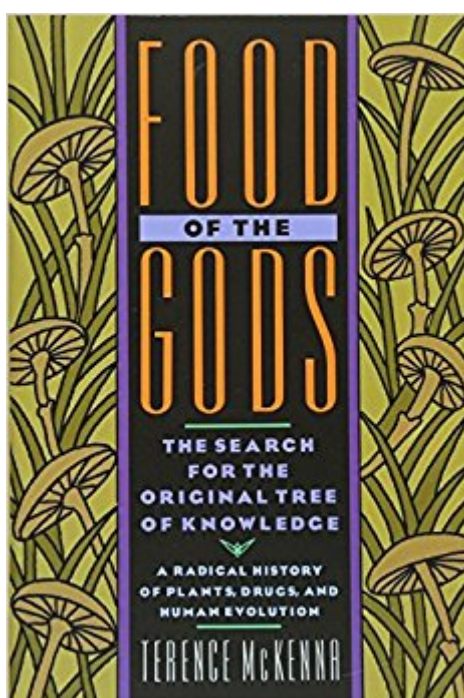


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Food Of The Gods: The Search For The Original Tree Of Knowledge A Radical History Of Plants, Drugs, And Human Evolution



Synopsis

An exploration of humans' symbiotic relationships with plants and chemicals presents information on prehistoric partnership societies, the roles of spices and spirits in the rise of dominator societies; and the politics of tobacco, tea, coffee, opium, and alcohol.

Book Information

Paperback: 311 pages

Publisher: Bantam; Reprint edition (January 1, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553371304

ISBN-13: 978-0553371307

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.3 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 204 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,651 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Cooking Education & Reference > History](#) #30 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Ecology](#) #44 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Addiction & Recovery > Substance Abuse](#)

Customer Reviews

The ethnobotanist co-author of *Psilocybin: The Magic Mushroom Grower's Guide* (not reviewed) puts forth the theory that magic mushrooms are the original "tree of knowledge" and that the general lack of psychedelic exploration is leading Western society toward eventual collapse or destruction--controversial statements, to say the least, though the argument's details often prove fascinating. In the beginning, McKenna tells us, there were protohumans with small brains and plenty of genetic competition, and what eventually separated the men from the apes was an enthusiasm for the hallucinogenic mushrooms that grew on the feces of local cattle. Claiming that psilocybin in the hominid diet would have enhanced eyesight, sexual enjoyment, and language ability and would have thereby placed the mushroom-eaters in the front lines of genetic evolution--eventually leading to hallucinogen-ingesting shamanistic societies, the ancient Minoan culture, and some ian tribes today--McKenna also asserts that the same drugs are now outlawed in the US because of their corrosive effect on our male-dominated, antispiritual society. Unconsciously craving the vehicles by which our ancestors expanded their imaginations and found meaning in their lives, he says, we feast on feeble substitutes: coffee, sugar, and chocolate, which reinforce

competition and aggressiveness; tobacco, which destroys our bodies; alcohol, whose abuse leads to male violence and female degradation; TV, which deadens our senses; and the synthetics--heroin, cocaine and their variations--which leave us victimized by our own addiction. On the other hand, argues McKenna, magic mushrooms, used in a spiritually enlightened, ritual manner, can open the door to greater consciousness and further the course of human evolution--legalization of all drugs therefore is, he says, an urgent necessity. Provocative words--often captivating, but not often convincing. -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Terence McKenna, author and explorer, has traveled the world to work and live with shamans. He has added to their shared knowledge of rituals his own efforts to preserve the plants used in these ceremonies. Coauthor of *The Invisible Landscape* and *Psilocybin: The Magic Mushroom Grower's Guide*, Terence mesmerizes his many lecture audiences with tales of science and shamanism. He lives in Occidental, California, and is co-manager of a botanical garden in Hawaii for endangered tropical plants.

