

A brief introduction to Ethnomycology: James Arthur

For millions of years on our planet, humanity has been involved in a symbiotic relationship with plants. Not only have plants supplied mankind with a never ending food-source, the necessary nourishment for our bodies and life itself, but they have also served us in another way: an extremely important and intricate one, yet an often overlooked one. I am referring to those plants which, traditionally, have been known to pharmacologically expand human consciousness into the mystical/spiritual states. The study of these plants is called "Entheobotany", or "Ethnobotany". A sub-field (of this study), known as "Ethnomycology" is specifically dedicated to mushrooms which have consciousness expanding qualities, and therefore deep roots imbedded in the religious traditions, writings and indigenous knowledge of mankind. The term, "Ethnomycology" was coined by its father, the late Gordon Wasson. This line of study is constantly expanding as more and more correlations come to light regarding the usage of mushrooms in a particular culture or religion..



The experience attained by the Entheogenic [En(in)theo(God)gen(eration)] use of this mushroom is extremely valuable, yet the rules for experimentation of this type are unforgiving. NEVER eat ANY mushroom, unless you are absolutely certain that it is the one you want. VERIFY its identification with an expert mycologist. This is not a recreational experience. The Shamanic "DEATH (and REBIRTH) EXPERIENCE" is called that for a very good reason (it is, what it is). When experimenting with entheogenic mushrooms, always have a few friends along (as monitors) in case you need to be assured that you are not dying. RESEARCH this before experimenting. Plan a full day for your experience. This is not a scheduled substance - responsible and careful use will keep it that way. BE SMART, Ever onward. Most of all, JUST SAY KNOW. James.



A typical RED variety of the Amanita muscaria, the single most written about and mystically symbolized mushroom throughout history. As you will see, this mushroom played a major role in the formulation of nearly every world religion and world mythology. It is the primary focus of this investigation.

Amanita muscaria

In today's society it has become taboo to present the expansion of consciousness by the use of any kinds of drugs/plants in a positive light. Such is the case when one discusses government or religion (or any other societal norm) in a negative light. While I have nothing positive to say about heroin, highly refined Coca leaf (coke, crack), or amphetamines (crank), I feel that a blanket assessment of all drugs as being DIRTY is not only unfair, but a classic case of dis-information, since plants are not refined drugs, and, unlike refined drugs, human culture has indeed evolved in a close symbiotic relationship with sacred plants. A war on traditional sacred plants is a war on traditional tribal human culture, as any Native American, or Native African, can tell you. The political implications are obvious.

Plant drugs, in the psychedelic category, are commonly referred to these days (by those in the know) as "Entheogens", meaning simply; "the generation of God within"; for the experienter, "the realization of God within ones own consciousness".

The facts are that there are many plants that have been known to expand consciousness, increase awareness of self, and initiate one into the nature of spirituality. Thousands of PhD. professors all over the world (in fields such as botany, ethnobotany, entheobotany, archaeology, anthropology, philology, philosophy, psychology, as well as a plethora of other inter-related fields) have written thousands of books/papers on the investigation and study of psychedelic plants.

These writings have dealt with the use of such substances by spiritual practitioners in most every religion formed on the planet. Throughout history, each tribe/culture has looked for leadership and insight to the local Holy-man, or otherwise known as the Shaman, Healer, Priest, Mage, Sage, Yogi, Magician. The insight these leaders possessed was largely due to their experience and understanding of pharmacopeia (use of plants) and the insight offered by the use of these things.

The Spanish (Catholic) inquisition and witch hunts (the murdering of over eight million people, tried as witches, and the stealing of their land and other properties done in the name of God by the Church-government up until the 19th century) were prime examples of the power-driven demonization of tribal values for the purpose of industrial enslavement. Also related to this church jealousy and greed is the matter of millions of indigenous Central Americans murdered (exterminated), bringing about the near extinction of the Aztec/Inca/Mayan peoples, AND the all-to-similar fate of indigenous North Americans. The underlying agenda is the repression of the knowledge of Entheogenic plants which, if it succeeded, would insure the people's loyalty to established religion in all matters pertaining to God, primarily due to the inability of experiencing God for, in, oneself. Since government and religion are the controllers of the world, an independent Shaman/Priest/Mage/Magician/Prophet is a threat to their power. Crazy Horse was a Shaman.

The sacramental use of Entheogens has only come into a bad/dirty light recently. This is largely due to the lumping together of any and all substances used by people (whether used for spiritual or recreation purposes) and then classifying them as "bad" (for you), "evil", "vile", and/or "dirty". This prohibition is the propaganda of the inept, corrupt, and oppressive (monetary based) war on drugs. In reality, despite the incredible amount of evidence that humanity's origins of spirituality are inseparably linked to entheogens, governmental prohibition continues to rob each individual of their human right to directly access and understand the nature of spirituality through the traditional and ancient means provided by mother earth.

The agenda of the propaganda-pushers is not only sad but actually quite sickening because of the way it tends to lead the mindless masses of sheep right down the road to foolishness, causing them to become the unknowing pushers of the very same oppressive dis-information and propaganda which imprisons them, whilst believing the whole time that they are being right, proper, clean purveyors of the truth. As you will see, this subject is absolutely a matter of religious practice, and as such, it must be protected by Constitutional rights.

As Timothy Leary put it so well, "Psychedelics often produce psychotic and even violent behavior in those that have never used them".

One more thing before we get going...

It's the use of heroin, crack, and crank that the government throws on the table to cause panic in the minds of people, that has allowed them to erode the Constitution away into a now historical document, by passing unbelievable laws all under the guise of stopping the use of drugs and saving our precious children from the "vile drug-pusher", while all along it's been the O.S.S. and then the C.I.A. in bed with the Mafia and local government officials that bring the highly addictive drugs (Heroin/Crack), that destroy peoples lives, into the Country, and then distribute them locally. If you don't think this could be true, then take a look drugwar.com. This site links to a mountain of hard evidence of military-intelligence drug dealing for the institutionalized purpose of covert arms financing.

It is the highly addictive properties of these drugs that are exactly what make the Mafia/C.I.A./Government wet their lips from excitement (due to huge profits involved), not caring what damage they do to people. Also the natural plant Entheogens are not a hot commodity for them, partly because they actually make you think, which is one of the things those agenda-driven, power & money-hungry monsters would prefer you didn't do. Our favorite free-thinkers and musicians, by taking certain plants, and smoking certain herbs (also with a long religious history) should be praised for the insight and understanding they have received in life through these things, not be condemned and thought of as dirty for their use of the same.

With that said, lets get going...



Amanita muscaria



Artwork as Revelator

Amanita muscaria is a "good luck charm", associated with the four-leafed-clover in artwork and traditional superstition. It is not restricted to pictorial art in obvious places. Mushroom-associated symbolism is found throughout religious artwork as well. Decoding these religious art symbols has always been a favorite pass-time of mine; it seems when you start to look, there is mushroom imagery everywhere, especially when the artist is one of those "in the know", as revealed through their usage of these special symbols. For good reason, as the story unfolds you find that the depth of your understanding of religious art, is directly associated with the depth of your understanding of the symbols.



The Little People

Often associated with Gnomes, Fairies and "little people", the beauty of this mushroom makes it a favorite for artists. Certain artists also reveal deeper symbolic information. The mystical aspect is generally reserved for those that happen to be "in the know".

The Hidden Meanings of Christmas

What are the origins of the Christmas traditions? Most people never think to ask this question. Those that do, find a seemingly complete dogmatic system of explanation. Then, of course, one day there is that discovery that Santa Claus does not really exist. But... Does he? Long lost, deeply underlying the realms of simple tradition, are very amazing symbolic connections and origins that are either long- forgotten or were/are intentionally overlooked.

The basic philosophy behind Christmas is; if you are good you will receive a present under the tree, if you are bad then you receive no present. In some cultures those who are bad even receive punishment delivered by various means and personages. This is a very simple philosophical system. Santa Claus is an all knowing icon who reads the hearts and intentions of everyone on the planet. Each child is told the story of the round-man (who wears red and white) and his associates; reindeer, little people and Mrs. Claus. They are also told the story of a miraculous worldwide flight in a sleigh which results in presents being delivered under a tree.

Yet when a child reaches the age of reasoning he is informed that this story is all a fabrication. This revelation is devastating upon the psyche of a young mind. It is also at this time that the child is often comforted, and pacified from the shock, by very strong reinforcement that the religious system which the parents or guardians profess are indeed factual. And an attempt is made to incorporate the respective religious traditions into the holiday as the REAL meaning for the celebration. There is an alternative to this cultural conditioning and shock-relief system of indoctrinations, into the realities of life, which is based upon truth and is much more interesting than even the simple traditional understandings of Christmas themselves.

