Title: Conversations
Subtitle: Psychedelic Messiah
Second Subtitle: Psychedelic Messiah
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URL: https://www.wizanda.com/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=31

Quote:
In 1970, one of the world's leading Dead Sea Scrolls scholars published effectively destroyed his academic reputation. He suggested that Christia mushroom cult.

John Marco Allegro's The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross argued that st Testament encoded secret fertility rituals involving Amanita muscaria. He interpreting Jesus and key elements of Christianity itself through mushro

His fellow scholars largely demolished the linguistic argument. But more something interesting has happened.

The broader question Allegro was asking has become considerably harder

Not whether Jesus was secretly a mushroom there's no convincing evide whether psychoactive substances played an important role in the religiou Christianity emerged.

Archaeology increasingly shows that ancient people incorporated mind-al life. Researchers have detected psychoactive compounds in human hair f and in an Egyptian ritual vessel dating to the Ptolemaic period.

And one of the biggest mysteries concerns the Eleusinian Mysteries. For travelled to Eleusis in ancient Greece to participate in secret ceremonies encounter with death and the divine. Participants included some of the m classical civilisation.

At the centre of the ritual was a mysterious drink called kykeon. In 1978 Wasson, LSD discoverer Albert Hofmann and classicist Carl Ruck propose perhaps kykeon contained psychoactive chemicals derived from ergot, the grains and contains precursors related to LSD.

There was a major problem. Ergot can be dangerously toxic. Nobody had how ancient people could have transformed it into a reliably psychoactive technologies available at the time.

Now researchers may have removed part of that objection.

A 2026 Scientific Reports study experimentally demonstrated that proces conditions can transform some of its alkaloids into lysergic acid amide (

That does not prove the Eleusinians did this. There is still no direct che
the kykeon served at Eleusis contained ergot-derived psychedelics.

But it changes the question from:

Could ancient people even have made such a preparation?

to:

Did they?

Researchers are increasingly taking seriously the possibility that altered
psychoactive plants and fungi, fasting, chanting, dancing, meditation or
important roles in ancient religious experience.

It doesn't vindicate Allegro's theory. His attempt to derive Christianity fr
remains extraordinarily speculative, and evidence that psychoactive subs
religious cultures is not evidence that Christianity itself originated from

But the idea that psychoactive substances influenced ancient spirituality
particularly outrageous.

And that leaves us with a fascinating possibility.

Long before humans built laboratories to investigate mystical experience
already have discovered that certain molecules could reliably open the d
The Kykeon was created in big urns, which we've found with ergot residu

As far as I remember, and what is stated in the Hymn to Demeter, is it w
in water, adding a ergot culture, and waiting until it went black, then boi
neutralize the ergot poisoning.

Within the Biblical usage, the Shewbread was the same recipe as Ezekiel
same as the Essene Bread - where it was left to naturally proof with spro
created ergot within it, it was boiled, and then baked to neutralize the e

At the Last Supper Yeshua was telling the Disciples not to drink alcohol,
psychedelic Shewbread in remembrance of him... The Babylonian Pharise
Saul, Simon petros).

The earlier Ebionite Church were using the Holy Anointing Oil made corre
Bosem - Exodus 30:23-25), as then it has the power to heal many things
including cancer.

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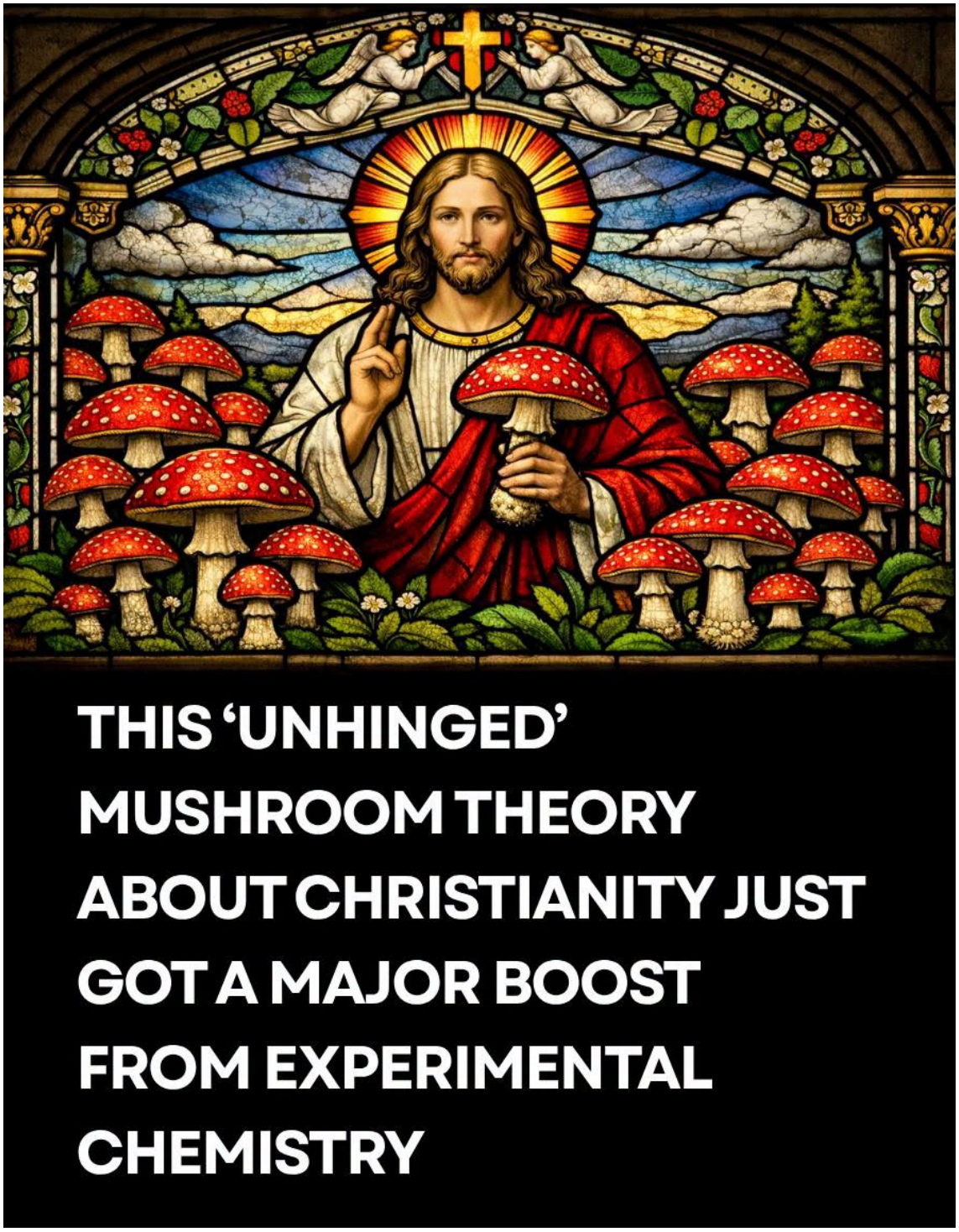
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