

food of the gods mckenna

Food of the Gods McKenna: Exploring the Mystical and Cultural Significance of a Unique Culinary Experience

Introduction

The phrase **food of the gods mckenna** evokes images of divine nourishment, mystical rituals, and cultural traditions that elevate eating from a mundane activity to an extraordinary experience. While the term can refer to various culinary phenomena or metaphoric expressions, one notable association is with Terence McKenna, the renowned ethnobotanist and philosopher, who often discussed the profound spiritual and cultural significance of certain foods and substances. This article delves into the multifaceted world of the "food of the gods," exploring its historical roots, cultural relevance, and modern interpretations, especially in relation to McKenna's ideas and contributions.

Understanding the Concept of "Food of the Gods"

The phrase "food of the gods" has ancient origins, rooted in mythology and religious traditions across civilizations.

Historical and Mythological Roots

Ancient Mythologies

- Greek Mythology: Ambrosia and nectar were considered the divine foods that granted immortality to gods.
- Hindu Mythology: Amrita, the nectar of immortality, was consumed during the churning of the ocean (Samudra Manthan), symbolizing divine sustenance.
- Mesoamerican Cultures: Maize (corn) was revered as a gift from the gods, central to spiritual and cultural practices.

Religious Significance

- Many religions regard certain foods as sacred or imbued with divine power, such as Eucharist in Christianity, which symbolizes the body of Christ.
- Ritualistic consumption of specific foods often serves as a connection between the mortal and divine realms.

The Modern Interpretation: "Food of the Gods" as Psychedelic Substances

In contemporary contexts, the phrase has expanded beyond literal foods to encompass psychoactive substances regarded as gateways to higher consciousness or spiritual insight.

Terence McKenna and the Psychedelic Connection

Terence McKenna, a prominent advocate for the responsible use of psychedelics, famously referred to certain plants and fungi as the "food of the gods." His exploration centered around how these substances could unlock human potential and facilitate spiritual awakening.

Key Plants and Fungi Discussed by McKenna

- Psilocybin Mushrooms: Known as "magic mushrooms," containing compounds that induce visionary experiences.
- Ayahuasca: A South American brew combining Banisteriopsis caapi and DMT-containing plants.
- Peyote and San Pedro Cacti: Containing mescaline, used in indigenous rituals for spiritual insight.

The Significance of These Substances

- McKenna believed these "foods" of the gods offered a direct line to the divine, serving as catalysts for personal and collective evolution.
- He emphasized their role in shamanic traditions and their potential to expand consciousness.

Cultural and Culinary Aspects of the "Food of the Gods"

While the psychedelic perspective is intriguing, many cultures have traditionally considered certain foods as divine or spiritually significant.

Traditional Foods Revered as Divine

Maize (Corn) in Mesoamerican Cultures

- Central to rituals, offerings, and mythology.
- Celebrated in festivals like Día de los Muertos, symbolizing life and rebirth.

Sacred Grains and Cereals

- Rice, wheat, and barley have served as staples and offerings in various religious ceremonies.
- These foods often symbolize sustenance, life, and divine blessing.

Fruits and Vegetables in Rituals

- Offerings of fruits like bananas, pomegranates, and figs symbolize abundance and divine favor.
- Used in temple rituals, festivals, and ceremonial meals.

Modern Interpretations and "Superfoods"

In the 21st century, the concept of divine or sacred food has evolved into the health and wellness movement, which elevates certain foods as "superfoods."

Popular "Foods of the Gods" in Modern Diets

- Blueberries: Rich in antioxidants, considered to promote vitality.
- Turmeric: Often called a "golden spice" with anti-inflammatory properties.
- Cacao: The raw form of chocolate, regarded as a mood enhancer and source of divine pleasure.
- Maca Root: Used for energy and hormonal balance.

These foods are often marketed as elevating the body and mind, aligning with the idea of divine nourishment.

The Role of Food in Spiritual and Psychedelic Practices

Food, whether literal or metaphorical, plays a vital role in various spiritual traditions and practices inspired by McKenna's ideas.

Food as a Sacred Ritual

Communal Feasts and Offerings

- Many cultures hold communal meals as sacred acts, fostering unity and spiritual connection.
- Offerings to deities or spirits often include specific foods considered sacred or potent.

Fasting and Dietary Restrictions

- Fasting is a common practice to purify the body and mind before spiritual or psychedelic experiences.
- Certain diets are believed to prepare individuals for heightened spiritual receptivity.

