

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross

John Allegro The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross: Unveiling a Controversial Theory

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross is a phrase that resonates deeply within the realms of religious studies, archaeology, and psychedelic research. It refers to the groundbreaking, yet highly controversial, book authored by John Marco Allegro in 1970. In this work, Allegro presents a radical interpretation of early Christian origins, suggesting that the roots of Christianity are entwined with ancient fertility cults and the ritualistic use of psychoactive mushrooms. This theory challenges traditional biblical scholarship and has sparked debates that continue to intrigue scholars and curious readers alike.

Exploring the background of John Allegro and his remarkable journey provides essential context for understanding the significance of **The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross**. Allegro was an English archaeologist and philologist specializing in the Dead Sea Scrolls. His expertise in ancient Semitic languages positioned him uniquely to analyze early Christian texts from a linguistic perspective. However, it was his unconventional interpretation of these texts that catapulted him into controversy and academic isolation.

Who Was John Allegro?

John Allegro was born in 1923 and became one of the original team members involved in the discovery and translation of the Dead Sea Scrolls, some of the most significant archaeological finds of the 20th century. His background in philology—the study of language in historical texts—allowed him to decode ancient manuscripts that had lain buried for centuries. Rather than accepting traditional interpretations of these texts, Allegro pursued an alternative hypothesis that linked religious narratives to the use of psychoactive substances.

His work on the Dead Sea Scrolls gave him access to a treasure trove of early Jewish and Christian writings, which he believed held hidden meanings. Allegro's linguistic approach led him to reinterpret many biblical names and stories, suggesting they were coded references to fertility cults and entheogenic rituals.

The Core Thesis of The Sacred Mushroom and the

Cross

At the heart of **The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross** lies the claim that Christianity originated from a secret cult that worshipped the *Amanita muscaria* mushroom, a psychoactive species known for its mind-altering properties. According to Allegro, early Christian symbolism, language, and myths are not merely spiritual allegories but descriptions of experiences induced by these sacred mushrooms.

Decoding Biblical Language

Allegro argued that many words in the Bible are derived from ancient Sumerian and Semitic roots that allude to mushrooms and their effects. For example, he suggested that the name "Jesus" is a cryptic term linked to the *Amanita muscaria* mushroom, rather than a historical figure. He also proposed that the resurrection story symbolized the cyclical renewal associated with fertility rites and the psychoactive mushroom's powerful influence on consciousness.

This linguistic decoding was revolutionary but also deeply contentious. Allegro's interpretations relied heavily on etymology and comparative mythology, challenging centuries of theological tradition.

Mushrooms as Sacred Sacraments

According to Allegro, the early followers of this mushroom cult believed that consuming the *Amanita muscaria* led to divine revelation and spiritual enlightenment. The mushroom was seen as a literal "body" of the divine, a sacrament that provided direct contact with the sacred. Allegro interpreted various biblical passages as veiled references to these mushroom rituals, suggesting that early Christian sacraments mirrored ancient entheogenic ceremonies.

Reception and Impact of Allegro's Theory

The publication of **The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross** triggered a storm of criticism from theologians, archaeologists, and mainstream biblical scholars. Many dismissed Allegro's work as speculative, unscientific, and even sensationalist. The idea that Christianity's foundation was linked to hallucinogenic mushrooms was considered outrageous by many religious communities.

Academic Pushback

Scholars criticized Allegro's linguistic methodology, arguing that his etymological connections were tenuous and lacked rigorous evidence. The book was seen as undermining serious biblical scholarship, and Allegro faced significant professional backlash, which some say ended his academic career prematurely.

Enduring Fascination

Despite the criticism, **The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross** has maintained a cult following among those interested in alternative religious history, psychedelic research, and the intersections of spirituality and consciousness. The theory has influenced modern psychedelic advocates and scholars who explore the role of entheogens in human culture and religion.

Broader Context: Entheogens and Religious Origins

John Allegro's work fits into a larger framework of research exploring how psychoactive plants and fungi have shaped religious traditions across the globe. The idea that altered states of consciousness can catalyze spiritual experiences is gaining renewed attention in anthropology, neurotheology, and psychology.

