



Moksha: Aldous Huxley's Classic Writings on Psychedelics and the Visionary Experience

By Aldous Huxley

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Selected writings from the author of *Brave New World* and *The Doors of Perception* on the role of psychedelics in society.

- Includes letters and lectures by Huxley never published elsewhere.

In May 1953 Aldous Huxley took four-tenths of a gram of mescaline. The mystical and transcendent experience that followed set him off on an exploration that was to produce a revolutionary body of work about the inner reaches of the human mind. Huxley was decades ahead of his time in his anticipation of the dangers modern culture was creating through explosive population increase, headlong technological advance, and militant nationalism, and he saw psychedelics as the greatest means at our disposal to "remind adults that the real world is very different from the misshapen universe they have created for themselves by means of their culture-conditioned prejudices." Much of Huxley's writings following his 1953 mescaline experiment can be seen as his attempt to reveal the power of these substances to awaken a sense of the sacred in people living in a technological society hostile to mystical revelations.

Moksha, a Sanskrit word meaning "liberation," is a collection of the prophetic and visionary writings of Aldous Huxley. It includes selections from his acclaimed novels *Brave New World* and *Island*, both of which envision societies centered around the use of psychedelics as stabilizing forces, as well as pieces from *The Doors of Perception* and *Heaven and Hell*, his famous works on consciousness expansion.

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Editorial Review

Review

"*Moksha* is more than a book about psychedelics--although it may well be the most intelligent, well-rounded one of its kind. It is also another chance to spend hours in Huxley's fascinating company as he talks about art, literature, religion, psychology, and ecology." (*Los Angeles Times*)

"A remarkably stimulating, worthwhile volume." (*Publishers Weekly*)

"This book collects all of [Huxley's] words on the subject and is a valuable addition to the psychedelic literature." (*Andrew Weil, High Times*)

"Then I read *The Doors of Perception* and *Heaven and Hell*, and it just rolled from there. That is what really put me over." (*Terence McKenna, Archaic Revival*)

"Huxley had spent years preparing himself for the fearful psychedelic voyage, and he made it without question when it presented itself....He did it, and the world will never forget it." (*Timothy Leary, Politics of Ecstasy*)

"A pharmacological goldmine, supplementing Huxley's classic, *The Doors of Perception*." (*Publisher's Weekly*)

"[Huxley was] the world's most influential advocate of psychedelic drugs." (*High Priest*)

"A controversial, mind-expanding book that confirms Huxley's position...as the father of the modern drug movement." (*Publisher's Weekly*)

"This collection supplies a good account, in breath and depth, of Huxley's views on psychedelic drugs and is an excellent place to start in exploring the larger implications of psychedelic drug research" (*Lester Grinspoon & James Bakalar, Psychedelic Drugs Reconsidered*)

"The main writings of Aldous Huxley about psychedelics and the visionary experience have now been gathered into a single volume [which] should stand as an unparalleled guide to investigators." (*Peter Stafford, Island Views*)

"The extraordinary richness with which Aldous Huxley describes the depth of his research on LSD and mescaline distinguishes him from thousands of researchers who have experimented with drugs over the years." (*San Francisco Examiner-Chronicle*)

"Huxley was a gifted explorer of transcendental experience, spirituality, and consciousness expansion. It is this side of his remarkable mind that we glimpse in *Moksha*." (*Whole Life Times*)

"*Moksha* is an exceptionally alive and illuminating track of the process of discovery." (*Soho Weekly News*)

"Huxley was one of the first in the modern West to realize the potential value and spiritual implications of drugs. We are fortunate to have this experiential record of drug experiences." (*Rhea A. White, Exceptional*)

From the Back Cover

PSYCHEDELICS / LITERATURE

“Moksha is more than a book about psychedelics--although it may well be the most intelligent, well-rounded one of its kind. It is also another chance to spend hours in Huxley’s fascinating company as he talks about art, literature, religion, psychology, and ecology.”

--*Los Angeles Times*

“A remarkably stimulating, worthwhile volume.”

--*Publisher’s Weekly*

“The final chapter, climaxing in Laura Huxley’s description of her husband’s death, is one of the most transfixing pieces of reportage I’ve ever read.”

--*Soho Weekly News*

In May 1953, while in the company of his wife and a physician friend, Aldous Huxley took four-tenths of a gram of mescaline. The mystical and transcendent experience that followed set him off on an exploration that was to produce a revolutionary body of work about the inner reaches of the human mind. Huxley was decades ahead of his time in his anticipation of the dangers modern culture was creating through explosive population increase, headlong technological advance, and militant nationalism, and he saw psychedelics as the greatest means at our disposal to “remind adults that the real world is very different from the misshapen universe they have created for themselves by means of their culture-conditioned prejudices.” Much of Huxley’s writings following his 1953 mescaline experiment can be seen as his attempt to reveal the power of these substances to awaken a sense of the sacred in people living in a technological society hostile to mystical revelations.

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MICHAEL HOROWITZ and CYNTHIA PALMER are the directors of the Fitz Hugh Ludlow Memorial Library in San Francisco, the only library in the world devoted exclusively to the literature of mind-altering drugs. Michael Horowitz was Timothy Leary’s archivist and is coauthor of *The High Times Encyclopedia of Recreational Drugs*. Palmer and Horowitz live in northern California.

About the Author

Michael Horowitz and Cynthia Palmer are the directors of the Fitz Hugh Ludlow Memorial Library in San Francisco, the only library in the world devoted exclusively to the literature of mind-altering drugs. Michael Horowitz was Timothy Leary’s archivist and is coauthor of *The High Times Encyclopedia of Recreational Drugs*. Palmer and Horowitz live in northern California.

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