

# Persephone S Quest Entheogens And The Origins Of Religion

Entheogens and the Development of Culture  
Entheogens and the Future of Religion  
Persephone's Quest  
Where God and Science Meet  
The Entheogen Law Reporter  
Shamanism and the Drug Propaganda  
SCP Journal  
Psychedelics Reimagined  
Psychedelic Horizons  
The Many Meanings of Myth  
Pharmacotheon  
Religionswissenschaft als Kulturwissenschaft  
Lexikon der Liebesmittel  
The Journal of Transpersonal Psychology  
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Discovery  
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entheogens and the development of culture makes the radical proposition that mind altering substances have played a major part not only in cultural development but also in human brain development researchers suggest that we have purposely enhanced receptor sites in the brain especially those for dopamine and serotonin through the use of plants and fungi over a long period of time the trade off for lowered functioning and potential drug abuse has been more creative thinking or a leap in consciousness experiments in entheogen use led to the development of primitive medicine in which certain mind altering plants and fungi were imbibed to still fatigue pain or depression while others were taken to promote hunger and libido our ancestors selected for our neural hardware and our propensity for seeking altered forms of consciousness as a survival strategy may be intimately bound to our decision making processes going back to the dawn of time fourteen essays by a wide range of contributors including founding president of the american anthropological association s anthropology of religion section michael winkelman phd carl a p ruck phd boston university professor of classics and an authority on the ecstatic rituals of the god dionysus and world renowned botanist dr gaston guzma member of the colombian national academy of sciences and expert on hallucinogenic mushrooms demonstrate that altering consciousness continues to be an important part of human experience today anthropologists cultural historians and anyone interested in the effects of mind altering substances on the human mind and soul will find this book deeply informative and inspiring

a study of the importance of psychedelic plants and drugs in religion and society with contributions by albert hofmann r gordon wasson jack kornfield terence mckenna the shulgins rick strassman and others explores the importance of academic and religious freedom in the study of psychedelics and the mind exposes the need for an organized spiritual context for entheogen use in order to fully realize their transformative and sacred value we live in a time when a great many voices are calling for a spiritual

renewal to address the problems that face humanity yet the way of entheogens one of the oldest and most widespread means of attaining a religious experience is forbidden surrounded by controversy and misunderstanding widely employed in traditional shamanic societies entheogens figure prominently in the origins of religion and their use continues today throughout the world they alter consciousness in such a profound way that depending on the set and setting they can produce the ultimate human experiences union with god or revelation of other mystical realities with contributions by albert hofmann terence mckenna ann and alexander shulgin thomas riedlinger dale pendell and rick strassman as well as interviews with r gordon wasson and jack kornfield this book explores ancient and modern uses of psychedelic drugs emphasizing the complementary relationship between science and mystical experience and the importance of psychedelics to the future of religion and society revealing the mystical religious possibilities of substances such as psilocybin mushrooms mescaline and lsd this book exposes the vital need for developing an organized spiritual context for their use in order to fully realize their transformative and sacred value stressing the importance of academic and religious freedom the authors call for a revival of scientific and religious inquiry into entheogens so they may be used safely and legally by those seeking to cultivate their spiritual awareness

this fascinating book discusses the role played by psychoactive mushrooms in the religious rituals of ancient greece eurasia and mesoamerica r gordon wasson an internationally known ethnomycologist who was one of the first to investigate how these mushrooms were venerated and employed by different native peoples here joins with three other scholars to discuss the evidence for his discoveries about these fungi which he has called entheogens or god generated within

in this far reaching and novel work experts from across the nation and around the world present evolutionary neuroscientific and psychological approaches to explaining and exploring religion including the newest findings and evidence that have spurred the fledgling field of neurotheology spiritual practices or awakenings have an impact on brain mind and personality these changes are being scientifically predicted and proven for example studies show buddhist priests and franciscan nuns at the peak of religious feelings show a functional change in the lobes of their brain similar processes have been found in people with epilepsy which hippocrates called the sacred disease new research is showing that not only does a person's brain activity change in particular areas while that person is experiencing religion epiphany but that such events can be created for some people even self professed atheists by stimulating various parts of the brain it is not the goal of neurotheology to prove or disprove the existence of god but to understand the biology of spiritual experiences such experiences seem to exist outside of time and space caused by the brain losing its perception of a boundary between physical body and outside world understanding why this is the case could help explain other intangible events such as altered states of consciousness possession supposed alien visitations near death experiences and out of body events understanding how and why these abilities evolved in the brain could also help us understand how religion contributes to the survival of the human race