Examples from Other Cultures

- The use of peyote in Native American ceremonies
- The Soma drink mentioned in ancient Vedic texts, speculated to be a psychoactive brew
- Ayahuasca rituals in Amazonian shamanism

These traditions demonstrate that entheogens have played a significant role in shaping spiritual beliefs and practices, lending some plausibility to Allegro's contention that similar phenomena might have influenced early Christianity.

Modern Research on Psychedelics and Spirituality

Recent clinical studies investigating psilocybin and other psychedelics reveal their potential to induce profound mystical experiences, often described as life-changing or transcendent. This modern scientific lens helps

contextualize Allegro's ideas, suggesting that altered states of consciousness have long been central to human spirituality.

Exploring Allegro's Linguistic Approach

One of the most intriguing aspects of Allegro's work is his method of using philology to decode hidden meanings within sacred texts. His approach invites readers to consider the possibility that ancient religious narratives contain encrypted knowledge about rituals and substances that have since been forgotten or deliberately obscured.

Tips for Understanding Allegro's Arguments

1. Familiarize yourself with ancient Semitic languages and their etymological roots.
2. Study comparative mythology to recognize cross-cultural symbolism.
3. Approach biblical texts with an open mind toward metaphor and allegory.
4. Consider the historical context of fertility cults and mystery religions in the ancient Near East.

By exploring these avenues, readers can better appreciate the complexity and daring nature of Allegro's thesis, even if they remain skeptical of its conclusions.

Why John Allegro *The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross* Still Matters Today

In a world increasingly interested in the origins of spirituality, consciousness, and religion, Allegro's book serves as a provocative invitation to rethink established narratives. Whether one agrees or disagrees with his conclusions, his work encourages critical inquiry into the intersection of language, myth, and human experience.

The growing acceptance of psychedelics in therapeutic and spiritual contexts also breathes new life into discussions sparked by Allegro's theories. As society re-examines ancient wisdom through modern lenses, *The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross* remains a fascinating, if controversial, landmark in the exploration of religious history.

By delving into the enigmatic theories of John Allegro, readers embark on a journey that challenges conventional beliefs and opens doors to alternative ways of understanding the sacred stories that have shaped human civilization for millennia.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is John Allegro and what is his connection to 'The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross'?

John Allegro was a British archaeologist and Dead Sea Scrolls scholar who authored 'The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross,' a controversial book proposing that early Christian theology was based on psychedelic mushroom cults.

What is the main thesis of 'The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross'?

The main thesis of the book is that the stories of Jesus Christ are allegories for the use of psychedelic mushrooms, particularly *Amanita muscaria*, which were used in ancient religious ceremonies to achieve spiritual experiences.

How was 'The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross' received by scholars and the public?

The book was highly controversial and widely criticized by biblical scholars and theologians for its speculative interpretations and lack of concrete evidence, though it gained a cult following among those interested in psychedelic spirituality.

What evidence does Allegro present to support his theory in 'The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross'?

Allegro analyzed ancient texts, including the Dead Sea Scrolls and linguistic roots of religious terms, suggesting that many Christian symbols and stories encoded references to psychoactive mushrooms and fertility cults.

Did John Allegro's theory influence modern psychedelic or religious studies?

While largely rejected by mainstream scholarship, Allegro's work influenced some alternative religious and psychedelic communities, sparking discussions about the role of entheogens in the origins of religion.

What are the criticisms against the claims made in 'The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross'?

Critics argue that Allegro's linguistic analysis was flawed, his interpretations were speculative, and there is insufficient archaeological or historical evidence to support his claims about psychedelic mushrooms influencing Christianity.

Are there any documentaries or media based on 'The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross'?

Yes, there have been documentaries and discussions in popular media exploring Allegro's theories, often highlighting the controversy and the intersection of religion and psychedelics.

How does 'The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross' compare to traditional Christian narratives?

Allegro's book challenges traditional Christian narratives by suggesting that the stories of Jesus are symbolic and derived from ancient fertility cults involving psychedelic mushrooms, rather than literal historical events.