Entheogenic Diets

- Specific diets designed to optimize the effects of psychedelic substances, emphasizing natural, unprocessed foods.

The Intersection of Food and Psychedelic Experiences

Terence McKenna's advocacy highlighted that certain foods and substances could serve as gateways to mystical states.

Enhancing Psychedelic Journeys Through Diet

- Preparation: Avoiding processed foods, alcohol, and heavy meals before ingestion.
- Integration: Consuming nourishing, plant-based foods post-experience to facilitate integration and healing.
- Sacred Spaces: Creating ritualistic environments with symbolic foods enhances the spiritual aspect of journeys.

The Future of the "Food of the Gods" Concept

As science and spirituality continue to intertwine, the idea of divine nourishment is expanding.

Innovations and Trends

- Plant-Based and Ethical Foods: Emphasizing sustainability aligns with spiritual reverence for life.
- Functional Foods: Incorporating adaptogens and nootropics to support mental clarity and spiritual growth.
- Ayahuasca and Psychedelic Retreats: Combining traditional foods, rituals, and modern therapies to foster enlightenment.

Potential Research Areas

- The impact of diet on psychedelic experiences.
- Nutritional approaches to enhance spiritual and mental health.
- Ethical sourcing and cultural respect for traditional sacred foods.

Conclusion

The concept of **food of the gods mckenna** encapsulates a rich tapestry of mythology, spirituality, culture, and modern wellness. From ancient mythologies venerating divine sustenance to contemporary discussions about psychedelics as sacred foods, this idea continues to inspire a quest for higher understanding and connection. Whether through traditional rituals, sacred plant medicines, or nourishing superfoods, the pursuit of divine nourishment remains a universal theme. As we forge ahead, respecting cultural traditions

and embracing scientific insights can help us harness the profound power of food—literal or metaphorical—as a pathway to enlightenment and well-being.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Food of the Gods' by McKenna about?

The 'Food of the Gods' by Terence McKenna explores the historical and cultural significance of psychoactive plants, particularly focusing on how they have influenced human consciousness and evolution.

Which psychoactive substances are discussed in McKenna's 'Food of the Gods'?

McKenna discusses substances like psilocybin mushrooms, DMT, and other entheogens, emphasizing their role in spiritual and cultural development.

How does McKenna link 'food of the gods' to human evolution?

McKenna posits that the ingestion of psychedelic plants played a crucial role in the development of human consciousness, language, and culture, effectively acting as 'food of the gods' that catalyzed evolution.

Is 'Food of the Gods' considered a scientific or philosophical work?

The book is a blend of scientific research, ethnobotany, and philosophical inquiry, combining evidence from various disciplines to explore the impact of psychedelics on human history.

What impact has McKenna's 'Food of the Gods' had on modern psychedelic culture?

McKenna's work has significantly influenced modern psychedelic advocacy, inspiring new generations to explore consciousness and reconsider the role of entheogens in society.

Are there any controversial aspects of McKenna's 'Food of the Gods'?

Yes, some critics question McKenna's interpretations of historical and cultural data, and his advocacy for widespread psychedelic use remains debated within scientific and ethical circles.

How does 'Food of the Gods' relate to McKenna's broader philosophical ideas?

The book complements McKenna's ideas about novelty, the nature of consciousness, and the importance of psychedelic substances as tools for personal and societal transformation.

Can 'Food of the Gods' be considered a guide for psychedelic exploration?

While it offers valuable insights into the history and significance of psychedelics, 'Food of the Gods' is more philosophical and historical than a practical guide for psychedelic use.

Has 'Food of the Gods' influenced scientific research on psychedelics?

McKenna's work has inspired ongoing research and discussion about the therapeutic and consciousness-expanding potential of psychedelics, although it's largely regarded as a philosophical and cultural exploration rather than a scientific manual.

Additional Resources

Food of the Gods McKenna: An In-Depth Exploration of a Cult Classic Psychedelic Experience

Introduction to Food of the Gods McKenna

The phrase Food of the Gods McKenna immediately evokes a sense of mystique, blending the legendary status of Terence McKenna with the allure of psychedelic lore. McKenna, a renowned ethnobotanist, philosopher, and advocate for psychedelic exploration, often discussed the transformative potential of visionary plants. When combined with the term "Food of the Gods," it hints at a profound, possibly sacred, psychedelic experience that transcends ordinary perception. This piece aims to unpack the origins, cultural significance, and experiential aspects of the Food of the Gods as associated with McKenna, providing a comprehensive guide for enthusiasts and newcomers alike.