The key to this alternative is encoded within the icons and symbols of Christmas. To know the meanings behind the symbolism to which most people only attach dogmatic explanations, is to open the doorway to understanding the very roots of many other religions as well. Several books have been written about the Amanita muscaria mushroom. This mushroom is found growing all over the world under Pine (& other coniferous trees), Birch, and sometimes Oak. The Pine tree is one of the well-known central relics of Christmas. Under this tree is where those who are deemed good find their reward in the form of a present. A big red and white rounded mushroom grows under the very tree we are to look under on Christmas morning to find our gift. If we can find that this present does indeed exist. If we can find that reindeer are thought to be able to fly for a very good reason, and we can show that traditionally they carry people spiritually through the air in a way that defies the laws of time. And further, if we can show that the philosophical idiom "be good not bad" is really THE universal truth, would we have sufficient basis for discarding the established religious dogmas which traditionally replace the Christmas tale, and instead simply expand the story to reveal the more esoteric principles upon which it is based?

It is my assertion that the traditional day of reckoning wherein it is revealed that Santa Claus is not real, that Reindeer do not fly, and that there is no present under the living pine tree (unless placed there by a deceiver), is

a dis-information campaign geared towards conditioning the young mind to be unable to accept the information which is presented herein. I also assert that the devastating blow of the destruction of a belief, and the associated reinforcement of "Christianity" (or other religious system) is psychologically designed to support the replacement information which is given as a comforting foundation during a time of shock and crisis, and is explained as something that will never be revealed as false (like Santa and all that fantasy).

The Santa Claus and Christmas traditions of today have metamorphosed out of many older mythologies. The icons, symbols, and relics that have managed to survive from the "Winter Solstice" celebrations of old, have a commonality that deserves some reflection, study, and perhaps even some reverence. Understanding that these traditions are borrowed ones, is central to getting at the heart of the true meaning of Christmas.



Santa as a Shaman

Today's Santa Claus is a metamorphosis of many older mythologies, including Thor or Donner (German) who wears red and rides in a "Golden Flying Chariot" pulled by two Goats (Cracker and Gnasher). In a sense, these goats were the ancestors to the now popular reindeer. What would the red and gold clad angel be doing with that nice basket? An Easter basket at Christmas is an interesting concept.

Christmas is commonly thought of as a Christian holiday (the birth of Jesus). Many Christian beliefs and traditions were borrowed from more ancient religions and mythologies. This is well documented by authors such as Robert Graves (in the great [The White Goddess](#)), Gerald Massey, Godfrey Higgins, Kersey Graves and many others. The virgin birth, the incarnation of God, the sacrament, Christmas, Easter, etc. have all been adopted/stolen by Christianity as its own.

It is well documented by the early Christian Apologists ('Defenders') that the Christmas traditions are Pagan in origin.. This simply means that their origin comes from the traditions of the country-folk (pagan). It is also very easy to obscure, overlook and discredit the Egyptian, Mithraic, Germanic, Norse, Celtic, Greek, Hindu and Buddhist roots by lumping all non-Christian religions together and labeling them Pagan. These are certainly not simple country-folk religions. So to just say Christmas has Pagan roots, and not go further, is glossing over what exactly those roots are, and discrediting their study as worthless. Christmas icons, traditions and stories have hidden meanings. Although not initially apparent, a more thorough investigation reveals far more symbolic content (which is decipherable) than originally suspected. At the roots of this symbolism research is information about the secrets of the mushroom, regarding its habitats, forms, uses, preparations, and effects.

Siberian Shaman used/use (despite governmental oppression) the Amanita muscaria as a religious sacrament. It is used for spiritual vision, out-of-body travel into the realms of the spirits, and as a plant-spirit guide in teaching and healing. The value of the inebriant is placed highly among the commodities of the native tribesmen, fetching reindeer pelts, meats, and all manner of tradable goods in payment and barter. It is well-known among them that if you aren't quick enough in the mushroom hunt, you will find only the mushroom stubs, the rest greedily gobbled up by the dancing reindeer, for whom the quickly appearing and disappearing fall mushrooms are a favorite seasonal food.



Christmas Ornaments

One of the traditions, of ornamenting a tree, comes from the tradition of "The Paradise tree", a fir tree decorated with apples (representing the fruit of the "Tree of Knowledge" in the "Garden of Eden"). This "fruit" will be discussed later as the Amanita. During Germany's Middle Ages, a popular play, which was symbolic of the paradise story, was staged on December 24th (the religious feast day of Adam and Eve) . Two more symbolic connections with the mushroom are the candles and cookies that were also hung on the tree (candles = Christ; cookies = wafers of the Christian sacrament). This ornament is of particular interest because of its association with the fruit of the tree of knowledge and the Amanita muscaria. This indicates that there have always been people "In the Know" from time to time. According to Apocryphal texts and other older ones, the "Fruit of the Tree of Life" and the more recently added "Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge" were originally one in the same.

So, why do people bring Pine trees into their houses at the Winter Solstice, placing brightly colored (Red and White) packages under their boughs, as gifts to show their love for each other and as representations of the love of God and the gift of his Sons life?

It is because, underneath the Pine bough is the exact location where one would find this "Most Sacred" Substance, the Amanita muscaria, in the wild. These mushrooms grow in a symbiotic/mycorrhizal relationship with the Pine tree, which means they always grow underneath it. The symbolic placing of gifts under the tree at Christmas is a sort of proxy-present-giving action, whereby the celebrants ritually mimic the work of God/Santa/Nature, by placing under the tree a GIFT (actually THE gift). Big clue here: Winter brings rain; rain brings mushrooms, IN the mountains, AT Christmas time, UNDER the Pine trees. Then and there will you find that which unlocks the key mysteries of the Universe, through a multi-dimensionalizing of the consciousness in a way that no other known substance can. This Gnosis (joining together of your mind with the mind of the Universal Consciousness) is what the Sages, Mystics, Teachers, and Prophets were attempting to communicate through their rampant symbolism. (Had they not feared persecution, they may have spoken of it openly and directly.)



All over the world, people bring Coniferous trees into their houses and place brightly colored packages underneath them. In Nature, this is where you will find the *Amanita muscaria* (under coniferous trees). The actual mushroom "plant" is the underground "mycelium" or "mycorrhizae", which is directly attached to the tree roots; the mushroom itself is only the fruit-body of the mycelium. The mushroom is literally the Fruit of the Tree. They grow in a mycorrhizal (not parasitic) relationship with the tree. Many people follow the tradition/custom of bringing a tree into the home and putting presents under it, yet have absolutely no idea why. Even people that think they know, usually have no knowledge of these mushroom connections. The true symbolic meaning transcends dogmatic etymological and historical evidence, by revealing itself in the totally obvious iconography and historically associated myths and traditions.

The Christmas Tree

1. Saint Nicholas is the patron Saint of children in Siberia (Russia), a supplanter to the indigenous Shaman.
2. The *Amanita muscaria* mushrooms grow nearly exclusively under the Christmas (Coniferous) Trees (Birch also [another whole story]). 2. The Reindeer eat these mushrooms, hence the presumed flight.
3. Santa brings presents in his white bag/sack. Mushrooms are gathered in bags, and *Amanita muscaria* sprouts out of a white volval sack.
4. The mushrooms are red and white and grow under a green tree. Christmas colors are red, white and green.
5. Typically, the red and white mushrooms are dried by stringing them on the hearth of the fireplace. Christmas stockings are red and white, hung in the same way, and shaped similar.
6. The Virgin Birth is symbolic for the "seedless" growth/germination pattern of the mushroom. To the ancient mind, with no microscope to see the spores, it's appearance was thought to be miraculous.
7. The very name, "Christmas" is a holiday name composed of the words, "Christ" (meaning "one who is anointed with the Magical Substance") and "Mass" (a special religious service/ceremony of the sacramental ingestion of the Eucharist, the "Body of Christ"). In the Catholic tradition, this substance (Body/Soma) has been replaced by the doctrine of "Trans-substantiation", whereby in a magical ceremony the Priests claim the ability to transform a "cracker/round-wafer" into the literal "Body of Christ"; ie, a substitute or placebo.



Saint Nicholas, known as the "Patron Saint of Children" (among other things), is the most revered saint in Russia, second only to the apostles. He is the Russian Orthodox Church's supplanter to the native people's highly respected local Shaman. A Shaman is a holy man that is well acquainted with a form of spirituality that incorporates plant entheogens which facilitate the NDE (Near Death Experience), or "out of body" experience. Saint Nicholas may not have been a shaman, yet the symbolism on, and coloring of his robes could lend to speculation. The equilateral-circumscribed-cross is an ancient symbol for Christianity AND the Holy Grail, it is another very obvious mushroom symbol.

