AM NOW SORRY I TRIED TO FIGHT THIS BATTLE FOR 20 YEARS!
19 BECAUSE THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE KILLED ME. THE NEWSPAPERS ARE
20 GOING TO HAVE THAT TO MEAN AWFUL, AWFULNESS. IT IS GOING TO
21 MEAN JIM JONES. IT IS GOING TO MEAN BAD THINGS.

22 GOING BACK TO MY TECHNICAL DAYS WHEN I AM STILL TRYING
23 TO HOLD OUT FOR THE WORD CULT AS A TECHNICAL, USEFUL WORD,
24 IT IS PRECISELY WHAT I HAVE SAID -- NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT,
25 BECAUSE WE ARE NOT TALKING HERE ABOUT STRUCTURE. WE ARE TALK-
26 ING ABOUT DOCTRINE.

27 ARE THEY STILL WITHIN THE CONVENTIONAL TRADITION WITHIN
28 AMERICAN SOCIETY, AND THE ANSWER IS SO OBVIOUSLY YES.