

LET'S GO HIGH, NOT GET HIGH

This "dissertation" has been prompted by a decision which has produced such clarity and strength that I feel I must share it with others who may have questions about the use of drugs in relation to spiritual experience.

At this point I feel astonished to think that for the past two years I have been able to rationalize the use of drugs--marijuana and LSD--for the purpose of spiritual growth. Now, after the decision to stop using anything external in my spiritual life, nothing seems more absurd to me than trying to visualize talking with Jesus while lighting up a "joint," and listening to him tell me how our entrance into the kingdom and growth in the kingdom depends ONLY on faith, trust, love, prayer, and worship--all having to do with the inside me and not an external catalyst.

Decisions based on what one perceives to be truth can produce tremendous changes. For two years I had been sincerely searching for the truth about drugs, but it was only after I made the decision to stop using drugs that the clarity and strength came to me. I would like to share the following thoughts and references from the Urantia Book with you and I pray that you feel open enough on the issue to share my thoughts with your study groups.

"The keys of the kingdom are: sincerity, more sincerity, and more sincerity. All men have these keys. Men use them--advance in spirit status--by decisions, by more decisions, and by more decisions." (435)

Many are taking it for granted that drugs or external catalysts and the kingdom automatically go together. Many others are sincerely searching for the truth of this matter but it seems easier to continue searching for the truth and exploring this question, often while "high" than it is to make a committed decision about it. A decision involves a commitment and consequent action which in this case would entail the giving up of the use of a pleasant material agent to get "high." Then there would be ONLY faith to "expand the mind." The Master promises: "When my children once become conscious of the assurance of the divine presence, such a faith will expand the mind, ennoble the soul, reinforce the personality, augment the happiness, deepen the spirit perception, and enhance the power to love and be loved." (1766:g) Jesus says that faith will do all of these good things and yet some are saying--and I was one of them--that grass or acid are conducive to expansion, reinforcement, happiness, love.

Rodan of Alexandria said: "The mind of man thus becomes the mediator between material things and spiritual realities." (1779):1. But it seems to me--now--that marijuana is in essence being used by some as if it were that mediator. It supposedly helps us to be raised more quickly and easily from the material to the more spiritual world. I humbly admit that I was one of those saying this kind of thing. What good does it do to be lifted up immediately to a pinnacle of ecstatic "spiritualization" if one has not experienced the digging of every foothold in the arduous climb up? Perching on pinnacles prompted by chemical agents can be treacherous. I personally know that the times I usually felt most "spiritual" were when I was "high," but I felt always the need for something more, and I was not happy when the high wore off. If we go by way of the straight and narrow, the memory of the climb and the exuberance of the struggle won't wear off.

Jesus "did not use religion as a release from life. The religion of Jesus does not seek to escape this life in order to enjoy the waiting bliss of another existence. The religion of Jesus provides the joy and peace of another spiritual existence to enhance and ennoble the life which men now live in the flesh." (2060:2 I know that LSD can

take one a long way from the ordinary, everyday life. In many ways it is an escape from this life, for it is often used in an attempt to find or experience something that isn't experienced in our everyday living. "True religion is a meaningful way of living dynamically face to face with the commonplace realities of everyday life." (1089) For some, it seems that LSD has provided something of the "bliss of another existence"--and there certainly is little contact with commonplace realities on an acid trip. I found doing many of the ordinary daily things difficult while I was under the influence. I could not have gotten into my car and driven to help a friend in need, as I was called to the other night, if I had been "tripping." Finally, I have been able to make a great distinction between the electro-chemical realms of influence of LSD and the spiritual realms of powerful living by faith ONLY. We are told that we should not confuse the things of the material world with the realities of the spiritual world.

As people down through the ages have done every sort of conceivable thing in the name of the Lord, people now are taking--and advocating, which is worse--the taking of mind-distorting drugs in the Father's name. You have read from the Urantia Book, and it cannot be ignored by any sort of rationalization that purports to be for the benefit of truth, beauty, and goodness: "But how unkind knowingly to defile or otherwise deliberately to pollute the physical body, which must serve as the earthly tabernacle of this marvelous gift from God. All physical poisons greatly retard the efforts of the Adjuster to exhalt the material mind..." (1204) How easy it is to close our eyes for a long, long time to a truth that we don't want to realize--yet. I did, anyway. In discussing this passage with friends, it was suggested that many of our foods contain things that contaminate our bodies, so we should eat organic foods...and continue to get high by smoking dope for spiritual purposes? Who are we kidding? Certainly not the Father. I have never heard anyone say that smoke of any kind is beneficial to the body. But it seems that this aspect of things is by-passed because the effects of marijuana are so "healthy." I wonder, now, how I could have thought that those knowing personalities would have encouraged the use of something that could have harmful physical effects. I think the word that is a real clue for some of the more subtle arguments is the word "knowingly." Some of us do not know whether a certain food we are eating is contaminated or not, but that is a little different from purposefully putting smoke into one's body.