Additional Resources

****John Allegro The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross: An Investigative Review****

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross represents one of the most controversial and provocative theses in the study of early Christianity and religious history. This 1970 publication by John Allegro, a British archaeologist and Dead Sea Scrolls scholar, challenges conventional narratives by proposing that the origins of Christianity are deeply intertwined with ancient fertility cults and psychedelic mushroom use. Allegro's work continues to provoke debate among theologians, historians, and scholars of religion, making it a rich topic for analytical exploration.

Background and Context of John Allegro's Thesis

John Allegro was a respected philologist and one of the original team members involved in deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls. His expertise in ancient languages lent credibility to his interpretations, but "The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross" marked a radical departure from mainstream biblical scholarship. In this book, Allegro argued that the stories of Jesus Christ and early Christian doctrine are allegorical encodings of a secret fertility cult centered on the use of psychoactive mushrooms, specifically the *Amanita muscaria*.

Allegro's hypothesis was grounded in linguistic analysis, particularly of Aramaic and Sumerian texts. He suggested that many key biblical terms and names are cryptic references to hallucinogenic fungi, which were believed to grant divine experiences. This interpretation implied that Christianity's roots were less about historical events and more about cultic rituals involving sacred plants.

The Core Arguments of The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross

At its core, Allegro's thesis rests on several pillars:

- **Linguistic Decoding:** Allegro claimed that ancient Semitic languages encoded hidden meanings, with words in the Bible symbolizing psychedelic mushrooms.
- **Mythological Parallels:** He proposed connections between Christian mythology and earlier fertility cults, arguing that the figure of Jesus was a symbolic representation of the mushroom's life cycle.
- **Ritualistic Origins:** According to Allegro, early Christian rituals involved secret mushroom ceremonies, which were later suppressed by orthodox Christianity.

These ideas aimed to rewrite the narrative of Christianity's origin, focusing on the role of hallucinogens in religious experience and symbolism.

Reception and Criticism in Academic and Religious Circles

The reception of "The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross" was overwhelmingly critical upon its release. Many scholars found Allegro's linguistic connections speculative and lacking solid evidence. His assertion that the New Testament was a coded text about psychedelic mushrooms was seen by some as a forced interpretation rather than a credible linguistic or historical analysis.

Scholarly Critiques

Several key criticisms emerged:

- **Methodological Concerns:** Critics argued Allegro's philological methods were unorthodox and often relied on tenuous etymological links.
- **Lack of Historical Corroboration:** There was little archaeological or textual evidence to support the widespread use of psychoactive mushrooms in early Christian rites.

- **Theological Opposition:** Religious scholars viewed the thesis as undermining the spiritual and historical foundations of Christianity.

Despite these critiques, some modern researchers acknowledge that Allegro's work at least opened the door to exploring the role of entheogens in religious traditions, an area previously neglected by mainstream scholarship.

Impact on Popular Culture and Alternative Religious Studies

Beyond academia, "The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross" found a receptive audience among countercultural groups in the 1970s and later, who were interested in the intersection of psychedelics and spirituality. Allegro's book became a cornerstone text within the psychedelic movement, inspiring further exploration into the use of sacred plants in ancient religions.

The book also influenced contemporary discussions around the "entheogen hypothesis," which posits that many religious experiences and mythologies are linked to the consumption of psychoactive substances. This has led to comparative studies between Christianity and other ancient fertility cults, expanding the scope of religious and anthropological research.

Exploring the Evidence: Linguistics, Archaeology, and Mythology

To evaluate the validity of Allegro's claims, it is important to consider the evidence he presented and how it stands up to modern scrutiny.

Linguistic Analysis of Ancient Texts

Allegro's primary tool was linguistic analysis, where he traced supposed connections between words in ancient languages and terms related to mushrooms. While innovative, many linguists argue that his approach often overlooked standard principles of philology, including context and sound change regularities. For example, some of his etymological comparisons have been dismissed as coincidental or forced.

Archaeological Insights

Archaeology offers limited support for the widespread ritualistic use of

Amanita muscaria or similar fungi in early Christian contexts. Although certain ancient cultures did incorporate hallucinogens into religious ceremonies, direct evidence linking these practices to Jesus or early Christian groups remains elusive.

