

---

Subject: Re: Marijuana

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Tue, 06 Feb 2007 00:52:18 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

warranto wrote on Mon, 05 February 2007 19:05No, I have never smoked a joint, nor will I ever do that.

The descriptions I've provided were from what I have seen (as in, with my own two eyes) others act like.

As for personal experience, you don't need it when you can make educated guesses.

If you let people have unrestricted access (I don't mean kids getting a hold of it, I mean as with current tobacco and alcohol distribution), it will be abused... regardless of the intent of the law. Before you bring in the failure of the prohibition of alcohol, let me remind you: the only reason that failed was because of how ingrained the consumption of alcohol is on the world's culture. Had it been illegal to begin with (way back when it was first developed), the prohibition of alcohol would have succeeded, if needed at all. This is the same reason people are so reluctant regarding current tobacco laws about its prohibition in public places. It's history is what makes people resistant, not the simple idea itself. The facts of its history, that is.

Without it's current history, I have no doubt that alcohol would be more restricted (it does have direct health-related benefits - ie. small consumption of wine leading to a stronger heart.. or whatever it was), and smoking would never have gotten a foothold.

So you're basically trying to say that using marijuana is relatively new, correct?

Quote:marijuana was probably first used as an intoxicant in India around 1000 B.C., and soon became an integral part of Hindu culture (Snyder, 1970: 125).

In China, where the marijuana plant had been used to make cloth and certain medicines for centuries, it was not recorded as an intoxicant. Explanations are unclear as to why marijuana was used as an intoxicant in India but not in China.

Marijuana was also used as an intoxicant in other parts of the world prior to 500 A.D. but was not as well documented as the use of opium.

The drug "nepenthe" in Homer's Odyssey is believed by a number of scholars to have been a brew in which the most active ingredient was hemp (Brotteaux, 1967: 10).

Galen wrote in the second century that it was customary to promote hilarity and happiness at banquets by giving the guests hemp (Reininger, 1967: 14-15).

Cannabis is used in three different preparations in India (Snyder, 1970: 27). The first is called Bhang, comparable in potency to marijuana in the United States.

It is made from the leaves and stems of uncultivated plants and blended into a pleasant tasting liquid concoction.

The second is Ganja, more potent than Bhang, made from the tops of cultivated plants.

The third and most potent preparation, charas, is similar to hashish or "hash" and is obtained by scraping the resin from the leaves of the cultivated plants. Hard blocks are pressed from this material which are converted for smoking.

High-caste Hindus are not permitted to use alcohol. But they are allowed Bhang at religious ceremonials, and also employ it as an intoxicant at marriage ceremonies and family festivals.

Bhang is used by laborers in India in much the same way as beer is used in the United States (Barber, 1970: 80).

The lower classes of India use either a few pulls at a Ganja pipe or sip a glass of Bhang at the end of the day to relieve fatigue (Grinspoon, 1971: 173), to obtain a sense of well-being, to stimulate appetite, and to enable them to bear more cheerfully the "strain and monotony of . . . daily routines" (Geller and Boas, 1969: 5).

These types of users and objectives are frequently the reverse of those in the United States where marijuana users consider themselves an exclusive and advanced "in-group" (Andrews and Vinkenog, 1967: iii). A major intoxicant use in India is for religious purposes.

That would say otherwise. Oh, and Wikipedia, too...

Quote:Biologists generally agree that the cannabis plant first grew somewhere in the Himalayas.[citation needed] Evidence of the smoking of cannabis can be found as far back as the Neolithic age, where charred hemp seeds were found in a ritual brazier at a burial site in present day Romania.[2] The most famous users of cannabis were the ancient Hindus. It was called ganjika in Sanskrit (ganja in modern Indian languages, named for the Ganges river [3]).[4] The ancient drug soma, mentioned in the Vedas as a sacred intoxicating hallucinogen, was sometimes associated with cannabis.[5]

The citizens of the Persian Empire would partake in the ceremonial burning of massive cannabis bonfires, directly exposing themselves and neighboring tribes to the billowing fumes, often for over 24 hours.[6][7]

Cannabis was also well known to the Assyrians, who discovered it from the Aryans. Using it in some religious ceremonies, they called it qunubu, or the drug for sadness. Also introduced by the Aryans, the Scythians as well as the Thracians/Dacians used it, whose shamans (the kapnobatai - "those who walk on smoke/clouds") burned cannabis flowers in order to induce trances. The cult of Dionysus, which is believed to have originated in Thrace, is also believed to have inhaled cannabis smoke.

In 2006, dried cannabis leaves were found with a 2,800 year old mummy of a shaman in Xinjiang, China.[8]