

Sex, Drugs and Violence in the Bible

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This is one very radical book. These ideas, if circulated widely, could cause a theological revolution. The title tells you that it is inflammatory but it's more than critique. I have read much on sexual freedom advocacy and books advocating legalization of and use of drugs and this book told me much that I didn't know and some that I didn't wish to know. However I do agree with much of the author's thinking being that I am a Pagan as well as a libertarian. I found what his book describes as part of our ancient heritage (Judeo-Christian as well as Pagan) very shocking. It will blow you away. This is a book that I will spend a long time researching its claims and referring to others when I have more access. It has over a thousand footnotes and a long bibliography and has references by academics and people that I know and respect. Whether these people quoted agree with this book's points is an interesting question.

If this book was written a few centuries ago it would have gotten the authors burned at the stake with copies of their book piled about their feet as fuel. Mark Twain's *Letters from the Earth* was not published till the 1960's just because of its critical look at the Bible. This book sees Moses as a genocidal religious fanatic who killed members of his own tribe because of religious differences as well as the invasion of peaceful Canaan. David, Samson and others are seen as having similar faults. This will be extremely upsetting to those not familiar with opposing points of view concerning religious history.

For example, in this book you read that Abraham, the founder of Judaism, Christianity and Islam was an incestuous (he married his half sister), frightened man who pimped his own wife to the pharaoh in exchange for slaves and other gifts. It mentions that his wife then gave the pharaoh and his court venereal disease which caused sterility among his wives so Pharaoh banished Abraham & company. But this is just critique and not really that important compared to the book's analysis of how the principal ideas of Western Civilization religions became changed and corrupted. It is backed by some radical biblical scholarship, archeological findings and comparisons of other cultures of that era. I'm wondering what more conventional scholars say about this book.

What this book shows is that many aspects of Judaism and the following Christian and Islamic religions were initially based on Pagan belief systems. They used sex and drugs as part of their ceremonies and culture. These activities helped some to increase their awareness and creativity. This also made them harder to control. A controlled, militarized society was seen as a necessity for survival in those warring days. Repressive states are based on fear and an addiction to control. This causes them to fear and hate sources of pleasure and knowledge. These behaviors both good and bad are contagious. The drive to dominate others was even stronger and more blatant at that time than now. Could this explain the problems now in the Mid East? We start from the dawn of civilization and through most of history, even Jewish history; Goddess worship, sexual rites and drug use were essential parts of religion and social life. All the early neighboring societies had these aspects

This radical behavior is, as radicalism is defined, our roots. It was at the beginning and continued through oppressions beginning with Moses. These continued in Judaism and influenced early Christian and Islamic groups. Pagan instincts continued to erupt as heresies until we have the current state of discord today. Parts of this analysis have been done before by

an ignored bunch of academics, freethinkers and Pagans. What this book does is integrate the sexual and drug conflicts of those times with the consequent violence and oppression with a view of the heroic and sometimes misguided fight against it.

This book has shown me more about the invaluable role of religious use of marijuana alone than I have seen before and I am a shaman in prison right now for pot sales as I write this. For example did you know that the reference to honey comb (Song of Solomon 5:11) or honey wood (1 Sam 14 25-45) in the Bible was a reference to the stickiness of marijuana? I now understand that the first drug bust of recorded history was that of Adam and Eve eating from the Tree of Knowledge. The serpent was seen as knowledge and healing and still is part of the Bible

Hemp or marijuana was in use in many early societies. The earliest fiber in existence today as well as many documents and art were made from hemp. Hemp was in use at that time for medicine, rope making and cloth as it is today. It was also used for religious purposes among most ancient peoples even the Jews. Some of the experts quoted in support are Grinspoon and Schultes who both wrote books and taught at Harvard University.

Did you know that in the Bible there is a formula for the making of anointing oil for the kings and the temple which includes a lot of (about 8 lbs) hemp or marijuana (Exodus 30 22-30)? Messiah means anointed one. The term used in Hebrew for marijuana was Kaneh-bosm which is where the term cannabis comes from. After the time of Alexander it was mistranslated as calamanthus into Ancient Greek. Kaneh was the root word for Canaan, Cana and meant cane and Bosm meant fragrant. Other ancient languages have the same references. This research comes from university professors and researchers way before the 60's and was confirmed by Hebrew University. Other references include Jeremiah 6:20, Ezekiel 27:19 and Song of Songs 4: 8-14. Proceeding with this fragrant cane we smoke out the mystery of the incense of the tabernacles and the holy hash oil which was the original Mid East oil crisis

