

ALCOHOL AND DRUG DEPENDENCE EIGHT – HALLUCINOGENS

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(This is based on belief in God. If that offends you, stop reading now)

In this presentation, we will look at hallucinogens, dangerous sources of diversion.

I couldn't take all the stress at home one day, so I took a trip. I just packed up and left my three small children alone for about a day, while I went to see sights I'd never had a chance to see before. I deserved a little break. What a mess when I got back home. Wet, hungry, cold kids, diapers overflowing, dog mess all over the house. All the problems really stressed me out again, so I immediately left on another one day long trip. (To be continued)

General Description of Drugs in this Class:

Hallucinogens are drugs which disrupt mental processes, mostly inducing hallucinations. I have come to believe they do far more, but that is a different subject. Mescaline is a natural product, swallowed or smoked. Peyote is also natural, used legally in religious rituals and illegally in many others. Psilocybin is also known as magic mushrooms. These occur naturally and grow where they can feed on cow manure, before we eat them (I just thought of a great shortcut). They can be ingested fresh or dried, chewed or swallowed. Some are actually natural, others are store bought and laced with LSD or PCP. LSD is a manufactured chemical product, taken orally, licked off of paper or put in the eyes. Most LSD sold, really is pure. The rest is other chemicals that also disrupt normal brain functions. If lucky, stomach cramps expel them..

Common Street Names: Mescaline, buttons, magic mushrooms, shrooms, LSD, acid, green or red dragon, white lightning, blue heaven, sugar cubes, microdots and window panes

How Hallucinogens Affect Users

Pure and simple, hallucinogens are chemical disruptors scrambling incoming sensory input. Some claim LSD is a mind enhancing drug, speeding up thinking processes to obtain great knowledge. Experience says users are just processing faster than before, since no one comes out with more knowledge than they took on the trip. One dose of LSD can cause 3-4 hours of slow climbs, then 4-6 hours of colors like fireworks, everywhere you look. Then there will be 10-14 hours of speeding, starting fast and slowing down to a stop.

One dose to take a day long trip away from reality, away from your responsibilities, jobs, life and families. You hear colors, see sounds and things you've never seen and never will again.

Legitimate Medical Uses:

None

Reasons Behind Hallucinogen Use:

Many cultures have pursued religious experiences throughout history. Some have been trances, visions and otherworld experiences produced with self-inflicted exhaustion, extreme pain or self-induced terror. One example is dancers, suspended by rawhide laced through pectoral muscles till the dancer collapsed, tearing thongs out through their chest muscles. Others starved themselves, weakening their flesh till their minds were susceptible to the spirit world.

This is why the Bible always couples fasting with prayer. Weakened flesh should always be protected by the Spirit of God from the rest of the spirit world. Those religious rituals that use peyote? Outside observers testified of the presence of unseen or dark beings that whirled around

the room from participant to participant, looking for hosts to occupy and accompanied by feelings of absolute horror. Some rituals culminate in demon possession. That is a real mind altering trip, lasting till body and soul have both been destroyed. One dose is good for life.

Using hallucinogens like peyote and LSD eliminates all pain and exhaustion. You just use drugs to open your mind to the spirit world and take your chances from that point. Some trips never end. You just stay insane or whatever that condition is, until life is gone.

There is a reason why the Greeks used the term “pharmakeus” to refer to sorcerers. They dealt with the spirit world and used drugs to make interaction easier.

Consequences for Abuse of Hallucinogens

Physical Health

When ‘trips’ are taken while normal tasks like driving need to be accomplished, obvious complications arise. Hallucinating that you can fly when you are well above the ground can be a harsh letdown. Terror from waking nightmares is an awesome way to test the soundness of a cardiac system. Honestly, we can think of anything that could physically go wrong by intentionally short-circuiting our brain functions, and just start making a list.

Mental Health

Insanity or demon possession, if that means anything to you, can be results. Flashbacks are also an issue, with recurring hallucinations randomly occurring. Also recurrent are episodes of terror or intense anxiety. It’s like parts of the brain have been rewired.

Probability of Addiction / Dependence

Physical dependence isn’t as much an issue as death or insanity.