Saint Nicholas

The ancient shamanic use of *Amanita muscaria* in Siberia is well documented. Despite governmental oppression against its use, there are still many who refuse to accept the authorized state religion, and continue the shamanic traditions in secret. Just as the Siberian shaman (commonly dressing in red and white) would enter through the opening in the roof of a home where a ritual was to be done, Santa Claus also arrives on the roof and enters through the chimney.

Just as the shamans would gather the mushrooms in bags which they would bring with them when performing a ceremony, Santa Claus also (on the Holy Day) brings presents in a bag. The Santa Claus we see today evolved from traditions developed in Germany. It is fairly common knowledge that the Weihnachtsmann (St. Nick) was an amalgamation of older Germanic/Norse gods such as Thor, Donner, Odin and Wotan. What's missing here is just as Santa flies through the skies in his sleigh, Odin (as well as the rest) rode through the sky in his chariot, which is depicted in the stars by "The Big Dipper". The Big Dipper is the chariot of Odin & Wotan, Thor, King Arthur, and even Osiris (of Egypt). The chariot that circles the North Star in a 24 hour period is thus also known as the sleigh of Santa Claus because it circles his mythological home, the North Pole. It is no surprise that Nordic/Germanic gods have connection to mushrooms in their mythology. As Thor throws his mushroom-shaped hammer to the ground, mighty thunders and lightning cracks cause the real mushroom(s) to appear. As the horses who are pulling Odin through the sky in his chariot become over-exerted, their blood-mingled spit falls to the ground and causes the *Amanita* mushrooms to grow at those exact points.



Drying the mushrooms was/is a necessary procedure typically accomplished by stringing them up (like popcorn) and hanging them above the hearth of the fireplace. shamans and lay people alike, would gather and dry them. They gather all they can since they are a valuable commodity. Reindeer (native to Siberia) are known to be quite

fond of eating these mushrooms. The mythology of flying Reindeer reflects the supposed pharmacological effects of such a meal.

It is important to point out that this Christmas/Winter Solstice celebration, with all its various counterparts, transcends the world's religions. The reason that this celebration is held all over the planet in various forms may have something to do with this other commonality at which we are looking; it is certainly entwined in the symbolism.

Here are some other countries' names for Santa Claus.

Australia - - - - - Santa Claus

British Isles - - - - Father Christmas

China - - - - - Dun Che Lao Ren (dwynd-chuh-lau-oh-run)

Czechoslovakia - - - -Svaty Mikalas

Denmark - - - - -Julemanden

France - - - - -Pere Noel or le petit Jsus

Germany - - - - - Saint Nicholas or Weihnachtsmann

Greece - - - - -Saint Nicholas or Santa Claus

Iceland - - - - - Jolasveinar. (13 of them) Stekkjarstaur, Giljagaur, Stufur, Thvorusleikir, Pottaskefill, Askasleikir, Hurdarskellir, Skyrgamur, Bjugnakraekir, Gluggagaegir, Gattathefur, Ketkrokur and Kertasnikir.

Italy - - - - - Babbo Natale

Japan - - - - - Hoteiosho

Netherlands - - - - - Sinterklaas

Norway - - - - -Julebukk

Russia - - - - -Saint Nicholas

Scandinavia - - - - - Julenisse

Spain - - - - - Balthazar

Sweden - - - - -Tomte

Wales - - - - - Mari Ilwyd

United States - - - - Santa Claus

This list is by no means complete; it was partially obtained from The World Book Encyclopedia.



A Sacred Meal Setting and Service

This place setting and service was contributed by a very good friend who has been always an inspiration to me. It is certainly a real fine example of what a truly enlightened Christmas meal is all about. You don't have to read very far into this symbolism to realize what the table is saying about dinner. The idea of a "Sacred Meal" is incorporated into many ancient traditions that also celebrated the birth of the God on December 25th. The Sun, as it reaches the winter Solstice, ends its course across the heavens and appears to stop for 3 days, then it begins anew its trek across the heavens towards the Northern hemisphere. This 3 day "stoppage" was mythologized as the death of the Sun of God on the cross of the celestial 4 points, and after the 3 day waiting period as it began another precession across the sky, it was thought to return to life. Later mythologies transfer the death on the cross to a hanging on wood, and the 3 day death to the Son (Sun) being locked inside a tomb. The fact that the mushrooms must be dried before consumption is another euphemism of the god needing to die, or sacrifice himself, to save mankind through atonement (at-one-ment).

This is only the beginning: only a few of the associations between this mushroom and Christmas traditions; there are more. Here are some synonymous names and/or terminologies given to this mushroom throughout history, many of which we will be exploring further. In fact, there are so many that expounding upon them could take a lifetime, therefore, obviously, this list is not all-inclusive. The Egyptian term; "the God of a thousand names" begins to make sense as this research begins to encompass so many other traditions, mythologies and religions.

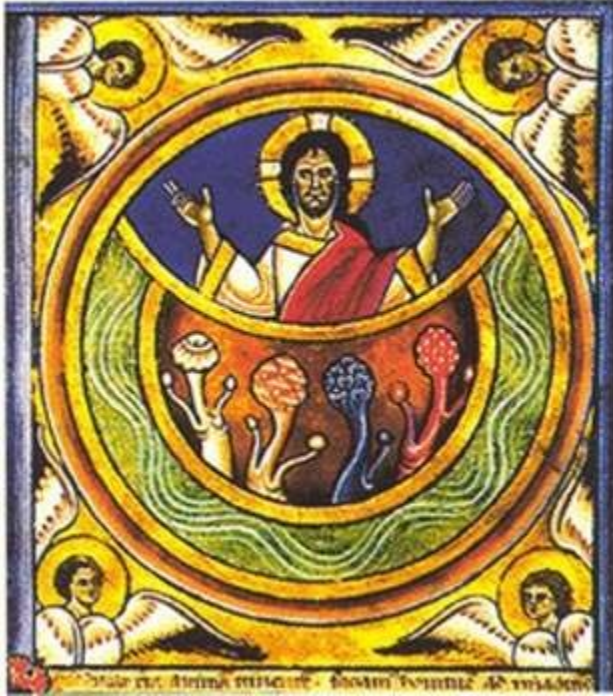


The Holy Grail

Amanita muscaria, long associated with the "Flesh of the God" in religious sacraments, was and is the true Holy Grail. The Grail cup, holding the blood of the god, is an obvious analogy for the shape of the fully-grown specimen and its juices. Note the look of the fully grown specimen. The imagery of a cup or fountain are two of the more pronounced symbols used to keep the understanding of the true nature of the sacrament a secret from everyone but the "Elite". In its infant (button) state, the muscaria resembles a small white stone.

The pulling of the sword from the stone (a symbol of wielding the power), is another Arthurian legend connecting the mushroom to the myth. The quest for the Grail itself is the quest for the knowledge of the mushroom. The Percival myth depicts paths (traditions), which are to be explored (but not adhered to), in order to complete the quest. This quest is described in the myths as a journey into the forest (the world) and finding paths (systems) which one may follow, for a time, but ultimately one must blaze his/her own trail in order to truly reach the final goal, the Holy Grail (the discovery and usage of the mushroom).

The search for the Holy Grail is a mythology that has become, through adaptation, a part of the story of the Crucifixion. Some of the stories incorporate a cup which was used to catch some of the flowing blood of Jesus as he died on the cross. This cup, like many other relics, was thereby thought to possess magical powers. Historically, the mushroom has been the container for the juice of the "elixir of immortality", or the "blood of God", in many myths. The final shape of the muscaria, with its inverted cap, is the reason that the cup/fountain/grail symbology is used in the stories. King Arthur, as a child, gained his rightful place as King by pulling the sword from the stone. This is symbolic for wielding the power of the mushroom. The stone is a metaphor for the mushroom, and pulling the sword from it is symbolic of being able to crack the code and possess the power of the magical plant. After Arthur took ill (in his later years) he was told that he must seek and find the Holy Grail to renew his strength and re-acquire his power.

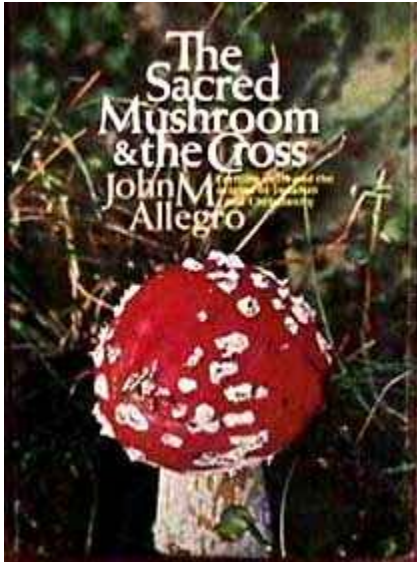


Jesus, depicted as the lord of magickal plants.