Hemp was the Tree of Life and was used in ancient Assyrian, Egyptian, Babylonian, Canaanite and European Pagan societies. It probably came from India which had trade with Israel as long as 4000 BC. There is hemp residue in tissue samples of Ramses the Great. The oldest Gods of the world in continuing worship is Shiva and his consort Kali. This God and Goddess to this day are still connected to bhang, a psychoactive hemp beverage. Shiva is known as "Lord of Bhang" Hemp was part of the Jewish holy incense that was used to dedicate the temple, sacred objects and the Levites and kings. One of the terms used to describe God was cloud. Tabernacles were smoke tents and seraphim (Isaiah 6:4-7) were tongs or pot paraphernalia. Drugs and sex gave people visions and the sense of who they are and what they can be. No wonder pot is illegal. Pot was used in the mystery rite of fertilizing the fields where Yahweh and Astarte mated a pagan practice that was common all over the world. Sex and drugs were used by Pagan religions that co-existed with Jewish folk and became syncretic with what became Judaism. There is also information here about John Allegro, who was a famous biblical scholar who worked on the Dead Sea scrolls, who postulated that manna was actually the psychedelic mushroom amanita muscaria and other revolutionary observations

We know that Zoroastrianism was contemporary to Judaism in the court of Babylon during the Babylonian captivity of the Jews and influenced Jewish thought. It was from that still existing religion that such ideas as ascetism, heaven and hell, a god and a devil came into Jewish thought. There was hemp use as a psychedelic in Zoroastrianism as well. Maybe religion is a bunch of smoke and mirrors. But I never realized it came from so many mirrors and from so much smoke. But then again one of the terms for God was cloud of smoke.

There was an on going fight in the Old Testament between the up tight monotheists and the Canaanite Pagan beliefs that were part of Jewish culture. There was ritual sex to fertilize the fields, sacred prostitution and tolerance of homosexuality even in its priesthood. This all happened in the Temple itself under rulers such as Solomon who was under the influence of his 700 wives and several hundred concubines who encouraged worship of Astarte with hemp. There were even homosexual priests as sacred prostitutes. Solomon was Israel's greatest monarch during the apex of Jewish power. His judgment is still regarded as the essence of wisdom.

Was Joseph's Technicolor dream coat really a woman's garment? Were those involved in Judaism using ointments and incense from hemp or were they using mushrooms as well? This book gives you the quotes and the scholarship. Read your Bible in a whole new light. You would have to use a lot of pot just to deal with all the craziness at that time that had gone on for thousands of years and would continue for thousands of years to come. The Bible apologists are going to have an interesting time with this. May I suggest a hemp cigar? Sometimes it pays to be blunt.

Feminists get in their licks too as the authors describe how Judaism's own daughters were used as unnamed chattel. According to the Biblical law, rape or a love affair were both considered a theft from the woman's father. Both the woman and her lover could be legally killed. It was worse for foreigners. Rape and slavery of captives was considered god's gift of booty for His war of oppression. That is if they were lucky enough to be virgins and they were not massacred along with children and cattle as so often happened in those times.

I wonder if the pogroms that followed in the ensuing centuries were a karmic result of this belief system. It's not that I believe that as the Bible says that children will be punished to the seventh generation but having that belief may result in consequences to one's descendants. Remember that illegitimate children were denied any rights under Jewish law including temple membership. Usually conquering armies today are more discreet about this rapes and bringing captives into their homes since their families might object about such trophies. However in Judaism and Christianity it is placed in their holy book as a moral example. . Though other neighboring tribes might have been just as vicious was it necessary to brag about war crimes? Of course you learned about all this in Bible Study, didn't you? Did they tell you that the oldest part of the bible was the Song of Songs which the references to under one's thigh meant under one's genitals? A mighty fortress is our God! We owe it all to hymn.

It is universally acknowledged that Judaism has been declining in dynamicism ever since it came under foreign control about 2500 years ago. After all there were no new books of the Bible since it acquired non prophet status. This was at the same time that all the ritual sex, the temple prostitution and the hemp use was banned by the coup of the temple priests organized by Jeremiah. Jeremiah, whose name even today evokes the image of crazed fundamentalist denunciations by street corner preachers, comes under severe criticism here. This book states that Jeremiah was given a Quisling vassalage of control of the Jews and his freedom in exchange for traitorously undermining Jerusalem when it was under siege by Babylon. The authors also accuses of Jeremiah and his cohorts of forging Deuteronomy, and other writings so as to cement the control of the priestly class forever. The basis of this theory is that these writings are written in a different style from the earlier books and that they were forged rather than mysteriously "found" in a back room of the temple. They were successful beyond their wildest dreams in building a desert over the groves and hills of their syncretic Pagan belief. It built an empire of ideas that ended up being used to oppress the Jews and other ancient peoples. Is there any

wonder why that their home, a cradle of civilization known as the Holy Land, is now a haven of wars, oppressions and fanatics? It is now truly a Hole-y Land. Throw the Book at them!

Hemp's ancient medical uses now scientifically verified show that hemp was used as a salve and drug to help with epilepsy, female problems and pain relief. In the deconstruction of Jesus' miracles we can understand its role there. It was used in salves and helps with glaucoma. It was also used by Queen Victoria for female complaints. Cannabis is also a hypnotic and has been used for epilepsy i.e.; demonic possession. Since one of Yahweh's earliest symbolic representations was a snake and anointing oil was Jesus an early snake oil salesman? Maybe the primitive Baptists who dance with snakes and drink poison are on to something.