Origins and Conceptual Background

Terence McKenna's Philosophical Framework

Terence McKenna was a towering figure in the psychedelic community, known for his eloquent discussions on consciousness, plant medicines, and the evolution of human culture. He often referenced the idea that certain plants—like psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca, and DMT—serve as gateways to higher understanding, or as "food" for the mind and soul.

- The "Food" Metaphor: McKenna frequently used culinary metaphors to describe psychedelic substances—calling them "food" that nourishes the mind or "sacred meals" that open portals to other worlds.
- "Food of the Gods": This phrase is rooted in the ancient mythologies and refers to divine or sacred sustenance that grants wisdom, immortality, or enlightenment. McKenna saw psychedelics as modern equivalents—celestial nourishment that connects humanity with its divine origins.

Mythological and Cultural Significance

Throughout history, various cultures have regarded certain substances as divine:

- Mushrooms: Often called "God's food" or "entheogenic fungi" in indigenous traditions.
- Ayahuasca: Revered as a sacred brew that connects humans to spirits and ancestors.
- DMT: Considered by McKenna as the "spirit molecule," providing profound insights into the nature of reality.

McKenna's philosophy suggests that these substances are not merely recreational but are integral to understanding our place in the universe—the true "Food of the Gods".

The McKenna Perspective on Psychedelic Food

Understanding the "Food" as a Tool for Evolution

McKenna believed that psychedelics are catalysts for human evolution, enabling us to access higher states of consciousness, unlock creative potentials, and heal psychological traumas.

- Enhancing Perception: Psychedelic "food" alters sensory processing, revealing deeper layers of reality.
- Spiritual Nourishment: It fosters spiritual growth, self-awareness, and connection to the cosmos.
- Cultural Transformation: McKenna saw psychedelic substances as vital to cultural evolution, akin to a sacred "meal" that renews the human spirit.

Specific Substances as "Divine Food"

While McKenna spoke broadly about various plant medicines, a few key substances often associated with the "Food of the Gods" include:

- Psilocybin Mushrooms: The quintessential sacred fungi, used for millennia in indigenous rituals.
- DMT (Dimethyltryptamine): The powerful, rapidly acting psychedelic that induces intense visionary states.
- Ayahuasca: A brew combining DMT-rich plants with MAO inhibitors, facilitating profound spiritual journeys.

Each of these substances serves as a divine sustenance, offering insights into the nature of consciousness, existence, and interconnectedness.

Experiential Aspects of the Food of the Gods

The Psychedelic Journey

Engaging with the "Food of the Gods"—whether through mushrooms, ayahuasca, or DMT—results in multi-layered experiences that can vary widely based on set, setting, dosage, and individual psychology.

- Visual Phenomena: Vivid, often geometric or fractal imagery that seems to pulse with life.
- Altered Sense of Time and Space: A dissolution of linear perception, leading to feelings of eternity or infinity.
- Ego Dissolution: A temporary loss of individual identity, often described as merging with the cosmos or divine consciousness.
- Emotional Release: Intense feelings of awe, love, or catharsis, sometimes accompanied by confrontations with shadow aspects.

The Sacred and the Profane

For McKenna, these experiences transcend mere entertainment—they are sacred encounters with the divine. Users often describe sensations of being nourished or "fed" by the experience, akin to ingesting divine sustenance.

- Mystical Union: Feeling of becoming one with the universe or divine entities.
- Insight and Revelation: Profound realizations about self, society, or existence.
- Healing: Addressing psychological wounds or traumas through the insights gained.

Challenges and Cautions

While the "Food of the Gods" can be transformative, it also demands respect:

- Set and Setting: The mental state and environment profoundly influence outcomes.
- Preparation: Proper intention-setting and understanding of the substance are crucial.
- Integration: Post-experience reflection and integration are necessary for lasting benefits.
- Risks: Potential for psychological distress or adverse reactions if misused.

The Cultural and Scientific Significance

Historical Use of Sacred Plants

Indigenous cultures have long regarded certain plants as divine food:

- Mesoamerican Cultures: Used psilocybin mushrooms and cacao in religious ceremonies.
- South American Tribes: Revered ayahuasca as a bridge to spirits and ancestors.
- African Traditions: Utilized various plants for spiritual and healing rituals.