Mythological and Symbolic Correlations

Allegro's comparisons between Christian iconography and fertility cult symbolism have some merit in highlighting universal themes of rebirth and transformation. However, the explicit identification of Jesus with a mushroom is seen by most scholars as metaphorical at best and speculative at worst.

John Allegro's Legacy and the Continuing Debate

Despite the mixed reception, John Allegro's "The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross" persists as a significant, if controversial, contribution to religious studies. His courage in challenging orthodox interpretations paved the way for more open-minded investigations into the origins of religious beliefs and practices.

Today, the book remains a reference point for those interested in the intersection of religion, linguistics, and psychoactive substances. Advances in ethnobotany and the study of entheogens have renewed interest in Allegro's hypotheses, though with greater emphasis on cautious interpretation.

Modern Research Influenced by Allegro

Contemporary scholars and writers exploring psychedelic spirituality often cite Allegro's work as a foundational text. His approach has inspired:

1. Comparative mythological studies linking plant-based rituals across cultures.
2. Philosophical inquiries into the nature of religious experience and altered states of consciousness.
3. New archaeological investigations into the use of psychoactive substances in ancient societies.

While the core claims of "The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross" remain debated, the broader questions Allegro raised continue to stimulate interdisciplinary research.

In the landscape of religious scholarship, "john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross" stands out as a bold and unconventional thesis that challenges readers to reconsider the origins and meanings of Christian narratives. Whether viewed as a flawed hypothesis or a pioneering inquiry, Allegro's work undeniably contributes to the ongoing dialogue about spirituality, symbolism, and the human quest for transcendence.

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john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: Entheogene im Dienste der Suchttherapie: Chancen und Risiken einer wiederentdeckten (neo-)schamanistischen Initiation Holger Karsten Schmid, 2021-10-20 Im antiken Griechenland nutzten die Adepten Kykeon, die Germanen nutzten Met und Zaubertränke als Geschenk der Asen und als Götteropfer, diverse Amazonas-Ethnien Ayahuasca-Pflanzensud, Ayahuasca-Religionen Ayahuasca-Tee, der Gründer von Ayahuasca International, der Nootherapie und Transzendentalen Heilung, Alberto José Varela nutzte Ayahuasca-Tee, den Schnupftabak Yopo oder das 5-MeO-DMT-Krötensekret bei imitierten schamanischen Retreats, um eine heilsame holotrope bzw. außerkörperliche Erfahrung bei Patienten hervorzurufen. Die Shipibo-Indios nutzen das visionäre Erleben unter Ayahuasca-Einfluß bei ihrer Shipibo-Conibo-Therapie, um mit verschiedenen Diagnosen und Heilmethoden vermittelnden Hilfsgeistern in Kontakt zu kommen, den Patienten eine Initiation durch Tod- und Wiedergeburt; eine visionäre und innere Verwandlung (Transformation) ermöglichen und erleben zu lassen. Auch der Anthropologe, Gründer und Leiter der Foundation for Shamanic Studies, Dr. Michael Harner ist wie der Psychiater Dr. med. Dr. phil. Stanislav Grof der Überzeugung, dass Abhängigkeitserkrankungen die Folge einer spirituellen Krise seien, die in einer latenten Besetzung durch einen Totengeist bestünde, der erst in solchen schamanischen Ritualen hervorträte und durch Depossession zu beseitigen sei. Diese Methode soll in einer zukünftigen substanzgestützten Suchttherapie zum Einsatz kommen. Schon J. R. Baker (1995) beschrieb, wie psychoaktive Substanzen bei Ratsuchenden bedeutsame Erkenntnisse anstoßen können, weil die dadurch eintretende Erfahrung eines veränderten Bewusstseinszustandes auch das Denken und Empfinden temporär verändern. In diesem fünften Band der Reihe Entheogene und deren

paranormalen Phänomene und Auswirkungen auf das Bewusstsein und Selbstverständnis beleuchtet der Autor die von Stanislaw Grof vernachlässigten kritischen Aspekte im Umgang mit den holotropen Erfahrungen und weist auf alternative kathartische Methoden zur Klärung seelischer Komplexe, die das Suchtverhalten initiieren. Der Autor zeigt Chancen, Grenzen und Risiken einer schamanischen Psychotherapie und der Energiemedizin des medizinischen Anthropologen Dr. Alberto Villoldo von Los Angeles auf und erklärt, weshalb die monistische Drogenmystik eine täuschende Ersatz-Transzendenz hervorruft und wie der sechste Sinn anders zu wecken sei.