The Master told us: "Henceforth, it is not a duty but rather your exhalted privilege to cleanse yourselves from all evils of mind and body while you seek for perfection in the love of God." (1610:2) If we had the faith that Jesus talks about, we could not possibly think of making the "love of God" more real or tangible by the use of any drug. Marijuana and hashish are not new. They were around in the days of Jesus. He knew about them, and of course he watches us now try to work out our decisions about these "opiates." Consider another passage: "If religion is an opiate to the people, it is not the religion of Jesus. On the cross he refused to drink the deadening drug, and his spirit, poured out upon all flesh, is a mighty world influence which leads man upward and urges him onward." (2063:3) If Jesus refused to drink a drug to deaden his terrific pain; if he wanted to experience life as it really was, without delusions, how much more would we refuse to use drugs in the experiencing of life. We don't even have the excuse of pain. We have no excuse to interject into and along with this fifth revelation of planetary worth, something that is totally alien to the teachings of Jesus.

If we hope to attain even a minute particle of the perfection of the Master, then must we follow in his clear light of truth: "The secret of his unparalleled religious life was this consciousness of the presence of God; and he attained it by intelligent prayer and sincere worship--unbroken communion with God--and not by leadings, voices, visions, or extraordinary religious practices." (2089, my italics) This is another quotation that one entranced with drugs might rationalize away, but since Jesus did not mention the use of externals and neither does the Urantia Book, I now know that the use of any mind-altering drug is considered an "extraordinary practice."

Some of the reasons offered for the use of drugs are:

1. It helps us to become more aware of reality. The Urantia Book tells us that this awareness is innate: "The cosmic-mind-endowed, Adjuster-indwelt, personal creature possesses innate recognition-realization of energy reality, mind reality, and spirit reality. The will creature is thus equipped to discern the fact, the law, and the love of God." (195:4)
2. It helps produce an originality and a spontaneity. According to the Urantia Book these qualities are the result of the way we live: "It is difficult to identify and analyze the factors of a religious experience, but it is not difficult to observe that such religious practitioners live and carry on as if already in the presence of the Eternal. Believers react to this temporal life as if immortality already were within their grasp. In the lives of such mortals there is a valid originality and a spontaneity of expression that forever segregate them from those of their fellows who have imbibed only the wisdom of the world." (1119:8)
3. It helps us to be creative. But once again, "Faith is the inspiration of the spiritized creative imagination." (1459)

I have heard it said, and have thought in the past myself, that these drugs aid us in our thinking about spiritual matters; but we are told: "The reflective powers of the mind are deepened and broadened by worship." (1123, my italics) I don't think that this means to get high and then worship or think, but rather to reverse the process and go high.

Obviously the marijuana plant is a material thing and many of us have used or are still trying to use it as a spiritual force or aid. But "the element of error present in human religious experience is directly proportional to the content of materialism which contaminates the spiritual concept of the Universal Father." (1123:6)

I assure you that I have been deeply humbled by the serious error I have, until recently, been making. I will be asking the Father's forgiveness for some time to come for the part I have played in "contaminating and encouraging others to contaminate" the kingdom of the Father. How dare we even think that we need anything else for our spiritual growth than the unimaginable force that the Thought Adjuster and the Spirit of Truth can exercise in our lives, together with our own faith, trust, love, prayer and worship!

I do not think that the personalities that are responsible for putting this book together use the word "ONLY" lightly. Some say that the use of drugs is a technique or a tool in the spiritual quest. Consider the following: "Revelation is the only technique which can compensate for the absence of the truth sensitivity of mota in a material world. Revelation authoritatively clarifies the muddle of reason-developed metaphysics on an evolutionary sphere...Mortal man lacks the concept of morontia mind and material; and revelation is the only

technique for atoning for this deficiency in the conceptual data which man so urgently needs in order to construct a logical philosophy of the universe and to arrive at a satisfying understanding of his sure and settled place in that universe...Revelation is evolutionary man's only hope of bridging the morontia gulf." I seriously doubt that we have to take any external thing in order to receive revelation. (1136-1137, my italics) 1136:4

I think that I feel the strength and truth of my new-found conviction so clearly because I was willing humbly to admit my error and do a direct about-face on this issue of the use of drugs. I have been very much interested in this whole issue, both personally and because I have come to feel a planetary responsibility to live--at the very least--the best I can in the clear light.

With great conviction, based on years of experimentation with drugs; based on a sincere desire to do the Father's will; based on continual study of the Urantia Book for a very short couple of years; I entreat you who may be leaders in the spiritual renewal of this planet, with sincere students gathering around you for guidance; please read this personal testimony to your groups. Give them a chance to hear about the decision I have made; do not let them assume that drugs and the kingdom go together. For some of you I know that this statement of mine might create an uncomfortable feeling, for my life style was and your life style is partially based on that assumption. I, who have pleasantly smoked grass with at least a couple of you over a period of two or so years, humbly beseech you to reconsider your position...

For the sake of the mission of this book,
For the growth of those around us,
For the sacred responsibility that has been
trustingly placed in our hands,
And for the glory of the Father,

With my love and prayers,

Sara Lindoerfer
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