These traditions emphasize reverence, communal experience, and spiritual nourishment—concepts aligned with McKenna's view of psychedelics as divine food.

Scientific Validation and Modern Research

Recent scientific studies have begun to validate McKenna's assertions about the profound impact of psychedelic "food":

- Neuroscience Findings: Psychedelics can increase neural connectivity, promote neurogenesis, and temporarily disable the brain's default mode network.
- Psychotherapy: Psychedelic-assisted therapy shows promise for depression, PTSD, and addiction.
- Spiritual Experiences: Studies indicate that psychedelics reliably induce mystical-type experiences, often described as deeply nourishing and transformative.

This emerging science supports the idea that these substances serve as nutrients for the mind and spirit—modern "Food of the Gods."

Practical Aspects of Engaging with the Food of the Gods

Preparation and Setting

- Intention: Clarify your purpose—self-exploration, healing, spiritual connection.
- Environment: Choose a safe, comfortable space free from interruptions.
- Support: Consider having a sober sitter or guide experienced in psychedelic work.

Dosage and Administration

- Start Low and Go Slow: Especially for beginners, to ensure safety and comfort.
- Traditional vs. Modern Methods:
 - Traditional: Indigenous ceremonies, shaman-led rituals.
 - Modern: Personal use, guided sessions, or integration programs.

Post-Experience Integration

- Reflection: Journaling or creative expression to process insights.
- Community: Sharing with trusted individuals or support groups.
- Continued Learning: Reading, meditation, or therapy to deepen understanding.

Conclusion: Embracing the Divine Nourishment

The Food of the Gods McKenna embodies more than just psychedelic substances; it symbolizes a sacred, nourishing force that can elevate human consciousness, heal wounds, and reconnect us with the divine. McKenna's teachings remind us that these substances are not recreational but are vital tools—celestial food—offering wisdom, enlightenment, and transformation.

Approached with respect, reverence, and proper preparation, engaging with this divine "food" can be a profoundly nourishing journey—one that may unlock the dormant potential within us all and guide humanity toward a higher state of being. Whether through psilocybin, DMT, or ayahuasca, the quest for the Food of the Gods remains a timeless pursuit—a sacred feast for the soul.

Disclaimer: Always prioritize safety and legality when exploring psychedelic substances.

Consult with qualified professionals and adhere to local laws and guidelines.

Food Of The Gods Mckenna

food of the gods mckenna: Food Of The Gods Terence McKenna, 2010-02-23 'The single most influential spokesperson for organic psychedelics' The Independent What can altered states of consciousness reveal about our origins and our place in nature? In this landmark piece of psychedelic literature renowned ethnobotanist and psychonaut Terence McKenna explores our ancient relationship with organic psychedelics and opens a doorway to a higher state of being for us all. An odyssey of mind, body and spirit, Food of the Gods is one of the most fascinating and surprising histories of consciousness ever written. A daring work of scholarship and exploration, it offers an inspiring vision for individual fulfilment and a humane basis for our interaction with each other and the natural world. 'The modern classic on mind-altering drugs and hallucinogens' The Washington Post

food of the gods mckenna: Food of the Gods Terence McKenna, 1992 McKenna's extraordinary quest to discover the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. He wonders why we are so fascinated by altered states of consciousness, do they reveal something about our origins as human beings and our place in nature?

food of the gods mckenna: Summary of Food of the Gods by Terence Mckenna Alden Marshall, A concise and professionally-researched summary of Terence Mckenna's book: Food of the Gods. From Alden Marshall's Condensed Esoterica series, this complete summary provides a fast and straightforward way to understand and study the main ideas and concepts of the original source text. About the Original Book: Food of the Gods by Terence Mckenna is filled with the personal aspects of his personality and hopes mixed into the history of essential elements through the text and different cultures. McKenna expresses his desire for the legalization of drugs and the return to archaic traditions. In this book, he discusses the ancient use of drugs focusing on plant hallucinogenic and how they might be responsible for shaping humanity in the present; aspects such as language, behavior, and consciousness are explored at length regarding human evolution. Added-value of this summary: * Save time * Understand the key concepts * Expand your knowledge Note to readers: This is an unofficial summary and analysis of the book and not the original book itself. Alden Marshall and the Condensed Esoterica Collection are wholly responsible for this content and are not associated with the original author in any way. You are encouraged to purchase and read the original text in addition to this summary.