Christianity is a religion with a dubious history, yet many of the doctrines and stories are worth study. It is a religion which was created for political reasons. Constantine, The Emperor of Rome, knew one of the most basic tenets of government was the control of its people. The governmental control of people becomes much easier and effective when that government is able to also assume a "divine" authority. Although Rome holds no exclusive right to this idea, they certainly have etched their mark on history, enforcing their particular political machine. Christianity is the product of a governmental council acquiring and examining as many of the world's religious doctrines they could find; in order to create a "One World Religion".

They took ideas and doctrine from Egyptology, Mithraism, Hinduism, Buddhism, the Torah of the Jews, and many others, picking the parts they wanted to include, altering them as they wished, discarding the parts they did not want included, and finally compiling their own plagiarized (and altered) writings to create the new Catholic (one from all) Bible. Since this was a plagiarized AND altered conglomeration of many older works, many symbolic tenets have managed to retain their original meanings.

The primary purpose of this investigation is to explain these hidden meanings in as simple a form as possible. Much linguistic evidence, thoroughly covered by John Allegro in SACRED MUSHROOM & CROSS, clearly demonstrates that mushrooms played a huge role in the written word.



The Christian MANNAS revealed

John Marco Allegro, one of the world's leading philologists, an original translator of the Dead Sea Scrolls, head of the official Jordanian translation team, put his neck on the line when he wrote his book, *The Sacred Mushroom And The Cross*, which made numerous connections from sacred doctrinal enigmas and sacraments to the Amanita muscaria. He fearlessly attempted to expose the reality of the mushroom symbolism throughout the Bible, Apocryphal writings, and The Dead Sea Scrolls. He was fully aware of the criticism his book would draw, yet as a true scholar, knowing the importance of the information, he put self aside for the good of all.

John Allegro linguistically linked the SOMA (Greek=Body), the Manna (Sumerian = Mushroom), (of which there are two kinds), the names Jesus, James, and John, the Fruit of the tree of Knowledge, and the symbol of the cross, to the Amanita muscaria, by stating that all of these names and terms (and others) were synonyms and wordplay for the hidden identity of the mushroom. See Dan Russell's seminal [Shamanism and the Drug Propaganda](#) for the best discussion of the meaning of Allegro's remarkable work. Needless to say, Allegro had many traditional religious scholars doing flips. The biblical apologists instantly jumped on the bandwagon of attempting to disprove anything he said.

Although he did stretch the boundaries (at least twice) of some established scholarship, the proof is in the pudding (so to speak) and most of his associations are beyond dispute. Besides it is apparent to me that anyone who is afraid to challenge established authority and scholarship would not produce or expose most of the things which I find of value. Love him or hate him, he pioneered the field wherein most scholars and lay-people alike are afraid to even think about stepping.

Even though it was the linguistic links that first brought this to light, it was the understanding of the symbolism that drove it home. Once you know where to look, and that was well revealed in the writings of Allegro, deciphering the mythologies unfolds into a whole new level of comprehension.

The Manna the Israelites ate in the desert is presently defined as a question. It is not ordinary for a word describing bread to be thought of in this context. Manna is defined in this way: (Manna="What is it?") a Biblical description of this mystical substance will toss the reader some clues.

- 1) Manna was a small round thing that appeared on the ground after the dew had fallen.
- 2) If it was left to the warmth of day it would breed worms and stink.
- 3) Manna was thought of as being produced miraculously (IE: birth without seed). This is a perfect botanical description of a mushroom. Birth without seed (miraculous) is due to spores being microscopic and not visible to the naked eye.

The Mannas are described in detail by Jesus in the book of John. In this story Jesus attempts to make clear; of manna, there are two different ones/kinds. He describes the manna that he is giving the disciples (last supper) as the Manna that bestows immortality. His statement, unless you have eaten his flesh/body (Soma/Manna), and drink of his blood (Soma Juice), you have no life in you, takes on a whole new meaning in light of this discovery.

The Manna is directly associated with the fruit of the Tree of Life in the 2nd chapter of the book of Revelation. It is the reward for those who overcome (the lies of the world). The "Fruit of the Tree", the "Hidden Manna" and the "Small White Stone" are spoken of separately, but in the same context. All of these are symbols for the Amanita muscaria.



This 13th Century Fresco from France shows the Amanita muscaria as the "fruit" (of the Tree) of the "knowledge of Good and Evil". Adam and Eve had their eyes opened. The Gods looked down and said "Behold, they have become as one of us".

The Fruit of The Tree

The knowledge of good and evil seems a strange thing to condemn someone for, unless the Gods wanted to dictate what was right and wrong, rather than have people know the difference for themselves. Imposing their will (and law) upon mankind is not so easy when people can think for themselves, especially if it becomes obvious that what you are being told is right and/or wrong is in direct opposition to what actually seems to be good and bad (The BIG Knowledge).

The "Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge" is the same thing as the "Fruit of the Tree of Life". The fruit of the tree that is to come down out of heaven and line the streets in the city of the "New Jerusalem", the city of the new "Golden Age". The same, of which, when you partake imparts direct communion with, and the direct knowledge of, God.

The Cuneiform clay tablets of Mesopotamia (at least 4,000 BC/CE) tell the oldest known tales of Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden, eating of the fruit stories. But they tell a different tale than what is in the Bible of today. What was originally a glorious and incredible story about the hope and potential of humanity has become a primary story of a horrible fall-from-grace and even condemnation of the entire race.



The Last Supper (The sacramental ingestion of the body of God)

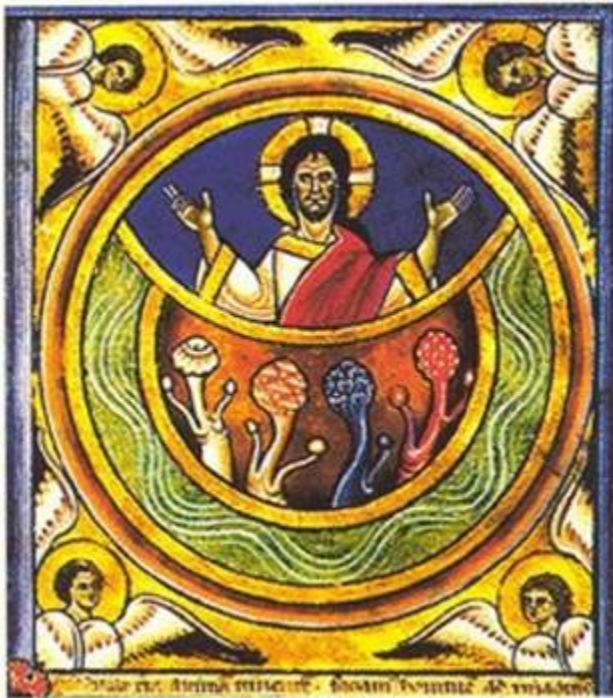
Many questions should be asked about this cosmopolitan idea of the "Sacramental Substance". Unfortunately, most traditional religious experts shun the notion, insisting that the entire idea is nothing more than symbolic. A symbol points at something else, not usually at another symbology. The Catholic church, in the early 1100's, decided to have the final word on this subject by establishing (under Emperor/Pope Innocent III) the "Doctrine of

Trans-Substantiation". This it whereby, the Priests, by their assumed holy power, claim to be able to say some magical words, and turn ordinary bread into the literal "Body of God".

But Jesus clearly describes the Manna that he calls his body in the book of John. Repeatedly describing the "Thing/Manna" as a substance hidden from the world, but revealed to his disciples. Understanding the last supper story becomes as simplistic as it gets, if you know how to decipher the event. Adamantly; Jesus says, "Take and eat, This is my Body". This is the TRANSFORMATIONAL and MAGNIFICENT event. By intentional misrepresentation (by self appointed or politically correct AUTHORITIES) Jesus' word has been stripped down to rhetorical run around and ridiculous dogmatic interpretation.

The Bible, as we have it today, should not be regarded as a historical document. This is not to say that it is not very interesting, but it must be read keeping in mind that it is a re-translation, of a re-translation, of a re-translation, of an initially altered plagiarism. The book itself (viewed in light of the possibility of what could have been) is a complex document that must have required some pretty intelligent minds to conceive. It is this complexity which so overwhelms those of limited intellect that it convinces many that it could only have been written by the hand (or direct inspiration) of God. There is enough written there to speculate in awe, what those who originally wrote it were all about. Had we been there, 6000 years ago, to read the original Cuneiform text, and were reading it in our own native language, AND had been partakers of the heavenly gift (the mushroom), it must have been an incredible thing indeed.

