

Huxley quotes

"Huxley saw the value of hallucinogenic drugs in that they give people who lack the gift of spontaneous visionary perception, belonging to mystics, saints, and great artists, the potential to experience this extraordinary state of consciousness, and thereby to attain insight into the spiritual world of these great creators. Hallucinogens could lead to a deepened understanding..."

...He believed in the great importance of agents producing visionary experience in the modern phase of human evolution....to achieve a new culture in which rationalism and mysticism are fruitfully united...

[He wanted] the development of a real Natural History of visionary experience....A human race with more highly developed spiritual capacities, with expanded consciousness of the depth and the incomprehensible wonder of being, would also have greater understanding of and better consideration for the biological and material foundations of life on this earth....the development and expansion of a direct, emotional experience of reality, unobstructed by words and concepts, would be of evolutionary significance. [He] considered psychedelic drugs to be one means to achieve education in this direction."

Albert Hofmann

"Experience is not what happens to you.

It is what you do with what happens to you."

"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored."

my health begins to break down as soon as I stop working.

Holidays are healthful only to those who dislike their work.

I happen to find mine tolerably agreeable."

"To go beyond the insulated self is such a liberation...the drug-induced experience has been regarded by primitives and even by the highly civilized as intrinsically divine."

from Huxley ny Times obituary, 11-24-1963:

"...with a little research he could write about almost anything with considerably more knowledge than most of his readers would have."

... Mr. Huxley was intolerant of the mental laziness of so many moderns, who start out as eager children, then get an "education, an analytic canalized, rational training that blunts their perceptions," and end up with "five hours of TV-watching every day."...

"It is ludicrous to live in the 20th century equipped with an elegant literary training eminently suitable to the 17th."

Aldous Huxley on need to study Science

"...truth lies at the bottom of a very dirty well."

"If you can get out of your own way, you won't be in anyone else's."

Aldous Huxley in Island.

"We must be continuously on our watch for ways in which we may enlarge our consciousness."

"The last rites should make one more conscious rather than less conscious, more human rather than less human."

"...why the majority of men and women, and even adolescents, should develop mental arterio-sclerosis forty or fifty years before they develop physical arterio-sclerosis is a great mystery."

“...the psychedelic experience...through understanding, loved, and compassion, can bring about a better world” written by Laura Huxley

“...mescaline does genuinely open the door, and that everything including the Unknown in its purest most comprehensive form can come through.”

[regarding *Island*]...each one of the ways of living he described ... was not a product of his fantasy, but something that had been tried in one place or another...”

Aldous Huxley in Laura Huxley bk

Laura from Eisner interview:

Aldous spoke about this revolution sixty-two years ago, when he wrote *Brave New World*. He showed us the danger of a mechanized society without ethics and without vision. Many people thought then that *Brave New World* was incredible or grotesque; we know now that some of its prophecy (for instance overpopulation and over-organization) is true now much, much sooner than Aldous thought.

via Eisner:

Huxley, too, shared the belief that psychedelics might be necessary if humans would continue to advance as a species.

On

, via Lester Grinspoon, 1983 see pdf:

“...a decentralized political system and a Western science and technology stripped of their excesses are guided by a Buddhist philosophical/religious tradition, with the help of a psychedelic drug called moksha-medicine that is used on carefully defined occasions, especially by the dying and in initiation rites. Huxley’s utopia avoids the danger of excessive individualism by an emphasis on community, discipline, and tradition in the use of psychedelic drugs. The usefulness of the drug depends on the quality of the social system and not on the other way around. He also avoids the cultural limitations of primitive mythologies and communities by incorporating the most tolerant and ecumenical of the great world religions and the most universally applicable body of human intellectual achievement....*Island* expresses not faith in psychedelic drugs, ...but hope for mankind.”

from *The Doors of Perception*:

“...the man who comes back through the Door in the Wall will never be quite the same as the man who went out. He will be wiser but less cocksure, happier but less self-satisfied, humbler in acknowledging his ignorance yet better equipped to understand the relationship of words to things, of systematic reasoning to the unfathomable Mystery which it tries, forever vainly, to comprehend.”