food of the gods mckenna: Food of the Gods Terence McKenna, 1999

food of the gods mckenna: High Culture Christopher Partridge, 2018-06-01 History is littered with evidence of humanity's fascination with drugs and the pursuit of altered states. From early Romanticism to late-nineteenth-century occultism and from fin de siècle Paris to contemporary psychedelic shamanism, psychoactive substances have played catalyzing people. Yet serious analysis of the religious dimensions of modern drug use is still lacking. the use of drugs and the pursuit of transcendence from the nineteenth century to the present day. Beginning with the Romantic fascination with opium, it chronicles the discovery of anesthetics, the psychiatric and religious interest in hashish, the bewitching power of mescaline and hallucinogenic fungi, the more recent uses of LSD, as well as the debates surrounding drugs and religious experience. This fascinating and wide-ranging sociological and cultural history fills a major gap in the study of religion in the modern world and our understanding of the importance of countercultural thought, offering new and timely insights into the controversial relationship between drugs and mystical experience.

food of the gods mckenna: The Re-Enchantment of the West, Vol 2 Christopher Partridge, 2006-04-20 The Re-Enchantment of the West challenges those theories that predict widespread

secularization beyond traditional institutional religiosity. Spiritualities are emerging that are not only quite different from the those forms of religion that are in decline, but are often defined over against them and articulated and passed on in ways quite different from those of traditional religion. In particular, it is argued that such contemporary Western spirituality is fed by a constantly replenished reservoir of ideas, practices, and methodologies, which is here termed 'occulture'. Moreover, such occultural ideas both feed into and are resourced by popular culture. Indeed, popular occulture is a key feature of the re-enchantment of the West. Demonstrating the significance and ubiquity of these ideas, this book examines, for example, healthcare and nursing, contemporary environmentalism, psychedelia and drug use, the Internet and cyberspirituality, belief in UFOs and extraterrestrial life, demonology and the contemporary fascination with the figure of Satan, the heavy metal subculture, popular apocalypticism, and millennial violence.

food of the gods mckenna: *Strange Attractor* Graham St John, 2025-10-07 An intellectual biography of one of the most celebrated and yet least understood figures of the late twentieth century, Terence McKenna. A stand-up philosopher who made a unique contribution to science, humanism, and the hidden arts, Terence McKenna (1946–2000) was the twentieth century's psychedelic Renaissance man. Perfecting his rugged philosophy on the role of psychedelics in evolution, consciousness, and time, McKenna was a riotous charmer who stalked the shadows, but also sought the iridescence. More than twenty years since his untimely passing, McKenna has an enduring magnetism across the virtual pop stream, in pervasive digitization, and within social media networks. In *Strange Attractor*, the first biography of this enigmatic figure, Graham St John detects the signal behind the noise. This book is an engaging chronicle of the life, works, and legacy of this brazen adventurer of the inner and outer dimensions, whose weird intelligence has affected multitudes and whose spirit continues to haunt the present. It draws on original documents and letters, features fifty two rare photographs and artworks, and shares previously untold stories from over eighty people. Neither glorifying nor disparaging its subject, *Strange Attractor* will appeal to those interested in the evolution of a psychedelic intellectual, and to those for whom McKenna's wisdom endures.

food of the gods mckenna: *Wild Abandon* Alexander Menrisky, 2020-12-17 The American wilderness narrative, which divides nature from culture, has remained remarkably persistent despite the rise of ecological science, which emphasizes interconnection between these spheres. *Wild Abandon* considers how ecology's interaction with radical politics of authenticity in the twentieth century has kept that narrative alive in altered form. As ecology gained political momentum in the 1960s and 1970s, many environmentalists combined it with ideas borrowed from psychoanalysis and a variety of identity-based social movements. The result was an identity politics of ecology that framed ecology itself as an authentic identity position repressed by cultural forms, including social differences and even selfhood. Through readings of texts by Edward Abbey, Simon Ortiz, Toni Morrison, Margaret Atwood, and Jon Krakauer, among others, Alexander Menrisky argues that writers have both dramatized and critiqued this tendency, in the process undermining the concept of authenticity altogether and granting insight into alternative histories of identity and environment.

food of the gods mckenna: *The Odysseum* David Bramwell, Jo Tinsley, 2019-01-08 Explore the extraordinary stories behind some of the greatest - and strangest - adventures and explorations in human history.