Social or Societal Consequences

There are an amazing amount of mentally defective people, being cared for at high cost by institutions or family members, who thought their brains could be used to host a fascinating chemical experiment. Very few of their caregivers are grateful for the way their trip ended.

Legal Consequences

Whatever the chemically altered version of us did while we were out of our minds, the normal versions (if they makes it back home) will pay for with the rest of our lives.

The Trap Associated With Hallucinogen Use:

LSD was discovered in 1938 by Dr. Albert Hoffman in Basil, Switzerland. He accidentally ingested a small dose of it in 1943. A few days later, he took a larger dose and had an assistant record the effect. (How is that for a great experience? You’re so out of it, someone else has to tell you what happened) He hoped LSD could be used to treat the mentally ill.

Doctors, psychiatrists and psychologists began experimenting with the drug. Perhaps it would help them to understand what patients were experiencing. In other words, they could get crazy and out of their minds in a somewhat controlled experience. In the early 50s. Dr. Timothy Leary began experimenting with LSD at Harvard, distributing it to his students. After losing his job, he then launched the hippie movement with a motto, “Turn on, tune in, drop out.”

By 1965, the use of LSD was restricted to research. One of the best known chemists making it illegally was Augustus Owsley Stanley III. He personally stamped his product with his

first name, giving him the name ‘Mr. LSD.’ He was arrested in 1967. It’s not hard to trace a drug manufacturer when they sign them. His mind wasn’t working terribly well by that time.

That’s a pretty common theme with using hallucinogens. After using them for a while, sometimes after just one use, minds don’t work too well. Sometimes they never work again.

The Rest of the Story:

Back to my opening story. Why are you looking at me like that? You think I’m a terrible parent? I didn’t do anything some of you haven’t done before. Why would you deserve a break more than I would? Lucky for our kids, their Mom came home before something really bad happened to them.

A Practical Application:

Ever wonder what it would be like to be invisible? Imagine the power of being able to disappear whenever desired. Boss is looking for you? Mom has more chores needing done? Children pulling on you with incessant demands. Just vanish. Leave this reality behind and find a new, exciting one every time.

This is a picture of an absent father, employee, child or spouse. Their clothes are still here. Their presence is still somewhat felt. But with their minds gone, they can no longer be counted upon for any reason at any time. Their choice to become unreliable has resulted in the loss of any respect or significance they once enjoyed.



A Historical Application:

In ancient Israel, King Saul also decided to seek spiritual enlightenment in an different reality than the one in which he had been placed.

This once good man initially followed directions from God and his reign went smoothly. When he encountered pressure and needed a solution, he would go to Samuel, Samuel would inquire higher up and come to Saul with instructions from God on how to deal with problems. Eventually, Saul decided he knew more about solving his problems than God, especially when God’s instructions were relayed by a preacher! After all, who was in charge of his kingdom, of his life? He was the king, not Samuel. He started doing things his way and disobeying God’s commands. He performed rituals expressly reserved for the priesthood. He even magnanimously spared enemies he was commanded to kill.

Samuel died. Suddenly, Saul had no one to turn to as life spiraled out of control. He could have turned to God at any time, but was too proud to admit he had needed God all along. Saul still had his own ideas on dealing with problems, like his kingdom being under relentless attack.

Despite being commanded to kill anyone practicing witchcraft, Saul had kept one witch alive, in case he needed supernatural help. He asked the witch of Endor to call Samuel back from the dead, to tell him how to defeat his enemies. Did he know he was in disobedience to God? Of course! Did he know the right thing to do? Of course! Samuel did come, but was not happy. Saul asked for his advice on saving Israel. Samuel informed him not to worry, since what he had done had made him an enemy of God. By the next day Saul and his sons would be dead.

Trying Out a Better Way:

Most of judged me harshly for pretending I had neglected my children. While I’ve never done that, I have taken shorter trips into God’s presence. And there is a big difference between worshippers of God and worshippers who use hallucinogens. My worship of God draws me into

His presence in the Spirit, but ... when I am done with my interaction with the world of the Spirit, my mind and my life are still my own. I am also better equipped to serve my family.



Saul Consulting the Spirit of Samuel - Cavallino