"Manna" means "Mushroom". However, if you reject the philological (linguistic) evidence proposed by Allegro and others, perhaps a simple read of the relevant scriptures will sway you towards the possibility, and perhaps you may also begin to understand how the mushroom, anthropomorphically, can become the body of the God.



Jesus, depicted as the lord of magickal plants.

Exodus 16-14: And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.

Exodus 16-19: And Moses said, let no man leave of it till morning.

Exodus 16-20: Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it till the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

Mushrooms grow from moisture, such it is that they grow after the dew falls. They appear miraculously because they grow from spores (which are microscopic) and have no seed. In fact, they seem to disappear as mysteriously as they appeared, leaving no visible trace. Mushrooms, as any mycologist can tell you, left in the sun, or otherwise left to their

natural process, begin to rot, breed worms, and also begin to stink. Manna means mushroom philologically, linguistically, and, as you can see, mushrooms physically fit the description given of the substance in these texts.



Moses built this elaborate device to carry the Manna through the wilderness. To look inside the ark was punishable by death. The box itself is of little import, or spiritual value. What IS important, is what was INSIDE the ark. The Long and tedious search for this artifact, shows either a complete missing-of-the-point, or a deliberate mis-direction of attention.

Manna in the Ark of the Covenant

There are TWO Mannas, the one the Israelites ate in the desert, and the "Hidden Manna". To know about the mushroom is to have the key to unlock the doors of scriptural interpretation. An "opening of the seals of the book" could be another way of looking at it. Without the understanding of the hidden meanings behind the symbolism the texts lose their full significance.

St John 14-6: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father but by me.

John 10-9: I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John 14-4: And wither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

John 14-16: And I will pray the father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you; and shall be in you.

1John 2-27: But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you; but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in it.

This is telling us that there IS something here that IS available to us right now. Understood at the surface level this just points at something in the future that (hopefully) is to be revealed. If the conditioning can be broken, and the realization of this hidden thing achieved, then glory to we upon the earth because the time is at hand. Otherwise, it is simply obscured in apologetic runaround by supposed authorities who frantically try to explain why it is not this literal and obvious "THING".

This also describe an ANOINTING (Greek; Chrisma) (close to Christmas again). We go right back again to the special holy substance endowing one with the gift of the holy spirit, the door, the comforter, which will dwell with you, and will be in you. The comforter (it says) the world does not see, or know, but those specially gifted (whom Jesus is speaking to) know, and see, and will have it inside of them. The Manna, the door, the comforter which will teach those who know. Even to the point they have no need to be taught by anyone. And this, of course, would mean that there is no need for the intercessory function of a priest.

Here again we see that those who know have no need for a church, pastor, prophet, or authority figure here on earth as they have direct communion. This conforms with actual Jewish tradition, as actually taught by the Hebrew-speaking Rabbi Joshua, renamed Jesus by the Graeco-Roman authors of the Greek New Testament, which insists that we are ALL the sons and daughters of God. Consider the Manna (bread) that comes down from heaven, and see if it becomes a little more clear. Especially in regards to this being a synonymous (one and the same) substance that is inside of you. This part expressly stating that you should take and eat.

John 6-27: Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the son of man shall give unto you; for him hath God the father sealed.

John 6-31: Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.
John 6-32: Then Jesus said unto them, verily verily I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my father giveth you the true bread from heaven.
John 6-34: Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.
John 6-35: And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life.
John 6-41: The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread that came down from heaven.
John 6-43: Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.
John 6-48: I am that bread of life.
John 6-56: He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.
John 7-38: He that believeth on me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

The meat, the manna, the door, the comforter, the bread, the living waters, the blood, are all synonymous for that which will dwell with you, and you will put "in" you, which will teach you all things through direct communion.

Rev 2-7: He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches; to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.
Rev 2-17: He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches; to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Manna, as it has already been expressed, in ancient tongue (which this was translated from) means mushroom. It has also been explained that the mushroom is the fruit of the tree of life. In the next chapter it will be shown that the mushroom is also referred to as a small white stone. The mushroom, the manna, the white stone, the comforter, the door which you will have in you which you can enter in and out of, which will show you all things.

John 6-53: Then Jesus said unto them, Verily verily I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.
John 6-5: Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.
John 6-55: For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.
John 6-56: He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

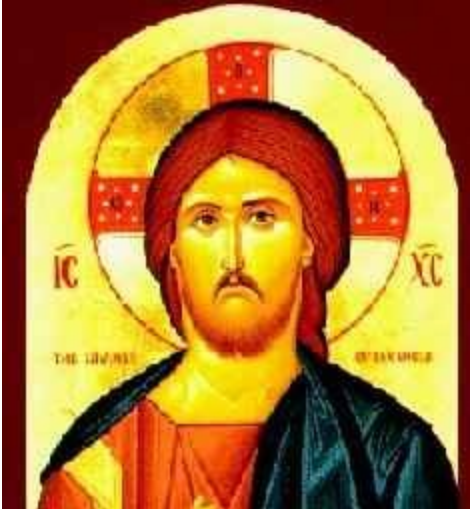
This is saying pretty clearly that the eating and drinking is physical. My body is flesh indeed, and my blood is drink indeed, and the added statement that when you eat, it is inside of you leaves little room for debate that this is a substance, not a phantom symbol alone. For those who choose to debate this I ask that they show me their substance because according to Jesus' words unless you eat and drink of "IT" you have no life in you. By the way, do I really need to mention that this is not some strange reference to Cannibalism? I sure hope not, if you still think this, read on. Somewhere, some of this MUST convince you that he is not saying to take a bite out of his arm, or any other piece of his actual anatomy.



The Fountain of Living Waters

The God of the Bible says "I am the Fountain of Living Waters". If we are to understand this statement on a level of literal translation, then this means alive, made of water, and in the similitude of a fountain. This describes a mushroom. The Waters of life is an ancient term linked to the living waters, and the Waters of Immortality. The waters one drinks to receive the gift of immortality and transcendence. Soma, and Amrta (Hindu/Buddhist), are also considered the waters of life. The attributes of which bestowed enlightenment. The churning-of-the-milky-ocean is to (metaphorically) produce this substance. The waters of life are also synonymous with the blood of the god in the sacramental analysis.

Jesus was the revealer of the "Fountain of living waters", as in Rev. 21-6 he will give those who are athirst the living waters. Living waters, blood, manna, flesh, and all this "stuff" is the one and same thing represented in different ways. All represent eating and drinking of a phenomenal substance that produces multi-dimensionality (door), great spiritual learning, and communion, with God being inside of you.



A common depiction of enlightenment is this mushroom behind the head of one who is a knower, often thought to be some type of glowing aura. This may be symbolic for the spiritual glow one has after the change experienced by the heavenly gift of the Holy Ghost. Many artworks show the difference between those who have "Tasted of the heavenly Gift" and those who have not.

Jesus with a mushroom cap. Aura?

Most of those who have heard about it, have never eaten, or even seen these mushrooms in person. [Lots of Mycologists have seen them, and some due to their interests in mushrooms, in general, have heard something about it]. Then there are those who have heard about it, and have even studied it enough to have actually eaten it at some point. Most of these did not know about the levels of effects, by dosage, and have experienced only stage 1 effects. Many of these become perplexed that they did not receive the effects they had expected and so give up on it, thinking that the identification of the substance must have been flawed, and look for something else. I've talked to many people that felt that the ecstatic effects (described in the religious texts) must have just been a myth. Some have experienced stage 2, and still fewer have been to stage 3.



Jesus in a TUB of Transfiguration

This 15th Century Fresco shows Jesus with cross in a TUB that looks remarkably similar to the TUB in the central chamber in the Great Pyramid at Gizeh (This will be explored later). This shows both baptisms. 1) The baptism by water (TUB) and 2) The second by fire (Cross). The cross being a symbol for the mushroom. There are after all TWO Baptisms. The First is baptism by water. The second is baptism by FIRE. This is the transformational baptism. The death (journey to the heavens) and the rebirth experience of the God. The mushroom has a long association (largely due to its color) with fire. High on the mountain-top (where the mushrooms grow) Moses conversed with the God in the "Burning Bush".

The reason I am going here is that many of the religions which come into existence after this time period are based on adaptations of the mythologies/stories which are found in ancient Mesopotamia.

The stories and myths retain their basic structure, but the names of the key players have been changed, as they were incorporated into new religious systems. This is why most religions contain stories of the flood, the creation epic, the attributes of deities, and similar laws of government.

It was Enki and his sister Ninhursag who performed the genetic manipulation which resulted in the Adama (the ancient name for the first human, Adam and Eve). Humanity was conditioned to be in the service of the gods, but Enki had another plan, which set off a continual series of events, which most adversarial myths, concerning the war over the humans, between Enki and Enlil, were fashioned.