food of the gods mckenna: *Latin American Culture and the Limits of the Human* Lucy Bollington, Paul Merchant, 2020-03-18 This volume explores works from Latin American literary and visual culture that question what it means to be human and examine the ways humans and nonhumans shape one another. In doing so, it provides new perspectives on how the region challenges and adds to global conversations about humanism and the posthuman. Contributors identify posthumanist themes across a range of different materials, including an anecdote about a plague of rabbits in *Historia de las Indias* by Spanish historian Bartolomé de las Casas, photography depicting desert landscapes at the site of Brazil's War of Canudos, and digital and installation art portraying victims of state-sponsored and drug violence in Colombia and Mexico. The essays

illuminate how these cultural texts broach the limits between life and death, human and animal, technology and the body, and people and the environment. They also show that these works use the category of the human to address issues related to race, gender, inequality, necropolitics, human rights, and the role of the environment. Latin American Culture and the Limits of the Human demonstrates that by focusing on the boundary between the human and nonhuman, writers, artists, and scholars can open up new dimensions to debates about identity and difference, the local and the global, and colonialism and power. Contributors: Natalia Aguilar Vásquez | Emily Baker | Lucy Bollington | Liliana Chávez Díaz | Carlos Fonseca | Niall H.D. Geraghty | Edward King | Rebecca Kosick | Nicole Delia Legnani | Paul Merchant | Joanna Page | Joey Whitfield

food of the gods mckenna: Fry, Thrive, or Die Dr. Mike Amaranthus, 2023-03-15 Are you skeptical of your ability to distinguish a delicious mushroom from a deadly one? Do you want to find, process, and prepare wild mushrooms for food and medicine? Fry, Thrive, or Die features fifty common, delicious, hallucinogenic, medicinal, and poisonous mushrooms of the Western United States. The guide prepares readers to hunt and serve wild mushrooms, as well as delight the reader with stories, history, possibilities, recipes, and more. A pocket-sized field guide to the most prominent and distinctive wild mushrooms in the Western United States, from the Pacific Coast to the Rocky Mountains, and from the Southwest deserts to the Olympic Peninsula rainforests. Each species is identified with a detailed color picture, distinct features, as well as information on habitat, fruiting timing, edibility, creative uses, and dangerous look-alikes. Mushrooms attract a distinct audience. There are wild mushrooms that make a splendid meal, can improve your health, potentially save your life, or end your life. This guide is suitable for both beginning foragers as well as experienced mushroom maniacs who seek new information on mushroom medicines, toxins, hallucinogens, innovative applications, and edibility. Happy hunting and fry and thrive!

food of the gods mckenna: Rave On Matthew Collin, 2018-10-09 Peace, Love, Unity, and Respect. Cultural liberation and musical innovation. Pyrotechnics, bottle service, bass drops, and molly. Electronic dance music has been a vital force for more than three decades now, and has undergone transformation upon transformation as it has taken over the world. In this searching, lyrical account of dance music culture worldwide, Matthew Collin takes stock of its highest highs and lowest lows across its global trajectory. Through firsthand reportage and interviews with clubbers and DJs, Collin documents the itinerant musical form from its underground beginnings in New York, Chicago, and Detroit in the 1980s, to its explosions in Ibiza and Berlin, to today's mainstream music scenes in new frontiers like Las Vegas, Shanghai, and Dubai. Collin shows how its dizzying array of genres—from house, techno, and garage to drum and bass, dubstep, and psytrance—have given voice to locally specific struggles. For so many people in so many different places, electronic dance music has been caught up in the search for free cultural space: forming the soundtrack to liberation for South African youth after Apartheid; inspiring a psychedelic party culture in Israel; offering fleeting escape from—and at times into—corporatization in China; and even undergirding a veritable “independent republic” in a politically contested slice of the former Soviet Union. Full of admiration for the possibilities the music has opened up all over the world, Collin also unflinchingly probes where this utopianism has fallen short, whether the culture maintains its liberating possibilities today, and where it might go in the future.

food of the gods mckenna: Making Sense of Marshall Ledbetter Daniel M. Harrison, 2014-11-11 Armed with an empty whiskey bottle and wearing a tie-dyed Jimi Hendrix T-shirt, Florida State University dropout Marshall Ledbetter broke into the Florida State Capitol early one morning in June 1991. He occupied the Sergeant of Arms suite, demanding an extra-large Gumby's pizza and 666 donuts for the cops waiting outside. He hoped to garner media attention for his protest of poverty, homelessness, and cuts to higher education. After an eight hour standoff, Ledbetter was betrayed by the very media he had counted on to tell his story; his demands were not broadcast on CNN as he had been promised but streamed into the office on closed-circuit TV. Although he left the building peacefully, the ensuing trial, his trips in and out of the state's mental health institutions over the following decade, and his eventual suicide in 2003 speak to how difficult it is to untangle

addiction, isolation, brilliance, and deviance. Ledbetter's invasion of the Capitol remains the biggest security breach of the building's history, but Daniel Harrison's telling of the Ledbetter saga is about more than one misguided young man's breaking and entering into the state's most secure building. Making Sense of Marshall Ledbetter thoughtfully and honestly explores the ways society manages deviant people in real world situations and whether or not our law enforcement and justice systems are adequately equipped to handle mental illness.