shamanism and the drug propaganda is a popularly written college level introduction to ancient history and the greek classics the text is fully annotated and illuminated by 200 genuine pharmaco shamanic images from the ancient world since it is popularly written and very heavily illustrated with the remarkable overtly pharmaco shamanic art of the ancient world it reads like a movie but a movie with profound psychological and political relevance for the contemporary world since it uses the words and pictures of our ancestors to address contemporary issues in this sense it compares to the chalice and the blade and food of the gods two recent bestsellers of similar intent as such the book is a unique tool for exciting undergraduates about the contemporary relevance of ancient history and the greek classics this was the intent of jane ellen harrison in her prolegomena and epilegomena to the study of greek religion harrison was the most influential classicist of the twentieth century and not coincidentally the most influential feminist historian of the century as well a major feature of shamanism and the drug propaganda in 4 of its 17 chapters is its summary of harrison's seminal

thesis in her own words harrison was concerned with the historical and psychological transition from the originary matriarchal conscious of tribal culture to the warrior oriented patriarchal consciousness of industrial culture she understood this transition to be central to the process of industrial enslavement that enslavement necessarily demonized the power rites the rites de passage as she called them of tribal cultures that is harrison pointed to the tribal the matriarchal pre industrial roots of classical patriarchal industrial greek culture she was therefore concerned with originary tribal greek sacramentalism herbal magic real pharmaco shamanism is at the core of all matriarchal cultures the goddess does not separate from her herbal magic from her invention of medicine the central sacrament of all paleolithic neolithic and bronze age cultures known is an inebriative herb a plant totem which became metaphoric of the communal epiphany these herbs herbal concoctions and herbal metaphors are at the heart of all mythologies they include such familiar images as the burning bush the tree of life the cross the golden bough the forbidden fruit the blood of christ the blood of dionysos the holy grail or rather its contents the chalice kalyx flower cup the golden flower chrysanthemon ambrosia ambrotos immortal nectar nektar overcomes death the sacred lotus the golden apples the mystic mandrake the mystic rose the divine mushroom teonanacatl the divine water lily soma ayahuasca vine of the soul kava iboga mama coca and peyote woman they are the archetypal the emotionally the instantaneously understood symbols at the center of the drug propaganda a sexually attractive man or woman is an archetypal image the basis of most advertising a loaf of bread is an archetypal image the emotional impact of the sacramental herbal images or rather the historical confusion of their natural function is central to the successful manipulation of mass emotion and individual self image that is contemporary politics has an unconscious an evolutionary element that involves the industrial manipulation of instinct that manipulation can only be understood by contemplating what elements of our evolutionary inheritance contemporary inquisitors want forgotten

cultural writing introduced by timothy leary this collection of essays photographs and research seeks to establish the scientific legitimacy of psychedelic studies important very informative and an additional valuable contribution to the psychedelic movement dr albert hoffman inventor of lsd 25 as hakim bey writes in the foreword the doors of perception that s the first step the second step is opening the doors of perception then going through next learning that there are no doors of perception then going back outside and alerting everyone else to the wonders beyond the doors

this is a different kind of book about psychedelics rather than describing psychedelic experiences it presents four future oriented ideas coming over the psychedelic horizon which illustrate the potential benefits of psychedelics for humanity stanislav grof s view of our minds as a way to understand works of art looking at disney s snow white the evidence that psychedelic occasioned mystical experiences can boost our immune systems psychedelics as a way of adding new cognitive programmes to our thinking skills applying the ideas from part 3 to learning

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die themen des bandes reichen historisch betrachtet von der mediterranen antike bis in die gegenwart religionswissenschaft tritt als eine disziplin entgegen deren entstehung selbst teil der religionsgeschichte europas ist das kulturwissenschaftliche profil des faches wird in der auseinandersetzung mit anthropologischen wie mit biologischen modellen und theorien gescharft thematisch nimmt die argumentation ihren ausgangspunkt in der frage nach gegenstanden und quellen einer religionsgeschichte und einer kritischen analyse des religionsgeschichtlichen vergleiches besondere stosskraft gewinnen die texte gladigows durch ihre konsequente einbeziehung der religiösen pragmatik und der beachtung der medien religiöser kommunikation

festschrift für prof w havers v 1

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