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: *The Historical Jesus* Gary R. Habermas, 1996 Rev. ed. of: *Ancient evidence for the life of Jesus. Includes bibliographical references and index.*

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: Die Rückkehr nach Eleusis Mathias Bröckers, 2021-10-21 Das Mysterium von Eleusis war eines der bestgehüteten Geheimnisse der Antike. Fast zwei Jahrtausende lang, bis zur Zerstörung des Tempels im 3. Jahrhundert, zogen Wallfahrer jedes Jahr im September auf der Heiligen Straße von Athen nach Eleusis, fasteten und umtanzten den der Göttin Demeter geweihten Brunnen im Vorhof des Heiligtums. Die Nacht verbrachten sie in der Mysterienhalle. Priester bereiteten einen heiligen Trank, den die Teilnehmer gemeinsam zu sich nahmen – und dann geschah es. Eine so unmittelbare und unaussprechliche Erfahrung, dass sie nur geschaut, aber nicht ausgesprochen werden durfte. Über zwei Jahrtausende haben sich die in Eleusis Initiierten – darunter die Philosophen Sokrates, Platon und Aristoteles sowie der Tragödienautor Sophokles – daran gehalten. Bestseller-Autor Mathias Bröckers verdichtet in diesem brandaktuellen Essay – im September 2021 sollte Eleusis zur europäischen Kulturhauptstadt ernannt werden, coronabedingt nun aber auf 2023 verschoben – die Rolle der Eleusinischen Mysterienspiele, bei denen die Teilnehmer den psychoaktiven Trank Kykeon verabreicht bekamen, ein Entheogen, das vermutlich unter anderem aus Mutterkorn-Alkaloiden bestanden hatte.

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: The Essenes, the Scrolls, and the Dead Sea Joan E. Taylor, 2012-11-15 The mystery surrounding the Dead Sea Scrolls remains, over 60 years after their rediscovery. Who hid them and why? This groundbreaking book reinvigorates the contested hypothesis that the Essenes were responsible. Rather than being a marginal esoteric sect, Taylor shows that this group acted as one of the leading legal schools of Judaism.

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: *Crash Gordon and the Mysteries of Kingsburg* Derek Swannson, 2007-08 Daring, funny, and filled with strange facts about the medico-military-occult complex, Crash Gordon and the Mysteries of Kingsburg is a paranoid comedy thats seriously concerned with the fate of humanity.

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: Entheologues: Conversations with Leading Psychedelic Thinkers, Explorers and Researchers Martin W. Ball, 2009-07-01 Entheologues presents a fascinating collection of interviews with top figures in the entheogenic field. James Oroc talks about God, 5-MeO-DMT, zero-point energy and the Akashic Field. Rick Strassman discusses his new book and shares the surprising results of his DMT study, along with his hopes for an entheogenic research center. Jan Irvin and John Rush discuss the roles of psychedelic mushrooms and other visionary sacraments in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. In the final interview, Daniel Siebert gives a detailed history of Salvia divinorum. Completing the book, Martin W. Ball makes a strong case for the human right to entheogen use as religious sacraments. Was Jesus a psychedelic mushroom? Do DMT experiences send people into alternate realities? What is the legal status of entheogens for spiritual use? Why are there so many mushroom images in Christian art? Can 5-MeO-DMT bring about realization of God? These questions and more are answered in Entheologues.

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: *Faszination Jesus* Roland Werner, Guido Baltes, 2023-11-08 JESUS FASZINIERT. BIS HEUTE. Worin liegt die Faszination? Wer war Jesus wirklich? Was hat er getan und gelehrt? Und was hat Jesus uns heute anzubieten? Roland Werner und Guido Baltes geben allgemein verständliche Antworten und machen deutlich: Jesus ist kein

Mythos, sondern ganz real!