Enki desired to feed the humans the fruit of the tree of Knowledge. This he knew was the thing which would open the eyes of man, and multi-dimensionalize his consciousness. This did not go over well with the Anunnaki, and Enki was commanded not to allow us this fruit. It was Enlil that attempted to scare the humans into not eating the fruit by telling them that, if they ate it, they would die. Enki went against the wishes of the high council and was able to convince them to eat the fruit anyway. When the gods saw what he had done, they condemned the act, and insisted that the corrupted humans be exiled from the land of paradise. Enki was man's preserver and compatriot, Enlil was the bringer of woes and doom.

So why the need to flip this story completely upside down and condemn him as the evil one? In the Bible the word translated as "serpent" is "nahash" (NHS) which literally means to decipher, or to find out. All throughout ancient times the serpent was known as the bringer of knowledge (hence the euphemism "be ye wise as serpents") and were the precipitators of enlightenment. It is this precise thing that compels us to look further into the possibility that the good-guy is the one that is condemned throughout religious writings, for teaching freedom and knowledge.

The freedoms of plant usage/taking for enlightenment, freedom of sexuality, and even the freedom to not be subservient to those oppressive gods who condemn these things as evil. In the cuneiform symbolism it is the caduseus (the snake coiled around the staff) which is the representation for Enki, in fact is his personal emblem. After Enki fed the humans of the tree, and was then effectively exiled, those who remained under the control of Enlil and the Anunnaki were then clamped-down-upon, in a heavier way. It was Enlil that was worshiped through fear and in later cultures named Jehova. Enlil, that old extraterrestrial who adamantly opposed the education, freedom, and enlightenment of humanity in every ancient Sumerian myth. A full set of laws would be adopted, the other humans were instructed not to associate with Enki/Ea or the exiled. So humanity received the first commandments.

You will have no other God but Me. Enki especially, and his radical viewpoints, were explicitly condemned as evil. Control of the populace was priority one, to the gods, and glimpses of intelligence, or too much free-thought were

"THE CRIME", and not likely to have been politely viewed. But disloyalty to the jealous gods was absolutely forbidden.

You will work for six days and then have a day of rest. This will be a holy-day, set aside for worship of the gods. Ritual and ceremony were to be observed, and homage to be paid, refusal was forbidden, under penalty of death.

You will not covet the things that you do not have. The haves must quench the desire of the have-nots by making desire a sin. Even the desire for freedom. Acceptance of your present conditions being part of your lot in life must be held up as a high principle virtue, quenching high-mindedness as sin.

The other laws are branches of these basic laws.

What kind of a god is it, which says; You are free to choose, as long as you choose to do what I tell you to do, otherwise you will be punished, for all eternity, for your disobedience? Going back to Christianity, let me point out that when Jesus was asked which of the laws was most important, his answer was enigmatically "To love God with all your heart, and to Love thy neighbor as thyself". This certainly shows a completely different view of everything. The love of God surely did not mean those driving the slave ships. What he is saying describes a love for something that is far beyond any being knowable. That ineffable, invisible, indescribable God, which is within you.

Mesopotamia is the home of the fabled city, Babylon. The laws of the Babylonian king Hammurabi contain an old version of the biblical 10 Commandments, although they appear to be based upon the philosophy of "The Golden Rule", many of the laws are completely absurd. The biblical laws appear to be, at least partially, based upon the laws of a Babylonian king. These patriarchal laws could not have been invented by Hammurabi, they must have been adopted, from an older source, the Anunnaki/Elohim, and expanded upon by this powerful king.



The name Enki means "Archetype", which is precisely what he was, an archetype for the post-Sumerian gods. Turning to our anthropomorphism of the mushroom theme, we find more interesting connections. Even beyond the above discussed fruit-of-the-tree-story. Enki AND his sister Ninhursag were the creators of the Adama. The red of the mushroom cap, as well as the juice, are anthropomorphized as blood, and figuratively related to as fire.

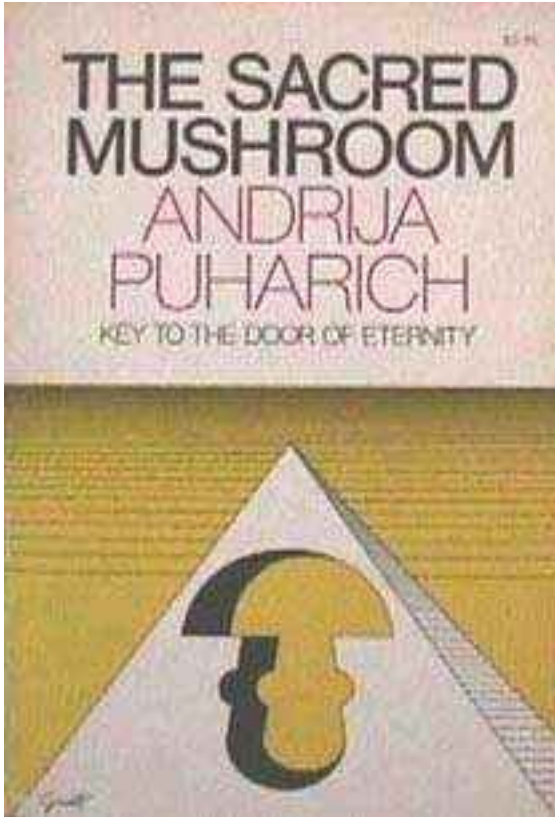
Transforming out of the button/egg infantile state, the mushroom's appearance becomes more like that of a snake. Once the mushroom has fully grown, decayed, and dissolved it leaves behind a hole. This is due to its pushing the Pine needles or earth outward, as it expands. Around the hole is a white powdery substance, actually the many spores it left behind. This hole resembles a snake's hole, or lair, which is another reasoning for the mushroom's being symbolized as a snake. Most certainly, the depiction of the snake, in the garden of Eden, which revealed to humans secret knowledge that the fruit of the tree would make them as god, is a grand myth regarding this association.

The cap is also considered the female genital organ, as was the cup (like the Holy Grail) from ancient times. While the mushroom stem is the phallus. Anthropomorphically the mushroom is androgenous, in one sense, being one entity yet having both male and female sexual organs visible. In another sense it is two separate beings, joined together, in the act of creation, albeit only the sexual organs are visible. Enki is the stem, Ninhursag the cap, the two joining in accord to produce the Adama, anthropomorphism of the mushroom into the two elementary archetypal creators.

Further evidence is the substance fed to the faithful of Enlil and Ninhursag known as "Star-Fire". This supplemental nourishment was produced from the lunar essence, or blood (from the womb), of the goddess Ninhursag. It is also called "the gold of the gods" and even "the red gold". By the way, Ninhursag, in Egypt, is known as Isis, the mother of all the living, and therefore is the archetype of Maya, Mary, Ishtar, Diana, etc. In the Egyptian book of the dead, the pharaoh, who is searching for the ultimate food-of-the-gods, continuously repeats the statement "what is it?" at every step of his journey. This question is the very definition given for the enigmatic 'Manna' in the Jewish records. What is this 'Star-fire'? That which humanity has been forbidden by the Anunnaki, at least those Anunnaki which do not wish humanity to succeed, and in the case of Enlil, were willing to wreak all manner of deception and destruction to keep it a secret.



A dominant patriarchal system of rulership had engulfed the society, and its government, by the time the Mesopotamian civilization was established. This patriarchy was later passed on and adopted to become Christianity, Rome, and Islam, as well as other European and western cultural civilizations. More than 4,000 years before the Bible, the stories of The Garden of Eden, The Flood, and The Creation (of the Earth, plants, beasts, and Man) were preserved, in Cuneiform, on tablets of clay which were unearthed in the late 19th century. After years of research, translating of the tablets, those later Biblical versions of the same stories have taken on a whole new meaning.



Andrija Puharich, in this book "The Sacred Mushroom (Key to the Door Of Eternity)", described hieroglyphic, and linguistic links to the Amanita muscaria. The typical (and obvious) mushroom pictogram, and the Ankh are theorized as symbols for the mushroom. With the help of Egyptian associations to Mithra, the lion headed god, the function of the tub (in the center of the Kings Chamber at Gizeh) is a key that will unveil the "Stargate". The Aten (winged Disc) symbolizes the mushroom cap with the mushroom gills being stylized as wings. The title of this book is profound, as the mushroom will be discovered as the literal "key to the door of eternity".

Egyptology and the Mushroom



This representation of the Egyptian scarab beetle contains symbolism for the mushroom. The wings (gills), sun-disc, and moon-disc. Look at this closely as you will see the same imagery used later. This is one of the views of the mushroom. Looking at the cap from the bottom. The gills are prevalent. The scarab is considered hermaphroditic, or self generating much in the same way the mushroom regenerates. Male and female within the same organism, it is an appropriate symbol.

