

TRANSCRIPT OF A SPECIAL VIDEOTAPED MESSAGE FROM ALBERT HOFMANN
TO THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE APRIL 16 & 17, 1993 SYMPOSIUMS
ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DISCOVERY OF LSD.

THE SUMMIT
MEETINGS COM-
MEMORATING
LSD'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY
WERE A GRAND
SUCCESS, AND
WERE COVERED BY
CNN,
NBC NATIONAL
NEWS,
SAN FRANCISCO
TV STATIONS,
BBC WORLD
NEWS,
NPR,
LOCAL RADIO
STATIONS AROUND
THE US,
NEWSPAPER
ARTICLES IN THE
SAN FRANCISCO
CHRONICLE,
LA TIMES,
USA TODAY,
NEW YORK TIMES,
AND NEWSPAPERS
ACROSS THE
COUNTRY
AND EVEN
IN CHINA!

FIFTY YEARS is a very young age for a child like LSD which as a pharmaceutical substance, as a substance, will never die. How it will develop in the next fifty, next hundred, next thousand years when mankind is in permanent change, we do not know. We can only, based on what happened in the first fifty years, make some speculative, hopeful extrapolations for the future.

I am only the father of LSD. The questions arises, who is the mother? The mother is a fungus named ergot. Ergot is called in German "mutterkorn", mother corn. Here we have the mother, the mother ergot. She gave birth to several of my pharmaceutical children. The first was methergine which is a medicament used in obstetrics as an aid in childbirth. The second offspring from my relation with mother ergot was LSD. Whereas methergine helps in the birth of the body child, LSD can be helpful in the birth of the spiritual child hidden in every human being.

Whereas methergine is effective in the material world, LSD is effective in the spiritual world. And such a connection cannot be accidental. Some higher authority must be behind this who thought that our time needed help not only on the material but also on the spiritual level and therefore ordered LSD to be born. It must have been this higher authority who, after I had synthesized lysergic acid diethylamide already in 1938, spoke to my inner ear to repeat the synthesis in 1943 with the end result being the discovery of the fantastic effects of LSD on the human psyche.

It was then some years later in the 1950's that LSD itself attracted the sacred, the magic plant of Mexico, into my laboratory for chemical investigation. It must have been the wish of LSD to show its close relationship to this magic plant, this sacred plant of Mexico, to *teonanacatl* (psilocybin mushrooms), and to *ololiuqui* (morning glory seeds), in order to demonstrate its own character as a sacred drug. And also to show by these ancient Mexican Indian cults, to give us examples how to make wise sacramental use of LSD and similar psychedelics.

There are peoples, and as you know not a few, who think that a psychic experience which is evoked by a drug, by a substance, cannot be a spiritual one, cannot be a true mystical experience. These people are not yet conscious of the unity of the spiritual and the material world. And these people are those who treat nature as dead matter existing only to be exploited. They do not yet comprehend that the material universe is the big transmitter by which the Creator sends his message to his creatures, to human beings who can receive and conceive it. All those who have ever been spiritually awakened do know that the Creation is the firsthand relation, the manifestation of the spiritual world. Dogmas, texts written by human beings, can in our time no more be the basis, the source of our faith. We must see with our own eyes, feel with all our senses with open doors of perception, the world as it really is, infinite, miraculous in its eternal here and now. Only if we have experienced ourselves the divine mystery of existence, only then can we understand the truth of the message which the prophets, the saints, the mystics have transmitted to us. Therefore, every means, any path which helps us to evoke our own personal mystic experience is of highest spiritual value and should be available legally to everybody.

You, my dear friends, and millions all over the world who now commemorate the 50th birthday of ergot's child, we all testify gratefully that we got valuable help on the way to what Aldous Huxley said is the end and the ultimate purpose of human life - enlightenment, beatific vision, love. I think all these joyful testimonies of invaluable help by LSD should be enough to convince the health authorities, finally, of the nonsense of the prohibition of LSD and of similar psychedelics.

Dear friends, I am happy to be with you at this wonderful celebration of the birthday of my problem child. I am happy to be with you not only on the screen but with my thoughts, with my heart, and with all my love. •••