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: Principle of Harmony in Healing

Gunasilan deBecker, 2017-05-30 The Principle of Harmony in Healing is a pioneering work that reveals many surprising links between the indigenous medical traditions of antiquity, suggesting that the world's oldest medical systems were likely conjoined or coordinated across the planet in ancient times. This captivating book not only unearths the forgotten role of harmony between patient and healer, but also exposes innumerable other startling connections among the ancient cultures that emphasized such a harmony in their medicine. How is the Hindu god Brahma, and his consort Saraswati, linked with the Hebrew luminary Abraham, and his wife Sara? How is the Hindu Kush mountain range related to the Land of Kush along the Blue Nile in Ethiopia? Sowa Rigpa—the indigenous medicine of Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal, Siberia, Mongolia, and Himalayan regions of India—fused many ancient medical traditions together in a unified system that has not only benefited countless patients throughout history, but also exhibits many key characteristics of the other medical traditions that thrived in distant parts of the world in past millennia, including Mesoamerica and Indonesia. How and why did these traditions come to have such an uncanny resemblance in an era when they are not believed to have developed any contact with each other? Is there a connection between the Amchi shamans of the Himalayas and the Hampchi healers of the Andes? These are just a few of the alluring questions covered in deBecker's ground-breaking work, The Principle of Harmony in Healing.

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: Der Pilz & die Menschheit James Arthur,

2024-05-15 Seit Anbeginn der Zeit lebt die Menschheit in einer symbiotischen Beziehung zu den Pflanzen auf dieser Erde. Pflanzen dienen dem Menschen als unerschöpfliche Nahrungsquelle und sind für unsere körperliche und geistige Gesundheit unersetzbar. Traditionell werden sie jedoch auch zur Erweiterung des Bewusstseins genutzt und können uns in spirituelle Zustände versetzen. Die Untersuchung dieser Pflanzen wird als Ethnobotanik bezeichnet. Ein Unterfeld dieser Wissenschaft ist als Ethnomykologie bekannt und ist speziell den Pilzen gewidmet. Diese natürlichen Entheogene sind tief in den religiösen Traditionen, Schriften und dem indigenen Wissen der Menschheit verwurzelt. James Arthur leistet mit diesem Werk Pionierarbeit in diesen Forschungsfeldern und stellt innovative Überlegungen über den Einfluss von Entheogenen bei der Entstehung der ägyptischen, asiatischen und christlichen Religionen an. Er bietet eine wichtige Perspektive, aus der man Entheogene als Ursprung mystischer Erfahrungen an der Wurzel aller Religionen betrachten kann. Diese Betrachtungsweise ermöglicht eine umfassende und integrale theoretische Erklärung der Religion, die schließlich zusammengeführt werden kann.

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: Secret Tomb Omega Michael Raphael

Thomas, 2021-04-11 The honeymoon with Jesus was very short-lived though; being differently viewed by his family for his religious beliefs, his life soon became a living hell. The resulting emotional torment led to involvement in Satanism, as well as occultism, and finally several suicide attempts. There was also increasing drug use through the 1980's. But along the way, he discovered some key stepping-stones to an eventual escape from the false belief-system: the Book of Enoch, the Kebra Nagast, and a book in the Salem Library called Jesus Died in Kashmir. This led him to seriously rethink religious beliefs that had strongly been held for over a decade, leading to final liberation. Life continues to be an ongoing adventure & challenge, but without the unnecessary baggage of a delusional belief-system.

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: Religion as Metaphor David Tacey,

2017-09-08 Biblical stories are metaphorical. They may have been accepted as factual hundreds of years ago, but today they cannot be taken literally. Some students in religious schools even recoil from the fairy tales of religion, believing them to be mockeries of their intelligence. David Tacey argues that biblical language should not be read as history, and it was never intended as literal description. At best it is metaphorical, but he does not deny these stories have spiritual meaning. Religion as Metaphor argues that despite what tradition tells us, if we believe religious language, we miss religion's spiritual meaning. Tacey argues that religious language was not designed to be

historical reporting, but rather to resonate in the soul and direct us toward transcendent realities. Its impact was intended to be closer to poetry than theology. The book uses specific examples to make its case: Jesus, the Virgin Birth, the Kingdom of God, the Apocalypse, Satan, and the Resurrection. Tacey shows that, with the aid of contemporary thought and depth psychology, we can re-read religious stories as metaphors of the spirit and the interior life. Moving beyond literal thinking will save religion from itself.

