



# **Cleansing the Doors of Perception: The Religious Significance of Entheogenic Plants and Chemicals**

*Huston Smith*

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## **Cleansing the Doors of Perception: The Religious Significance of Entheogenic Plants and Chemicals**

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This book takes a serious look at the use of psychedelic drugs as a means to achieve mystical union with the divine.

## **Cleansing the Doors of Perception: The Religious Significance of Entheogenic Plants and Chemicals Details**

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# **From Reader Review Cleansing the Doors of Perception: The Religious Significance of Entheogenic Plants and Chemicals for online ebook**

## **Cristina Rosetti says**

A beautiful compilation of essays on the nature of entheogens and religion from one of the field's most respected scholars.

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## **Anthony says**

I've just started this; I am all about it.

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## **Sarah says**

Huston Smith is just a very dry, didactic writer. ("I have three points to make about this concept. I will start with the first and move on to the second and then proceed to the third. The first point is...") But he's got great ideas. Read only if you're interested in the topic, but then definitely read him.

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## **Rebecca says**

OK, so drugs created religion and drug-induced epiphanies are indistinguishable from religion-induced epiphanies.

This book occupies such a strange place. It's entirely about entheogens and their effects, but manages to avoid glorifying drug use. Also manages to avoid any significant discussion of cultural relevance or cultural appropriation. Its academic style almost hides the fact that the author hallucinated his way to much of the information in the book. Such a titillating subject in such a deadly boring style.

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## **Aitziber Conesa says**

La percepción divina es una colección de artículos sobre los enteógenos escritos a lo largo de muchos años. Da una nueva visión, al tiempo científica y espiritual del uso de los enteógenos a través de la experiencia tanto del autor como de otras personas, tanto positivas como negativas. Resulta muy interesante para todos aquello que piensen en la psiconautica o les interese la dimensión antropológica del tema.

Recomendado para psiconautas, personas que trabajan en contacto con lo místico, psicólogos y místicos, siempre y que sean lo suficientemente seguros de si mismos como para no ver puesto en duda su medio de vivir la realidad y la forma de sus creencias por un estudio científico.

Curiosamente, sienta bastante bases filosóficas sobre la naturaleza e implicaciones tanto de la mística como de los enteógenos, incluyendo la dimensión exclusivamente sagrada de los mismos y las motivaciones que

llevar a las culturas a entenderlos de ese modo.

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### **Alina Yasnaya says**

If you are at all interested in what is outside daily routine of your mind, read this book.

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### **Sally says**

Some of the articles are much more interesting than others.

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### **Lisa says**

Well-written and thought-provoking, but also not as much new information as I was expecting. Not an essential read if you're already familiar with the subject matter, but a good introduction if you're not.

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### **Elfie says**

One would not expect Huston Smith to write about this subject, but he does and does it well and responsibly - I appreciate that he replaced 'psychedelic' by 'entheogenic'. Interesting chapters on 'soma' and LSD. Important statement: Although the mind-altering substances he talks about can induce religious experiences that are indistinguishable from spontaneous theophanies or those induced by other means (fasting, dancing, etc.), they may also completely lack any religious feature - this depends on the person, setting etc. Above all one should focus on a religious life rather than on religious experiences. Moreover, there is the 'tremendum' part of such experiences, the 'fear and awe' of Rudolf Otto's 'mysterium tremendum et fascinans'.

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### **Mattheus Guttenberg says**

Cleansing the Doors of Perception is a collection of essays by Huston Smith and other writers interested in the overlap between entheogenic (psychedelic) mystical experiences and genuine religious experiences. The medicinal and spiritual uses of LSD, peyote, mescaline, psilocybin, and more are explored in relation to their history of use within religious traditions (Mexican shaman, Hindu yogis, etc.) and to their relevance for revitalizing the "religious life." Devout followers of any religious faith will recognize immediately what Smith and others describe through their exploration of entheogens: namely, the experience of transcendence, the joy and terror of awe, the deconstruction of our physical/material viewpoint, and ecstatic union with the Divine. Though they may chafe at the suggestion that plants and chemicals can create something indistinguishable from true religious revelation, anyone interested in reorienting our conscious perspectives toward spiritual paths will find this book - and the substances they describe - as a valuable complement to their faith.

