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the most comprehensive guide to the botany history distribution and cultivation of all known psychoactive plants examines 414 psychoactive plants and related substances explores how using psychoactive plants in a culturally sanctioned context can produce important insights into the nature of reality contains 797 color photographs and 645 black and white illustrations in the traditions of every culture plants have been highly valued for their nourishing healing and transformative properties the most powerful plants those known to transport the human

mind into other dimensions of consciousness have traditionally been regarded as sacred in the encyclopedia of psychoactive plants christian rätsch details the botany history distribution cultivation and preparation and dosage of more than 400 psychoactive plants he discusses their ritual and medicinal usage cultural artifacts made from these plants and works of art that either represent or have been inspired by them the author begins with 168 of the most well known psychoactives such as cannabis datura and papaver then presents 133 lesser known substances as well as additional plants known as legal highs plants known only from mythological contexts and literature and plant products that include substances such as ayahuasca incense and soma the text is lavishly illustrated with 797 color photographs many of which are from the author s extensive fieldwork around the world showing the people ceremonies and art related to the ritual use of the world s sacred psychoactives

for all those who might like to believe that drug use has been relegated to the suburban rec rooms and ghetto crack houses of the late twentieth century the encyclopedia of psychoactive substances offers shocking yet thoroughly enlightening evidence to the contrary in fact from neolithic man to queen victoria humans have abused all sorts of drugs in the name of religion tradition and recreation including such controlled substances as chocolate lettuce and toads from glue sniffing to lsd to kava the encyclopedia of psychoactive substances provides the first reliable comprehensive exploration of this fascinating and controversial topic with over one hundred entries acclaimed author richard rudgley covers not only the chemical and botanical background of each substance but its physiological and psychological effect on the user of particular value is rudgley s emphasis on the historical and cultural role of these mind altering substances impeccably researched and hugely entertaining the encyclopedia of psychoactive substances will appeal to anyone interested in one of the most misunderstood and yet also most widespread of human activities the chemical quest for an altered state of consciousness

examines how ayahuasca affects the brain from a neuroscientific perspective and how its effects on consciousness relate to ancient esoteric texts shares interviews with people who have experienced ayahuasca s powerful spirit doctor effects and the author s own ayahuasca journey from suicidal depression to a soul at peace investigates how ayahuasca is interwoven with the ancient practices of amazonian shamanism brewed from a combination of two plants the leaves of psychotria viridis and the vine stalks of banisteriopsis caapi ayahuasca has been used for millennia by indigenous tribes throughout the upper amazon for healing and spiritual exploration the shamans of the peruvian amazon call the plant spirit within the vine abuela ayahuasca grandmother ayahuasca exploring the history lore traditional use psychoactive effects and current scientific studies christian funder reveals how grandmother ayahuasca is a profound healer wise teacher and life changing guide examining ayahuasca from a neuroscientific perspective the author looks at recent research on the effects of dmt one of the psychoactive compounds in ayahuasca as well as fmri studies of brain activity during altered states he explores these findings as they relate to the teachings on unified states of consciousness in ancient esoteric texts and to aldous huxley s theory of psychedelics inhibiting the reducing valve mechanism of the brain sharing interviews with people who have experienced ayahuasca s powerful spirit doctor effects funder also details his own revolutionary ayahuasca healing journey from suicidal depression to a soul at peace he explores

ayahuasca's relationship to indigenous amazonian shamanism including an inside look at the shipibo tribe and the healing songs known as icaros offering a holistic picture of ayahuasca from science to spirit the author shows that this venerated hallucinogenic tea has immense therapeutic potential and just might be the long lost shamanic connection to the sacred gaian mind

ethnopharmacology is a component of encyclopedia of biological physiological and health sciences in the global encyclopedia of life support systems eolss which is an integrated compendium of twenty one encyclopedias ethnopharmacology is the scientific study correlating ethnic groups their health and how it relates to their physical habits and methodology in creating and using medicines this theme on ethnopharmacology presents the field as an amalgam of perspectives primarily those of pharmacology pharmacognosy anthropology and botany it highlights the uniquely biocultural perspective on ethnopharmacology offered by medical anthropology which underscores that health and healing are culturally constructed and socially negotiated the definition of ethnopharmacology that frames this volume is the study of indigenous medical systems that connects the ethnography of health and healing with the physiological relevance of its medical practices the history of botanical medicines is traced from primate self medication to contributions to biomedicine the methods of ethnopharmacologic inquiry are presented from pharmacologic ecological ethnographic data management and ethical perspectives chapters are devoted to plants used in the treatment of specific disorders cancer parasitic infection aids inflammation diabetes and cardiovascular and neurodegenerative disorders the important role that plant medicines play in the developing world is revealed in discussion of ritual and ceremony safety issues health care and biodiversity these two volumes are aimed at the following a wide spectrum of audiences from the merely curious to those seeking in depth knowledge university and college students educators professional practitioners research personnel and policy analysts managers and decision makers and ngos