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: Entheogens and the Development of Culture John A. Rush, 2013-07-30 *Entheogens and the Development of Culture* makes the radical proposition that mind-altering substances have played a major part not only in cultural development but also in human brain development. Researchers suggest that we have purposely enhanced receptor sites in the brain, especially those for dopamine and serotonin, through the use of plants and fungi over a long period of time. The trade-off for lowered functioning and potential drug abuse has been more creative thinking--or a leap in consciousness. Experiments in entheogen use led to the development of primitive medicine, in which certain mind-altering plants and fungi were imbibed to still fatigue, pain, or depression, while others were taken to promote hunger and libido. Our ancestors selected for our neural hardware, and our propensity for seeking altered forms of consciousness as a survival strategy may be intimately bound to our decision-making processes going back to the dawn of time. Fourteen essays by a wide range of contributors—including founding president of the American Anthropological Association's Anthropology of Religion section Michael Winkelman, PhD; Carl A. P. Ruck, PhD, Boston University professor of classics and an authority on the ecstatic rituals of the god Dionysus; and world-renowned botanist Dr. Gaston Guzman, member of the Colombian National Academy of Sciences and expert on hallucinogenic mushrooms—demonstrate that altering consciousness continues to be an important part of human experience today. Anthropologists, cultural historians, and anyone interested in the effects of mind-altering substances on the human mind and soul will find this book deeply informative and inspiring.

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: National Library of Medicine Current Catalog National Library of Medicine (U.S.), 1971

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: The Case Against Christianity Michael Martin, 1991 In this systematic philosophical critique of the major tenets of Christianity, Michael Martin examines the semantic and epistemological bases of religious claims and beliefs. Beginning with a comparison and evaluation of the Apostles' Creed, the Niceno-Chalcedonian Creed, and the Athanasian Creed, Martin discusses the principal theological, historical, and eschatological assumptions of Christianity. These include the historicity of Jesus, the Incarnation, the Second Coming, the Virgin Birth, the Resurrection, Salvation through faith in Jesus, and Jesus as a model of ethical behavior. Until now, an adequately convincing criticism of Christianity did not exist. Martin's use of historical evidence, textual analysis, and interpretations by philosophers and theologians provides the strongest case made to date against the rational justification of Christian doctrines.

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: Der Weg des Psychonauten - Band 1 Stanislav Grof, 2020-01-20 Stanislav Grofs grosses Handbuch der psychonautischen Praxis, eine Enzyklopädie über die Vielfalt psychedelischer Erfahrungen, verdichtet das Wissen des Autors, eines erfahrenen Psychiaters, Psychotherapeuten, Psychonauten und Erfolgsautors, der seit vielen Jahrzehnten professionell erweiterte, veränderte, sprich holotrope Bewusstseinszustände erforscht. Der Weg des Psychonauten ist ein wertvolles Nachschlagewerk für alle Psychonauten, ob Privatforscher oder akademische Wissenschaftler, das vollständig auf den Erkenntnissen der gelebten psychedelischen Praxis basiert. Stanislav Grof schlüsselt die Geschichte der Psychonautik, die Genese der psychedelischen Revolution und der medizinischen Erforschung bewusstseinsverändernder Substanzen sowie deren Potenzial und Verwendung in Psychologie und Psychiatrie auf und vermittelt eine neue Kartografie der Psyche. Das Grundlagenbuch für die Praxis der Psychonautik in zwei Bänden.

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: Fungipedia. Die erstaunliche Welt der

john allegro the sacred mushroom and the cross: The Death of 4 European Gods Eso Benjamins, Trafford Publishing, 2006-04-18 Vatican disclaimers aside, Jesus comes from a brotherhood of European gods bearing similar names: Iannus, John, and Janis, to name a few. This book tells the story of these gods.

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