Marijuana was often mixed with wine in fact there is a marijuana wine available in Amsterdam today. Cana, coming from its name, was probably large cannabis producing center as well as Canaan. The anointing oil using faction of the Jews was driven underground so much that while much oil is found all over the Mid East there is no oil found in Israel today. Through denunciations done by early Christian heretic hunters we find that that the Gnostics then picked up this hidden tradition and became the anointed minority to be persecuted. While only they were using weed it was the church fathers that became incensed. These esoteric groups were varied and divided and kept their ways hidden even to many of their members. Much information has to be surmised with available clues given by their detractors as well as the discoveries at Nag Hamadi.

But probably the biggest miracle of Jesus was his resurrection. Marijuana in sufficient amounts can produce catalepsy which is a death like coma and completely reversible. Sadhus, which are Indian holy men that smoke hemp, are known for astounding feats of yoga. Some have been buried for weeks without food, water, and air and revived. Marijuana is also a good pain reliever. Jesus is reputed to have gone to India before and after his death. There is also reputedly a tomb of him in Kashmir. Was He crucified for revealing the secrets of hemp in its religious and healing use? Did He arrange for His crucifixion?

Was Jesus married as just about every rabbi or nice Jewish boy of that time was? Did He have relations with Mary Magdalene, who anointed him with oils and was described as a reformed prostitute, was the first to see him after the resurrection? There is even a line of thought that describes Jesus as gay that has materialized as the Church of the Beloved Disciple.

There are the Gnostics, about who little survived after the Catholic and Roman suppression of them until the discovery of the Nag Hammadi documents about 60 years ago. They were a varied bunch. Some were associated with Jesus' brother and adherents in Jerusalem. Some insisted on circumcision and were fighting Roman imperialism. They differed from those in Rome who had a more collaborative attitude to their slavemasters. Paul and others were brave enough to preach martyrdom but still counseled subservience to the state. Some Gnostics counseled spiritual self development and lying to the state rather than seeking martyrdom by open practice. They also had women priests, sex in religious worship and used ointments in oily protests against Rome. It is difficult to assess charges against the Gnostics of cannibalism and other weird practices since all early Christians were attacked as being weird, perverted rebels. The consumption of sperm and menses by Gnostics was also alleged and was used by other religions at the time. The word mas in Latin means male seed. Cream cheese and jelly sandwiches, anyone?

The book gets on firmer ground when it attacks the Catholic founders Paul, Augustine and Tertullian as being so aggressively anti woman and so anti sex that even an Episcopalian bishop assumes that Paul was gay. Some of these founders had themselves castrated and cut themselves off from the people by living on pillars. Dr. Freud, call your office. There was a lot of crazy stuff

going on at the time and I am circumspect. Many regarded these people as a cut above the rest. This was also a Pagan practice of the day which I find tear able rather than incisive

The Christians adopted aspects of Mithraism and celebrations such as Easter, Christmas, and Sunday worship to make their ways easier for Pagan converts. The cruelty and corruption of the empire and its gods led to Christianity's growth and takeover. Whether Christianity took over Rome or Rome took over Christianity is an interesting point. The first Christian emperor Constantine upon his conversion suppressed other beliefs, burned the libraries and solidified control. He organized the Nicean Council to determine which of the 1000 or so circulating Gospels would be canon fodder. He stayed in with the tradition of Roman Caesars by slaying his mother and brother. So much for family values. So much for the integrity of the new religion that was baptized in martyr's blood. Under this sign did it conquer Rome, cross out competitors and became even more corrupt. Europe consequently fell into a Dark Age that lasted a thousand years. Other Christian rulers continued persecuting with new targets; heretics such as Albighensians, Cathars, Moslems and Witches etc.

When you are taking as many extreme positions as this book has it would help if there were more primary sources and references as well as a good index. Some blurbs by academics would have helped. I look forward to some radical professors or clergy will carry that ball further with the new research in archeology to base a new hemp/Jewish faith. Perhaps we can do more studies of older cultures and shamans to find something.

Perhaps hemp and other substances were banned because most users find that it helps the sexual experience as 85% of all pot smokers today say. Control a person's sexual expression and you can control their spirituality which is why sex in religious expression was also banned. That also goes even further for political dominance as people start looking for ways to express this energy. Unhealthy sex and drug use are problems caused by not integrating these important parts of our lives with our spirituality. Very little drug or sexual practice today is done for therapeutic, creative or spiritual reasons even though there are interesting accounts and scientific studies in this intriguing field. Of course there may have been mistakes but the biggest mistake is to continue to ban research or religious use of these tools or sacraments. Maybe we do need to smoke out that old time religion and find out how to do it rite.

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