food of the gods mckenna: Everyday Ecofascism Alexander Menrisky, 2025-05-06 A timely look into how fascist ideas permeate contemporary culture well beyond the far right As challenges posed by climate change have intensified in the twenty-first century, right-wing figures in the United States and abroad have increasingly framed anti-immigrant, anti-Indigenous, and white-supremacist sentiments in terms of environmental survival. Everyday Ecofascism explores the insidious nature of this tendency, revealing how permutations of these perspectives in fact resonate across the political spectrum. Drawing on comparative studies of fascism writ large, Alexander Menrisky demonstrates that ecofascism is best understood not as a uniquely right-wing ideology but as a political genre that reinforces white supremacy and other forms of domination. Presenting a view of fascism as a complex power network that plays out on scales both large and small, Menrisky shows how extremist sentiments have crept into everyday language, stories, and ideas. Through a literary and cultural studies lens, he illuminates ecofascism's narrative patterns and their easy permeation of environmentalist discourses, from back-to-the-land movements to the resurgence of psychedelic drugs, food localism, and pandemic politics. Opposite his analysis of ecofascism in action, Menrisky sheds important light on narrative resistances to dominant conceptions of race, nation, and territory by Native, queer, and women-of-color writers who have countered ethnonationalism for generations. Bridging past and present, Menrisky powerfully nails down the emergent concept of ecofascism and forms a basis for understanding phenomena like Covid-19, ecological utopianism, and psychedelic environmentalism that detangles ecofascist tendencies from justice-oriented visions of place-based belonging. Retail e-book files for this title are screen-reader friendly.

food of the gods mckenna: American Gnosis Arthur Versluis, 2023-10-20 Drawing from the early Christian heretical category of Gnosticism, American Gnosis explores the emergence of new forms of Gnostic religion throughout the Americas. Arthur Versluis explores the concept of Gnosis and examines neo-gnostic elements in contemporary American culture, including in religion, literature, film, and politics.

food of the gods mckenna: Covert Plants Prudence Gibson, Baylee Brits, 2018 Covert Plants contributes to newly emerging discourses on the implications of vegetal life for the arts and culture. This stretches to changes in our perception of 'nature' and to the adapting roles of botany, evolutionary ecology, and environmental aesthetics in the humanities. Its editors and contributors seek various expressions of vegetal life rather than the mere representation of such, and they proceed from the conviction that a rigorous approach to thinking with and through vegetal life must be interdisciplinary. At a time when urgent calls for restorative care and reparative action have been sounded for the environment, this essay volume presents a range of academic and creative perspectives, from evolutionary biology to literary theory, philosophy to poetry, which respond to the perplexing problems and paradoxes of vegetal thinking. Representations of vegetal life often include plant analogies and plant imagery. These representations have at times obscured the diversity of plant behavior and experience. Covert Plants probes the implications of vegetal life for thought and how new plant science is changing our perception of the vegetal - around us and in us. How can we think, speak, and write about plant life without falling into human-nature dyads, or without tumbling into reductive theoretical notions about the always complex relations between cognition and action, identity and value, subject and object? A full view of this shifting perspective requires a 'stereoscopic' lens through which to view plants, but also simultaneously to alter our human-centered viewpoint. Plants are no longer the passive object of contemplation, but are increasingly resembling 'subjects, ' 'stakeholders, ' or 'actors.' As such, the plant now makes unprecedented demands upon the nature of contemplation itself. Moreover, the aesthetic, political,