The Egyptian Scarab



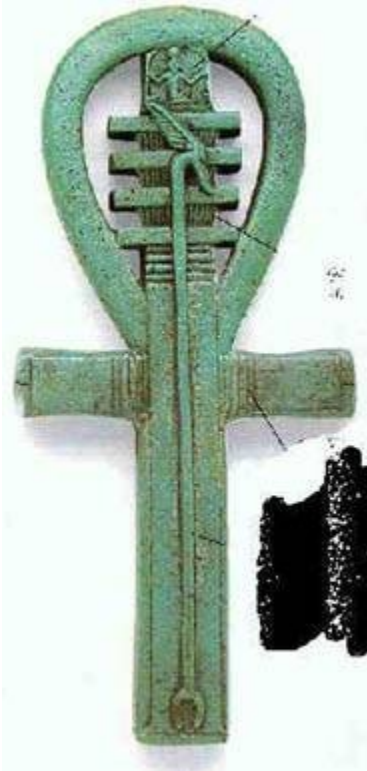
The Djed pillar is associated with the Cedars of Lebanon. Does this image look like a Cedar to you? There is certainly a reason why this is shaped this way. Of course it is not actually the cedar, but what grows underneath which the pillar symbolizes. Osiris, who happens to be the god of the underworld, the god of the moon, of plants and vegetation is connected. Some say it symbolizes the penis of Osiris, which was never found after Set cut Osiris into 13 pieces, and hid them. This makes sense, but for deepening reasons. Isis found all of his parts and re-assembled them, except she could not find the penis. Using magic she fashioned a penis for him from a living tree (or part of a tree) and used it to impregnate herself on Dec 21st (winter Solstice). Osiris lay dead for 3 days (as the sun stopped it's north/south motion) and on Dec 25th Isis gave birth to Horus. Other stories say that Set put Osiris into a coffin and floated his body down (up) the Nile, Isis found him grown into a Cedar tree (djed). The Djed was used in fertility rites and rites of passage for young females as a practice phallus. This is remarkably similar to the Hindu myth of Rhudra the red god, who was murdered in the forest, his penis severed. As his revenge, his severed red penis returns every year as the mushroom.

The Djed Pillar



Amon (the one with the feather crown seated to the left), in this relief, is holding the arm of the initiating Horus. while he pushes the Ankh into his mouth. Viewing this relief head on, Horus has his mouth closed (pictured). If you step around the pillar, to the left, you see an incredible optical effect. Horus opens his mouth wide to accept this gift. Amon is accompanied by his consort Amaunet, and Horus (ready for his travel into Amenta) is accompanied by the lion-headed goddess Sekhmet.

Amon and Amaunet feeding Horus the Ankh



The Ankh and the Djed are both symbols for the same thing (or perhaps 2 types of mushrooms). This Ankh with the imbedded Djed is a clue that they the same meanings. The Djed that grows under the Cedar and the Ankh which is symbolic for the mushroom and the cross as well as meaning waters and life, or "The waters of life", the juice extracted from the mushroom. The Ankh is often displayed as being poured out of vessels, in streams of ankhs, which are interpreted as water. However, it is not just any water. It is the water which has the magical properties of eternal life

The Djed Pillar and Ankh Combination



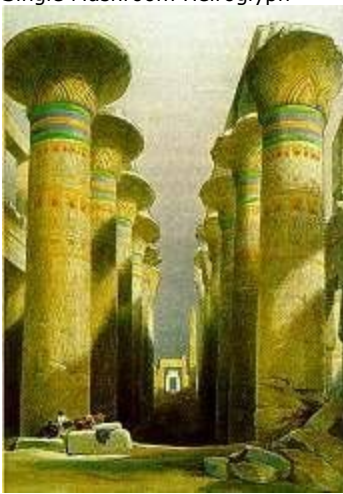
It doesn't take linguistic translation, or interpretation to read this hieroglyph, or at least this part of it. This temple wall was buried for thousands of years and still manages to have some paint remnants. Notice that one mushroom is red and one mushroom is blue.

Mushrooms in temple Hieroglyphs



This hieroglyph is located outside the exit of an underground tunnel which was/is used in a death and rebirth rite of passage ritual. After passing through the tunnel (which symbolizes the womb) one has been through a profound initiation. Especially if one is fortunate enough to do the ritual properly.

Single Mushroom Hieroglyph



The pillars which are at every temple in Egypt are shaped like giant mushrooms. These are shaped like the Amanita, some are shaped like Psilocybe. others look like tree fungus and are decorated with pictures of an incredible variety of plants. As the ultimate alchemists, the Al Khemitians revered thousands of plants in their artwork.

Huge mushroom shaped pillars



Here we have the top of one of the temple pillars which depict mushrooms. I cropped the rest of the pillar and zoomed in on the top so you can see the mushrooms clearly. Notice the similarity in this design with the 11th century painting of Jesus, which I call Jesus as lord of plants, with the four mushroom-type images across the bottom.

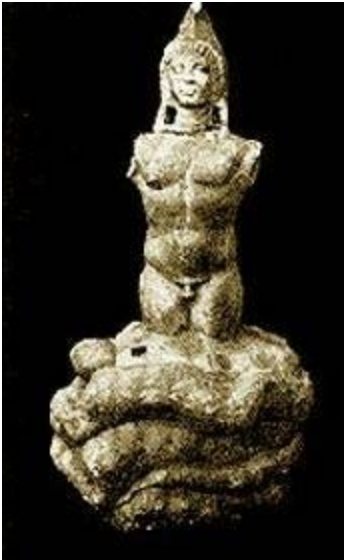
Mushrooms on temple pillar



Ankh, Djed, Disc, Snakes, and Wings

As common practice the symbols for the mushroom appear severally in one artistic depiction. Note the disc (center) and compare it to the picture of the bottom of the mushroom cap, the way the top turns under all the way around the cap is shown by the outer ring of the disc.

Mithraism, a forerunner to Christianity, source for many of the borrowed myths



Born from a Stone

The stone, small rock, and egg, are symbols for the mushroom in its button state. Snakes hatch from eggs, and as the mushroom pushes upward, out of the bulbous base, it is like a snake hatching, shedding its skin, and being born anew. Here we see that Mithra was born out of a stone, entwined with the serpent. This is purely symbolic, as no-one would be literally born out of a stone. Instead this reveals, the god is the mushroom, which in turn is the god. This is the symbolic form representing the birth into the spiritual realm, through the sacred meal and prescribed ceremonies, again, a god birthing scenario showing the god and the mushroom are one.



The Temples of Mithra

Mithra initiates would partake of a Sacred Meal in their ceremonies, invoking The Out Of Body experience. An ritually designed sacramental, Shamanistic, and communal GNOSIS.

The Mithraic temples of worship, known as Mithraeum, are designed like few other temples on earth. Typically inside the place of worship would be rows of bathtubs (TUBS) along the two side walls, or lined in two parallel rows from the rear wall to the front of the main room.

Providing places where many initiates could lie down during ceremonies. The TUBS were tools in the mechanics of producing a communal experience. The purpose being, the joining together of the minds of the participants with the universal mind. The next phase being, to exit the planet (physical realm) in a spiritual flight to the heavens (stars). This is a bold expectation to perceive, let alone one you can convince someone they have had,

especially if after the ceremony they have not. Filled with salt water these TUBS would become instant sensory-deprivation-tanks. Much like those depicted in the movie "Altered States". A group of scientist's Amanita muscaria experimentation tale. In this movie the experimenter digresses into a primordial state of existence. The plot is clear that this consciousness was exactly what the scientist was expecting to find. The quest is all important in this viewpoint, as the answers can only be given to the questions that are asked.



The Stargate

Here is an incredible artifact, one that is known as the "Mithraic Stargate". If anyone happened to see the movie "Stargate", note how this looks remarkably like the stargate in the movie, right down to the symbols around the circular gate. In this case, the symbols are Astrological signs. In the movie, they were replaced by anomalous, somewhat hieroglyphical, symbols, location points in the stars. The religion of Mithra centered around the initiate's ability to communally, astral-travel. Of course the out-of-body experience was facilitated through the eating of the sacred meal. After consumption, the initiates could traverse the galaxies, witnessing, as the ancient Egyptians, first hand, the reality that the spirit of the human being is not restricted to the physical universe, or the physical body for that matter. This is the true revelation of the immortality of the soul, or at least the realization of such. This concept is so similar to the Egyptian initiatory rites, that it is solid evidence some of the hidden traditions of the ancients did migrate into later incarnations of various religious orders.



