

# CANNABIS AND THE SOMA SOLUTION BY CHRIS BENNETT



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## Review

"Scholarly, hip, witty, and extremely well documented . . . this book might cause a revolution in biblical studies!" —Robert Anton Wilson, author, Schrodinger's Cat Trilogy

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"Every cannabis aficionado, patient, and advocate will find something of great value in Chris Bennett's Cannabis and the Soma Solution. The great Jack Herer laid the foundation of our understanding of the foolishness of cannabis prohibition in its modern form: Chris Bennett has performed an invaluable service by proving once and for all that the oldest and greatest spiritual sacrament in human history is cannabis use."  
—Treating Yourself (November 2011)

"It is a volume that must be read by every scholar who works in the field of biblical studies, world religions, psycho-spirituality, or the history of the paranormal as friend and familiar." —J. Harold Ellens, PhD, Institute for Antiquity and Christianity of the Claremont Graduate School

"A treasure trove of up-to-date ancient information on cannabis. Highly recommended to round out your library on religious uses of psychoactive drugs." —Julie Holland, M.D., editor, *The Pot Book: A Complete Guide to Cannabis*

"I have read Mr. Bennett's several books on this subject and am in general agreement with what he states, especially about the extent to which the Vedic hallucinogen Soma was probably made from cannabis. Indeed, his research has changed my own thinking about this ancient conundrum (heretofore, the majority of scholars have suggested that Soma was prepared from psychotropic mushrooms) . . . . In short, I heartily recommend Bennett's book to anyone seeking a better understanding of this well-nigh universal, albeit all

too often misunderstood hallucinogen and its crucial role in the history of human spirituality." —C. Scott Littleton, Ph.D., Emeritus professor of Anthropology, Occidental College

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"If you are interested in the history of the Indo-Europeans, the history and identification of soma / haoma, or the history of cannabis as a hallucinogen, you owe it to yourself to read Chris Bennett's substantial tome." —Victor H. Mair, Professor, Chinese Language and Literature, University of Pennsylvania

"With no left turn un-stoned, this wonderful book - so full of detail, passion and thorough historical exploration - describes the fascinating journey the humble weed has woven through human civilization to bring us it's enlightenment, color and culture." —Dr. Ben Sessa, author, *The Psychedelic Renaissance: Reassessing the Role of Psychedelic Drugs in 21st Century Psychiatry and Society* and *To Fathom Hell or Soar Angelic*

#### About the Author

Chris Bennett is an expert in the use of ethnobotanicals. He has contributed articles to numerous magazines, including *Cannabis Culture* and *High Times*, and he is the author of several books, including *Green Gold the Tree of Life: Marijuana in Magic and Religion* and *Sex, Drugs, Violence and the Bible*. He lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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Seeking to identify the plant origins of the early sacramental beverages Soma and Haoma, this study draws a connection between the psychoactive properties of these drinks and the widespread use of cannabis among Indo-Europeans during this time. Exploring the role of these libations as inspiration for the Indian Rig Veda and the Persian Avestan texts, this examination discusses the spread of cannabis use across Europe and Asia, the origins of the Soma and Haoma cults, and the shamanic origins of modern religion.

- Sales Rank: #334922 in Books
- Published on: 2010-09-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.40" w x 6.00" l, 1.95 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 480 pages

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

17 of 18 people found the following review helpful.

Great research, poor writing

By Samuel Wells

First of all, if you are reading these review and you are not Chris Bennett just buy the book now. My guess is that no one is going to make it to this Amazon page without having at least a basic knowledge of the history of cannabis, its uses and effects and the role it has played in the evolution of human consciousness; "Cannabis and the Soma Solution" will be a fine addition to your reading on the subject. It is incredibly well researched, effectively argued and a fascinating tale of both the rise and suppression of the great "forbidden medicine".

My frustration with this text is based on the absolutely terrible editing. The entire tome is filled from cover to cover (literally) with errors of spelling, grammar and punctuation that quite effectively undermine its

otherwise brilliant scholarly approach. For example, the back cover of my paperback copy refers to Mr. Bennet's business pursuits in BC as "entheobotnaical". I could go on and on: plurals and possessives are an issue throughout, sentence structure is frequently questionable at best; while such issues may be part and parcel of the draft process they are inexcusable when included in the final print version of an academic research project.

I can only hope that when this book is released in its second, expanded edition Mr. Bennett or his publishers are willing to spend just a little effort, money and time on the final text.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Sacred connection to the past, intelligent understanding of future path.

By A. Fleck

This is a phenomenal survey of an organic and Sacred spiritual tradition centered physically in the sacrament of hemp. This plant not only provided our ancestors with material necessities making it easier to survive but also through ingestion or inhalation and prayer they were able to free themselves from a state of worry and connect to the unseen intelligence of all life. Anybody interested in sky and earth consciousness or religious history should read this book. There is a physical and celestial tree of life as found in you Unique Celestial Identity, check out [...]

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Fascinating

By anon

An amazing book. I highly recommend it to anyone seeking to understand the role of Cannabis in ancient spirituality and its very real influence on mysticism and its use as a Sacrament to commune with G-d. Cannabis here is presented as it is and should be; a sacrament used to get in touch with the divine within - to heal, to love, to reveal.

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