I gave this book 4 stars because it is jam packed with knowledge that is useful for the logic mind. The content is exceptional and I fell in love with many of the descriptions of our history along side shrooms, but it is ongoing and repetitive to the degree that I rather take shrooms and enjoy nature. The book is in great condition and arrived quickly. It definitely is a good source of knowledge to set history straight and adjust the perception of the ignorant to our spiritual and energetic nature. ~Joel

I found this book to be quite informative and at the same time was able to engage me all the way through to the end. Though I felt there were a couple chapters that dragged when speaking about his story and original origins during the European settlements. Needless to say I found this book very enjoyable and was quite impressed with the way Terence McKenna ended it... nice solid impactful close to a wonderful book

So interesting!

Starts good but gets a little boring after page 100..but gets good again

Mckenna is a legendary speaker, and love to listen to his tapes, I bought the book expecting the

same thrill, however the book is not up to his talks, I share many of his ideas exposed in the book, like that we are hooked on sugar, caffeine, alcohol, etc. But what about fat, money, sex, power, love, adulation, lies, kleptomania, etc. My point if we look through the addiction lens, everything is an addiction, even reading books! I do not believe so much in addictive substances, as in addictive personalities, we are all different, and we all have our drug of choice, exemplified by our personal behaviors. I got a problem with the Patriarchy, and Matriarchy models, I do not deny Western culture is patriarchal, but also many other non Western tribal societies, including the ones in Meso-America and those of the the basin, where Mushrooms and Ayahuasca have thrived for millenniums, women oppression awareness, is more a reflection of our current times, and McKenna's reading Riane Eisler books, and take her hypothesis on Matriarchy like an article of faith, this is dogmatic, and very likely anthropologically, and historically not accurate. Also I find most people's Ontological, and Metaphysical knowledge, kind of non existent, and very prone to fall in to dualistic or Manichean position McKenna is not the exception, and he should had known better with all his Hermetic, and religious studies, for those of you unaware of what I mean check the origin of the word Dualism when it comes to Religion, his attacks on Monotheism is nonsense, it is true that Patriarchal societies had made God a man, but that is a reflection not of God, or Monotheism as a Theological view, but of tribal preferred behavior, if God would have a sex he/she would be agamogenesis, or at least androgynous, Matriarchy it is also a dualistic view therefore Ontologically unsustainable, as a society we are starting to figure out that Men and Women should be equal, and if there is a new model to adopt would not be the patriarchal, or matriarchal, and not even the Androgynous model but the all inclusive ecological, and holistic Panpsychism, or the Oneness of Being, were all the existent, may share the same rights just for the fact of their existence, in simple words everything is sacred, and can't be excluded, to a second, or third hierarchical categorical positions. On any mystical experience, brought by religious fervor, dreams, visions, or induced by psychedelics substances, there must be an after the fact interpretation, due to the symbolic nature of our consciousness/subconsciousness vision, years may take before understanding the full implication of the event, and like in the parable of the Talents we all get out of it, whatever we have put in to it, if your knowledge is poor, do not expect to get much understanding of it, you can't expect to know what you do not, by the experience itself, this knowledge may be acquired through books, following teachings, a spiritual practice, or life wisdom, psychedelics are no warranty of a quick ticket to wisdom, or to heaven. Period! Buy the book if you wish, but better yet listen to his tapes he is more fun, and doesn't come as dogmatic as in the book, even if you may dissent in some of his points, like I do.

So incredibly inspiring!! McKenna is a genius! This book has confirmed so many ideas I have had but felt unable to put together thoughtfully. The research he has put together is immaculate, and McKenna's perspective, unique and magnificent as usual. So much love for this man and his work

I read this book with an open mind. I think anyone buying this book would already have this mentality. McKenna does a great job at not only explaining his points thoroughly, he also backs them up well. His writing style takes a chapter to adapt to and after you have you will have a hard time setting the book down. In conclusion, I looked at the book as a great read to re-read, ponder about, and begin further inquiries. A brilliant mind at work.

Excellent theory of how primitive man expanded his consciousness. Also explains how we went from a species living in a state of pastoral bliss to one controlled by a dominator class. One which, of course, denies our access to the freedom inspiring qualities of mind altering substances.

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