and legal implications of new knowledge regarding plants' ability to communicate, sense, and learn require intensive, cross-disciplinary investigation. By doing this, we can intervene into current attitudes to climate change and sustainability, and hopefully revise, for the better, human philosophies, ethics, and aesthetics that touch upon plant life. TABLE OF CONTENTS// Baylee Brits and Prudence Gibson, Introduction: Covert Plants - Prudence Gibson and Michael Marder, Art Expresses Its Own Appearance: A Conversation with Michael Marder - Prudence Gibson, The Colour Green - Baylee Brits, Brain Trees: Neuroscientific Metaphor and Botanical Thought - Dalia Nassar, Metaphoric Plants: Goethe's Metamorphosis of Plants and the Metaphors of Reason - Stephen Muecke, Mixed up with Trees: The Gadgud and the Dreaming - Monica Gagliano, Eco-psychology and the Return to the Dream of Nature - Suzanne Anker, The Blue Rose - Susie Pratt, Trees as Landlords and Other Public Experiments: An Interview with Natalie Jeremijenko - Tessa Laird, Spores from Space: Becoming the Alien - Jennifer Mae Hamilton, Gardening After the Anthropocene: Creating Different Relations between Humans and Edible Plants in Sydney - Lucas Ihlein, Agricultural Inventiveness: Beyond Environmental Management? - Andrew Belletty, An Ear to the Ground - Ben Woodard, Continuous Green Abstraction: Embodied Knowledge, Intuition, and Metaphor - Lisa Dowdall, Figures - Poems by Luke Fischer, Justin Clemens, Paul Dawson, and Tamryn Bennett.

food of the gods mckenna: Breaking Open the Head Daniel Pinchbeck, 2003-08-12 A dazzling work of personal travelogue and cultural criticism that ranges from the primitive to the postmodern in a quest for the promise and meaning of the psychedelic experience. While psychedelics of all sorts are demonized in America today, the visionary compounds found in plants are the spiritual sacraments of tribal cultures around the world. From the iboga of the Bwiti in Gabon, to the Mazatecs of Mexico, these plants are sacred because they awaken the mind to other levels of awareness--to a holographic vision of the universe. Breaking Open the Head is a passionate, multilayered, and sometimes rashly personal inquiry into this deep division. On one level, Daniel Pinchbeck tells the story of the encounters between the modern consciousness of the West and these sacramental substances, including such thinkers as Allen Ginsberg, Antonin Artaud, Walter Benjamin, and Terence McKenna, and a new underground of present-day ethnobotanists, chemists, psychonauts, and philosophers. It is also a scrupulous recording of the author's wide-ranging investigation with these outlaw compounds, including a thirty-hour tribal initiation in West Africa; an all-night encounter with the master shamans of the South American rain forest; and a report from a psychedelic utopia in the Black Rock Desert that is the Burning Man Festival. Breaking Open the Head is brave participatory journalism at its best, a vivid account of psychic and intellectual experiences that opened doors in the wall of Western rationalism and completed Daniel Pinchbeck's personal transformation from a jaded Manhattan journalist to shamanic initiate and grateful citizen of the cosmos.

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studies on psilocybin in the U.S. and U.K. • Details the author's work to keep the use of psilocybin mushrooms legal in the U.K. and shows that an irrational rejection of scientific evidence underlies the harsh war against psychedelic states of consciousness. Psilocybin, the active ingredient found in psychedelic mushrooms, is an invaluable natural resource for spiritually revivifying the human psyche and reconnecting us to the biosphere and the vast intelligence of Nature. Interweaving the most recent scientific studies in the United States and Britain, more than 25 years of sacred mushroom exploration, and behind-the-scenes details on the political wars against psychedelics, Simon G. Powell offers a guide to safely navigating and maximizing the healing and spiritual potential of psilocybin. Powell explores the ecopsychological effects of wild psychedelic mushrooms, including enhanced biophilia, expanded awareness, mystical visions, and eco-shamanic encounters. He reveals how the beings and otherworldly teachers common in psilocybin experiences are actually emissaries from our higher consciousness that emerge when the floodgates of perception have been opened. He shares vivid descriptions from many of his own psilocybin journeys and shows how the mushroom offers a path of return to the ancient wisdom binding all life on Earth, a wisdom conveyed through tutorial visions and higher modes of perception. Illustrating psilocybin's healthful properties, now acknowledged by mainstream science, Powell describes his activism in the fight to keep psilocybin mushroom use legal in the U.K. and shows that an irrational rejection of scientific evidence underlies the harsh war against psychedelic states of consciousness. Laying the groundwork for a new relationship with our biosphere, Powell shows how the Earth's psychedelic medicines can reconnect us to the spirituality and wisdom of Nature and bring the human race back from the brink of ecological and existential disaster.

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