examines the path of souls or trail of ghosts a native american model for the after death journey demonstrates how psychoactive plants were used to evoke the liminal state between life and death in initiatory rites and spirit journeys explores the symbology of the large earthwork mounds erected by the indigenous people of the mississippi valley and how they connect to the path of souls the use of hallucinogenic substances like peyote and desert tobacco has long played a significant role in the spiritual practices and traditions of native americans while the majority of those practices are well documented the relationship between entheogens and native americans of the southeast has gone largely unexplored examining the role of psychoactive plants in afterlife traditions sacred rituals and spirit journeying by shamans of the mississippian mound cultures p d newman explores in depth the native american death journey known as the trail of ghosts or path of souls he demonstrates how practices such as fasting and trancework when used with psychedelic plants like jimsonweed black nightshade morning glory and amanita and psilocybin mushrooms could evoke the liminal state between life and death in initiatory rites and spirit journeys for shamans and chiefs he explores the earthwork and platform mounds built by indigenous cultures of the mississippi valley showing how they quite likely served as early models for the path of souls he also explores

similarities between the ghost trail afterlife journey and the well known egyptian and tibetan books of the dead

medical and health sciences is a component of encyclopedia of biological physiological and health sciences in the global encyclopedia of life support systems colss which is an integrated compendium of twenty one encyclopedias these volume set contains several chapters each of size 5000 30000 words with perspectives applications and extensive illustrations it carries state of the art knowledge in the fields of medical and health sciences and is aimed by virtue of the several applications at the following five major target audiences university and college students educators professional practitioners research personnel and policy analysts managers and decision makers and ngos

a practical approachable guide to using psilocybin the psychedelic compound found in mushrooms for health and wellness including information on varietals microdosing and the treatment of an array of mental and psychical ailments psilocybin is proving to have profound impact on health and wellness particularly in the areas of mental health and addiction from author and certified psychedelic therapist stacey simmons ma phd lmft mushroom pharmacy is the first comprehensive easy to understand guide to using mushrooms safely and effectively to alleviate symptoms and potentially cure the underlying causes of dozens of ailments from depression anxiety and addiction to ocd ptsd lyme disease alzheimer s disease migraines and more in this deeply researched practically oriented guide dr simmons helps readers understand how psilocybin acts on the brain the key elements of responsible psychedelic therapy and how the effects of this practice can lead to deep and permanent healing the book also educates readers in the practical aspects of how to responsibly forage for or grow their own mushrooms how to identify and use different more than 30 different psychedelic mushroom varieties and how to understand the dosing and administration of psychedelics written by an expert in the field this groundbreaking work is a must have for anyone interested in the brave new world of psychedelic medical treatment

how can an award winning source book that helps consumers find health information be improved health expert alan rees has done just that in his sixth edition by providing practical advice on using the internet tips on where to find spanish language health pamphlets and recommendations on what s most important in the world of alternative medicine the sixty edition provides users with an annotated guide to health related resources hotlines newsletters pamphlets sites cd roms magazines books and more readers are given a description on each resource and how to best use it

the most comprehensive guide to the botany pharmacology cultural ritual and personal use of erotically stimulating substances from antiquity to the present day details the use preparation and dosage of more than 400 plant animal mineral and synthetic substances both common and exotic as well as their botany science and legal status explores the historical and present use of aphrodisiacs and their role in sexual practices culture and art richly illustrated throughout with more than 800 color photographs the culmination of more than 30 years of cultural

anthropological and scientific research this encyclopedia examines the botany pharmacology history preparation dosage and practical use of more than 400 erotically stimulating substances from antiquity to the present day from plants and animals that enhance fertility and virility like celery snails or oysters to substances that induce arousal like ephedra opium or cannabis the encyclopedia is richly illustrated with more than 800 color photographs many of which are from the authors extensive fieldwork around the world exploring individual medicinal and ritual use through historic and contemporary artwork personal accounts and literature as well as ayurvedic tantric shamanic and european folklore practices and recent pharmacological research the authors look at the revolving cycle of acceptance and condemnation of aphrodisiacs the qualities that incur the label of aphrodisiac the role of mind and setting and the different ways aphrodisiacs stimulate desire either physically through the senses and vital organs or mentally through heightened awareness and altered consciousness this comprehensive guide reveals these remedies of the love goddess as holy remedies whose proper use can help reestablish harmony with oneself one's partner and the universe

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