The Secret Chief

Conversations with a pioneer of the underground psychedelic therapy movement.

by Myron J. Stolaroff
with contributions by Stan Grof,
Ann Shulgin, Albert Hofmann
and Sasha Shulgin

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The Secret Chief is the story of Jacob—a remarkable, affable, dearly loved man who made a profound impact in the lives of several thousand people. A Jungian-trained therapist, Jacob discovered the remarkable attributes of psychedelic drugs and their ability to accelerate growth and understanding in his clients. When our nation, considered to be the greatest bastion of freedom and liberty in the world, decided to make all psychedelic substances illegal, Jacob was faced with a great dilemma. How could he possibly give up the most effective tools he had ever encountered for helping to free clients from their difficulties, bring resolution to their problems, and introduce them to levels of satisfaction in life never before contemplated? Morally he felt he could not, and chose to risk incarceration rather than deprive his clients of these outstanding aids. This decision brought new life and transformative realizations to many.

This book is a review of Jacob’s work—how he got started, his methods for administering substances within the context of therapy, the selection of suitable candidates, the dynamics of group experiences, the process of determining effective dose levels of various substances, and the optimum sequence for utilizing them. Outcomes of the work are described. Appendices include personal accounts of five subjects, a resource section including a survey of the literature of psychedelic therapy and a bibliography, and accompanying texts.

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