

An Interview with **Albert Hofmann**

By David Jay Brown, M.A.

THIS IS A BRIEF INTERVIEW that I did with Albert Hofmann, shortly after his 100th birthday.

David: What originally inspired your interest in chemistry?

Albert: My interest in chemistry was inspired by a fundamental philosophical question: Is the material world a manifestation of the spiritual world? I hoped to find deep, sound answers from the solid laws of chemistry to answer this question, and to apply these answers to the external problems and open questions of the spiritual dimensions of life.

David: When you first discovered LSD did you have an intuitive sense that this drug would have the enormous impact on the world that it has?

Albert: I was convinced from the very beginning of the fundamental impact.

David: What motivated or inspired you to go back and synthesize LSD a second time in 1943?

Albert: I synthesized LSD a second time for a deeper pharmacological investigation.

David: How has your own use of LSD effected your philosophy of life?

Albert: LSD showed me the inseparable interaction between the material and the spiritual world.

David: What sort of association do you see between LSD and creativity?

Albert: Since LSD opens up what Aldous Huxley called “the Doors of Perception”, it enhances the fields of creative activity.

David: Do you think that LSD has effected human evolution?

Albert: I do not know if it has effected human evolution, but I hope so.

David: What are your thoughts on why LSD is almost universally prohibited by governments around the world?

Albert: LSD belongs to a class of psychoactive substances that provide the user with a new concept of life, and this new way of looking at life is opposite to the officially accepted view.

David: What role do you see LSD playing in the future?

Albert: In the future, I hope that LSD provides to the individual a new world view which is in harmony with nature and its laws.

David: What do you think happens to consciousness after death?

Albert: I think that each individual’s consciousness becomes part of the universal mind.

David: What is your perspective on the concept of God and spirituality?

Albert: God is the name of the universal creative spirit.

David: What sort of relationship do you see between science and mysticism?

Albert: Science is objective knowledge and mysticism is personal spiritual experience.

David: What do you attribute your long life to?

Albert: I don’t know.

David: Are you hopeful about the future, and how do you envision the future evolution of the human species?

Albert: I am hopeful about the future evolution of the human species. I am hopeful because I have the impression that more and more human individuals are becoming conscious, and that the creative spirit, which we call “God,” speaks to us through his creation—through the endlessness of the starry sky, through the beauty and wonder of the living individuals of the plant, the animal, and the human kingdoms.

We human beings are able to understand this message because we possess the divine gift of consciousness. This connects us to the universal mind and gives us divine creativity. Any means that helps to expand our individual consciousness—by opening up and sharpening our inner and outer eyes, in order to understand the divine universal message—will help humanity to survive. An understanding of the divine message—in its universal language—would bring an end to the war between the religions of the world.