

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

Lone Rafiya Majeed

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

- The authors' thought-provoking paper, "Sacred Plants and Their Miraculous or Healing Properties," delves deeply into the historical, religious, and medicinal significance of certain plants that have been revered across cultures and epochs. They shed light on sacred plants' profound role in shaping human experience by meticulously examining archaeological evidence and modern literature.
- The authors' conclusion is enlightening and profound. They claim that sacred plants, with their distinct characteristics, have played important roles in many aspects of human life, including medicine, religion, ritual practices, and recreational activities. These plants, with their ability to induce altered states of consciousness, serve as a portal to the depths of the psyche, guiding people into ecstatic trances and mystical illumination.
- The discussion revolves around two powerful examples: mandrake and peyote. The authors use iconography and ritual analysis to demonstrate the extensive historical use of these hallucinogenic plants in medicinal contexts and religious ceremonies. This investigation highlights not only traditional societies' remarkable botanical, chemical, and pharmacological knowledge but also their deep spiritual connection to nature.
- The discussion of mandrake, which is intertwined with ideas of magic, witchcraft, and divine reverence, provides insights into Western traditions while also recognizing its presence in Native American cultures. Similarly, the study of peyote reveals its role as a religious sacrament among indigenous tribes in Mexico and the United States, as well as its subsequent appropriation by Western intellectuals as a psychedelic substance in the 1960s.
- Finally, this comprehensive review emphasizes the ongoing importance of sacred plants throughout human history. The authors bridge the gap between ancient wisdom and modern scientific inquiry, paving the way for a better understanding of these botanical treasures and their potential benefits to human health. I recommend it for publication.