

Review of: "Sacred Plants and Their Miraculous or Healing Properties"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Clarification of Terminology: The article frequently refers to 'sacred' and 'hallucinogenic' plants, but it would be beneficial to clearly define these terms early on. Providing precise definitions will help readers better understand the context and nuances associated with the discussed plants.

Introduction:

Clarity in Historical Context: The introduction provides a historical overview of man's interaction with plants, specifically hallucinogenic ones. It would be beneficial to include a more precise timeline or examples to contextualize the different periods in which these plants played a crucial role in rituals and societal beliefs. This would help readers grasp the evolution of attitudes toward hallucinogens over time.

Thesis Statement or Preview: The introduction could be strengthened by including a clear thesis statement or a preview of the main points that will be addressed in the article. This would help guide the reader's expectations and provide a roadmap for the topics that will be explored in the subsequent sections, enhancing overall coherence.

Structured Transition: The transition between discussing hallucinogenic plants as 'sacred medicines' and delving into their roles in rituals, shamanism, and ecstasy techniques could be smoother. Consider adding a sentence that clearly signals the shift in focus from the general concept of hallucinogens to their specific applications in cultural and spiritual practices.

In-depth Explanation of Shamanism: While the article touches on the role of shamans and their use of psychoactive substances, providing a more detailed explanation of shamanic practices, their significance, and the specific substances used in different cultures would enrich the discussion. This could include examples or case studies to illustrate the diversity of shamanic traditions and their approaches to altered states of consciousness.

Methods

Clarify Research Methodology Connection: Establish a clearer link between the elucidation of plant names and the research methodology. Specify how the various names were identified or categorized and provide examples or references supporting the associated benefits of self-knowledge and healing observed in research studies.

Enhance Visual Context: Improve the captions for Figures 1 and 2 by providing more context on their relevance to the

historical discussion. Explain how these images connect to the Sumerian cosmogonic myth or the broader exploration of hallucinogenic plants in historical contexts.

Expand on Oracle of Delphi Reference: Elaborate on the intriguing reference to the Oracle of Delphi. Offer details on how hallucinogens were believed to induce prophecies, providing specific historical examples or anecdotes that illustrate this phenomenon.

Clarify Spirituality and Traditional Medicine Connection: Specify and provide examples of how spirituality, entheogens, and traditional medicine are interconnected. Offer insights into specific cultural practices or beliefs that demonstrate the relationship between spirituality and the use of hallucinogenic plants in traditional healing systems.

Strengthen Transition to Neolithic Era: Improve the transition to the discussion of the Neolithic era and agriculture. Clearly articulate how the development of agriculture is relevant to the broader theme of hallucinogenic plant use. Incorporate evidence or examples supporting the connection between agricultural practices and the historical use of psychoactive plants.