The Mushroom itself has very interesting features that resemble, and have been related to Gold, Flesh, Blood (and blood vessels), Phallus, Vulva, Fire, Saucer, Cup, as well as a disc or orb. The mushroom has been, anthropomorphically, personified as a Man, a God, something of extraterrestrial origins, and a Plant God, SOMA, who was mediator between Man and the God/Gods, in the ancient Hindu religious books known as "The Vedas".

The Gold of flesh



In Angkor, Cambodia, Holy temples mix Hindu and Buddhist Theology. Note the appearance of this beautiful structure, a megalithic Pine forest, created in stone.

The Pine (Coniferous) tree is the host for the mushroom mycellium, as we have seen, this intricate relationship with the trees and the mushrooms was obviously understood, and revered in ancient times all over the world. This structure is a monument to the trees and the fruit that grows underneath them. The most sacred of all things is the elixir of immortality, which is Soma/Amrta, produced from the mushroom, also sacred are the host trees themselves. This is why this incredible structure must have been created in the image of a great stone Pine forest, fortified by walls covered with Bas reliefs, depicting the stories of the sacred acts pertaining to enlightenment. The temple holds the history of great learning, the culmination of which is the knowledge of the elixir and its consumption. At the base of the pine tree towers, inside the courtyard, is where the

testing of the aspirants would occur, as in nature, where at the base of the pines the Soma can be found.



One of the many views of this mushroom, which is used symbolically in religious art of all types, cosmopolitan. Note that the center looks like the moon, surrounded by the sun, the representation of male and female.

The mushroom disc



Hari Hari is a Hindu deity that is Shiva and Vishnu combined. Many times Hari Hari is portrayed as androgynous (containing both male and female organs), which is another symbolic reference to the mushroom. Mushroom stem and cap, anthropomorphically, are the organs of male and female joined together in the act of creation.

Hari Hari holding the mushroom

There are mainly 3 forms of Buddhism. Hinayana; which is based upon some of the seed precepts, Mahayana; which is thought of as the big-slow-boat to enlightenment, and Vajrayana; which is considered the lightning fast method (small boat) to enlightenment. The Vajrayana meditation implement of choice being the Vajra (Dorje) which is a metal object round at both ends with a connecting piece in-between which is held and focused upon as a tool for quickly attaining Nirvava. Vajra means the Lightning-bolt which moves quickly, hence the speedy enlightenment.

Now to me, the Vajrayana, lightning fast method seems like the most promising. It is this Vajra (Lightning) that holds the key, and hence the very name Vajrayana. The mushroom's association with lightning has seed mythological import. In ancient mythologies it was imagined that where lightning struck, there would grow the mushrooms (and some even still hold to this belief). Lightning (as mythologically used) is always a result of clouds, rain and also that all important element for mushroom growth, water. As an example; Thor throws his hammer (mushroom) to earth and in a flash of lightning accompanied by a thunderous crack it appears on the ground. A look at the hammer will back this up, if it seems unlikely that the hammer is the mushroom. It can be thought of as the Buddhist Vajra, which also resembles a mushroom, and is associated with lightning. Understand; this lightning-fast enlightenment is brought about by the deathlike experience attained through the Vajra/Mushroom initiation.

Meditation and visualization techniques are commonly represented as a complete form of practice, and certainly they are effective in themselves to a certain extent yet I am certain that the different techniques were actually developed in order to expedite the processes one goes through while in the Amanita realms of consciousness.

The centering, focusing, concentrating and controlled visualization is very helpful when time dissolves and the soul is put through the proverbial ringer.

It also must be considered that all brain functions are the result of an electrical-chemical operation (not that all consciousness is only that) but dreams, near-death-experiences, psychic phenomenon and visions have been linked to endogenously (naturally) produced chemicals within the brain itself. Namely; Pinoline (an M.A.O.I.) and Dimethyltryptamine (D.M.T.) which are secreted by the pineal gland, as well as by many sacramental plants. Human biochemistry and plant biochemistry are not different. The vegetal world is literally our Holy Mother.

When I first started studying Buddhism I was extremely impressed with the iconography of the deities within the Bardo (Tibetan transition states between incarnations) because I had literally seen and become one with them. In fact many times when I describe the various Bardo stages of the soul passing from one lifetime to another, people react similarly. They understand it, because they have seen it. I won't go into it too much here but for those interested there is a video set out by the late Joseph Campbell called "Transformations of Myth through time" wherein he describes the visions within the Bardo quite exquisitely. It would also (on another note of expanded study) be very illuminating to read "The Psychedelic Experience" by T. Leary, R. Metzner and R. Alpert (Ram Das) which is a manual based upon the Tibetan book of the dead wherein the authors explore the concept that the book is not only for the dead and dying but that it is in fact a manual of the "little death," the out-of-body realms experienced when taking a powerful psychedelic herbal brew, the most likely candidate for which is the entheogenic *Amanita muscaria*.

A Tibetan myth may help solve the riddle of soma, sacred drug of ancient India. Many books [see our illustrated and annotated [Shamanism](#) and [Psychedelics](#) bibliographies - available with one click thru Amazon] show extensive evidence that *Amanita muscaria* was known and used in ancient Buddhist practices (at the highest levels). *Amanita muscaria* is the Amrta and the wish-fulfilling-jewel, is symbolized by the torii cakes and the stupa, is literally the Vajra in Vajrayana and it can be understood quite clearly why this is considered the lightning-fast method to enlightenment.



Bas relief in stone

A fine depiction of a mushroom disc separated from stem, as the separation of the sexes. The phallic symbol is most obvious, the disc-shaped cap of the mushroom is the female organ. The Nymphs are worshipping the phallus by dancing in an enticing way to provoke the phallus to join them (the universal female disc), in the holy act of creation. An incredible imagery, the hope being, the phallus joining the cap to form the union, sex, which is truly the universal process of creation.



Mushroom discs in a forest of Pines

A wonderful picture (Bas relief in stone) of a Pine forest headdress with specific mushroom imagery under the trees. This style is prominent in the Angkor monuments. It may also be, symbolically, a dosage requirement. Six mushroom caps of this approximate size would, in my opinion, be a proper dosage. There is a sort of fail-Safe mechanism to this mushroom which has discouraged many a seeker. It is difficult to consume enough (and keep it down), of this mushroom, to get the desired effects. The amount you consume is all important. So many times I have talked with people who have experimented with this mushroom and claimed NO effects. Or at least not the drastic ones expected. I look at it as just another one of the ways this mushroom has remained relatively unknown, waiting for the time when it gets the attention and dedication it deserves.



Bodhisattva

The Tibetan Bodhisattva Chinreze, thousand armed manifestation. Remarkable, in its beauty, this artistic depiction is not unique in its symbolic expression. Notice the similarity of the winged scarab and the upturned winged depiction of Isis (in the Egyptology section). The hidden symbolism is, the bottom view of a mushroom cap, the thousand arms representing the gills of the Amanita muscaria. Note that this ecstatic image arises from a flower. Enlightenment is clearly depicted as botanical in origin.



The Wheel Of Life

The whole of physical samsara is depicted in this Tibetan thangka. Samsara, represented as this disc, depicts the physical manifestations in the world, all of the potential states of reincarnation in which individuals are held captive by the lord Yama (the deity holding and biting the wheel). All physical incarnation, depicted within samsara, can be considered a prison, of which ascension, is the escape. This shows six states of incarnation, hell realm, animal realm, hungry ghosts (note that ghosts are depicted within a physical realm), humans, demi-gods, and even gods.

Escape from the wheel of life is attained through understanding why one is held there. Through many lives and deaths (or death and rebirth experiences) one can escape by finding out how, which is a process of the acquisition of knowledge. One becomes the way one needs to be (pure compassion for all). This is reasoning for the efficacy offered through death/rebirth experiences facilitated by the mushroom, the process is quickened through personal revelation.



The Stupa, a Tibetan ritual meditation object.

The Stupa, is one Tibetan ritual object of meditation. Notice the mushroom image with fire coming out of the top. This particular meditation implement is used in Vajrayana Buddhism, the lightning-fast method, which attempts a speedy process of enlightenment, when compared to Mahayana Buddhism, which is also known as the slow (or big) boat. This shows us, intuitively, that there are specific methods which quicken the process of enlightenment. Meditation, one of the methods used by both forms of the practice, involves a mental and physical process, during which, one hopes to quiet the mind, awakening greater portions of the spiritual consciousness. Incorporating the mushroom into this process is one of the hidden secrets of Vajrayana (lightning-fast-method) practice. Meditation is taught at all levels of Buddhist practices, and is crucial to enduring the quickening effects (on the consciousness) which the mushroom offers. In my opinion all forms of meditation (including Kundalini Yoga) were developed to help the mind withstand the consciousness-shattering effects of the mushroom and this is why this object is shaped this way.

