

CANNABIS; THE FACTS

December 30, 1996

By dan of dan&mary's Monastery-HEMPorium

The religious use of Cannabis, the medicinal use of Cannabis, the social use of Cannabis, the materialistic use of Cannabis, by humans, extends to periods of history that one can only speculate of and about.

At least two independent branches of Science have estimated the G-coupled protein receptor, which cannabis acts upon, to be over 600 million years of age.

Its appearance predates the evolution of the human species; Cannabis may be intrinsically involved in human evolution.

The active component of cannabis, THC, acts as an intracellular messenger, conducting signals from the exterior of cells to the interior. Science has commented that it may be part of an ancient internal signaling system of organisms.

To Christians "God" is, considered ancient, and is considered to communicate amongst organisms; by this same comparison, Cannabis could rightfully be equated with "God"

Cannabis has been used to manufacture over 25,000 articles of commerce; in such diverse areas as food, rope, twine, cloth, paper, fuel, edible and lubricating oils, paints, varnish, rosin, wax, soaps, perfume, ink, plastics, and more.

Cannabis has an EthnoBotanic history attributing it as an herbal remedy with ability to work against nearly every virus, bacteria, and poison that is known to have an evil influence upon human-kind; excepting maybe some recent man-made evils!

Ancient beliefs attributed Cannabis ingestion with imparting wisdom, and long life.

Scientific investigation has shown that the higher you look up the evolutionary ladder the greater the number of cannabis receptors there are to be found in areas of the brain attributed with affecting cognition; thus science and ancient beliefs seem to coincide; confirming that cannabis use may impart "wisdom".

A second place the two coincide is the fact that the spleen, a major part of the body's immune system, also has numerous cannabis receptors, this could indicate that humans' ability to survive certain ailments may be linked with an ancient reliance upon the Cannabis plant--as part of their natural, supplemental, defense system--essential to their health, and longevity.

Several, ancient, religious works and reference books, link cannabis with the "Tree of Life".

Cannabis, of all of nature's plants, most accurately fits ALL of the definitions of the elusive "Tree of Life"; further, it is the only plant on earth that has the ability to supply every essential need for human existence; their Food, Fuel, Clothing, Housing, Paper to record their knowledge, Medicine, a Social and Personal intercommunications enhancer; it is no wonder that to some it is considered a sacred sacrament, and to others a "Deity".

Numerous studies have been conducted upon the use of Cannabis by humans; nearly all have concluded that to prohibit its use would cause more harm to society than to allow its use. Studies of populations, concerning the effects of long-term use, have shown no significant difference Physically, or Mentally, between Cannabis users and non-users other than users may live slightly longer, and may exhibit a slightly higher IQ than non-users.

Contrary to popular belief that cannabis use makes one lazy, (anti-motivation syndrome); it has been historically used by laboring populations to ease the drudgery of physical labor they performed in mines, and cane fields.

Cannabis stimulates the appetite, though; it has also been historically used to ease the pangs of hunger when food was not available.

Criminalizing Cannabis came about through the financial influence of Giant Corporations that would have to compete with market forces; were cannabis cultivation and utilization not criminalized.

The forces financing continued criminalization, tougher legislation, and propaganda demonizing Cannabis use, remain to be Giant Corporations that would have to compete with market forces; were cannabis cultivation and utilization not criminalized; along with lobbying efforts of law Enforcement Agencies, and their Unions; that now seek job security through the continued enforcement of laws against Cannabis cultivation and use.

Unlike Christianity, in which so many have been converted by force, during periods of "Inquisitions", "Conquest and Conquering";

Self-will, along with self-evident truths, convert the user of cannabis to their reliance; exploring the properties and history of cannabis use support their continued use; and faith in the benevolent effects of Cannabis.

People that "praise" the virtues of cannabis, use, make up at least one fifth of the worlds population.

Cannabis users are fighting for their equal Liberty, and Protection, in nearly every Member Nation of the United Nations.

Zoroastrian, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Coptic, Magi, Therapueti, Bedouin, Shinto, Sufi, Dagga, as well as many other religions, all have populations amongst them that sanctify the religious use of Cannabis; though in many of their modern, Christian converted, counterparts cannabis as a religious artifact has lost it's significance.

The United Nations "Declaration of Human Rights"; (1948); Article 18 states:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

Why then does International law prevent the practice of the most, ancient, widespread, religious and cultural tradition of the world?

The Bill of Rights, First Amendment, of the constitution of the United States of America states:

"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;"

Current laws are in direct violation of this Amendment; as American people are prohibited their "liberty of conscience" to follow the religious dictates, or practices, of any of the above ancient religions.

Peyote is admittedly a much more powerful hallucinogen, than is cannabis; it also is a schedule 1 controlled substance; yet Peyote use is permitted in bonified religious practice; while cannabis has no such religious use immunity; thus cannabis laws are overly broad; extend into actions that are not considered reprehensible, and thereby, should be declared "void for vagueness".

Today there exist admitted cannabis users in all walks of life; from the common laborer, to the research scientist; from free spirited hippies to the well disciplined Doctors, Lawyers, Teachers, and other highly educated members of, our, society.

A single act --that could have the greatest impact on world peace, with a simultaneous end to today's Violence--that is experienced world wide--would be to end the World War against cannabis users; therein granting them their equal rights, privileges, and immunities, each and every citizen of the world deserves; and fights to protect.

Whereas America was the first to guarantee its citizens their Liberty I call upon those in power to take every necessary action to speedily end this War against, equally created, people; that are charged with no greater a crime than that of following the dictates of their conscience.

Please, by Executive Order, Judicial Decree, or by Legislative Action, will one of our branches of government "serve to protect" the equal rights of the 30 to 50 million cannabis users of America; by effectively decriminalizing cannabis cultivation and personal use.

We ask not to be excused from any harmful acts, which produce actual victimization to any extent greater than many other acts permitted by society; we ask only for our equal right to, establish, attend, and to exercise the religious institute of our choice; and to have control over our own minds, bodies, and private property.

As a self-appointed representative of the America population of cannabis users I hereby address these Questions to our Representatives, Judicial, and Executive officers.

Does the Constitution guarantee religious freedom only to "Recognized Religions"; if so--recognized by whom-- "the majority"; "the Christian majority"?

Does an individual have the right to claim to belong to any religion of the world they choose, or only those "Recognized by the Christian Majority", or known to be "Western Religions"?

By reason of the fact that "Christians" make up the "majority"; does that give them right to effluence Law makers to create laws that favor their religion; while criminalizing other religions, and personal activities, they view as deviant?

Wasn't the Constitution an agreement to mutually protect the "Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness" of all People; equally?

Does the religious freedom guaranteed extend to the individual to practice his or her personal beliefs, without belonging to a "recognized Religion?"

Does a person have to belong to a "Recognized" church in order to have their right to practice "Ancient Religious Traditions"?

Is the individual protected in their right to establish a religion?

May the state place a burden upon individuals assembling to establish, and practice, a religious tradition; without government first being required to show a compelling, and Unrefuted, government interest in doing so?

Is America ready to separate into two societies living together in conflict; as in the middle east; or would America rather follow her established path of putting aside our cultural differences, allowing us to work together; United; for the benefit of all?

Please --do not judge harshly-- that which you have so little first hand knowledge of!

Please accept that others have a right to follow traditions other than those of a majority!