“Which is better: to have Fun with Fungi
or to have Idiocy with Ideology, to have
Wars because of Words, to have Tomorrow’s
Misdeeds out of Yesterday’s Miscreeds?”

from *Brave New World Revisited*:

“...death control is achieved very easily, birth control is achieved with great difficulty. ...
...the nature of power is such that even those who have not sought it, but have had it forced upon them, tend to acquire a taste for more....

...liberty ... cannot flourish in a country that is permanently on a war footing, or even a near-war footing. ...

To parody the words of Winston Churchill, never have so many been manipulated so much by so few....

quoting Fromm: “Man is not made to be an automaton, and if he becomes one, the basis for mental health is destroyed.”

Too much organization transforms men and women into automata, suffocates the creative spirit and abolishes the very possibility of freedom....

...the orator can appeal to those ‘hidden forces’ which motivate men’s actions, much more effectively than can the writer....

Hitler wrote ... 'only constant repetition will succeed in imprinting an idea upon the memory of a crowd'. ...

The demagogic propagandist must ... be consistently dogmatic. All his statements are made without qualification....everything is either diabolically black or celestially white....

Mindlessness and moral idiocy are not characteristically human attributes; they are symptoms of herd-poisoning. ...

Under favorable conditions, practically everybody can be converted to practically anything. ...

...the fact that minds can be changed so radically at so little cost to the body is altogether astonishing [on drugs]...

Soma was ... a creator of active euphoria as well as of the negative happiness that follows the release from anxiety and tension. ...

That ...[one could]...make use of these drugs for political purposes...

...the soma of my fable had the power of heightening suggestibility ... to reinforce the effects of governmental propaganda...

A democratic society is a society dedicated to the proposition that power is often abused and should therefore be entrusted to officials only in limited amounts and for limited periods of time...

...[drugs allow man] to take holidays from himself...[from Berkeley speech, 1962, on YouTube.

Enlightenment is total awakeness

...The victim of mind-manipulation does not know that he is a victim ... the walls of his prison are invisible. ...

...if you believe in democracy, make arrangements to distribute property as widely as possible. ... quoting Ivan in Dostoevsky: '...they have vanquished freedom and done so to make men happy.'

"What was I? I was someone who was going to die."

Aldous Huxley unfinished last novel, 1963; p. 238 in This Timeless Moment by Laura

"I believe that man is here for the purpose of realizing as much as possible of his desirable potentialities within a stable and yet elastic society."

. Aldous Huxley

from Foreward to 1946 Brave New World:

"To pore over the literary shortcomings of twenty years ago, to attempt to patch a faulty work into the perfection it missed at its first execution, to spend one's middle age in trying to mend the artistic sins committed and bequeathed by that different person who was oneself in youth - all this is surely vain and futile."

"...this idea, that human beings are given free will in order to choose between insanity on the one hand and lunacy on the other, was one that I found amusing...

sanity is a rather rare phenomenon...

The people who govern Brave New World may not be sane ... but they are not madmen, and their aim is not anarchy but social stability.

a population of slaves who do not have to be coerced, because they love their servitude...

Great is truth, but still greater, from a practical point of view, is silence about truth....

'Happiness' - ...making people love their servitude..."

from Brave New World text (1946 edition):

"...the secret of happiness and virtue - liking what you've got to do. All conditioning aims at that: making people like their inescapable social destiny....

...62,400 repetitions make one truth....

You can't consume much if you sit still and read books.

...soma. All the advantages of Christianity and alcohol; none of their defects....

Words can be like X-rays, if you use them properly - they'll go through anything. You rean and you're pierced....

Every discovery in pure science is potentially subversive; even science must sometimes be treated as a possible enemy...

truth's a menace, science is a public danger...

Christianity without tears - that's what soma is...

But I don't want comfort. I want God, I want poetry, I want real danger, I want freedom, I want goodness, I want sin...the right to be unhappy."

"Moksha literally means 'liberation' but the drug is also known as the 'reality revealer' or the 'truth-and-beauty pill'....the moksha-medicine stands for revelation, greater consciousness and self-understanding, mind-expansion and human flourishing."

Maartjen N Schermer on Brave New World and Island, by Huxley

from Island, 1962:

We cannot reason ourselves out of our basic irrationality. All we can do is to learn the art of being irrational in a reasonable way.

...quite ordinary people are perfectly capable of having visionary or even fully liberating experiences....culture ... is to be judged by what all the members of the community, the ordinary as well as the extraordinary, can and do experience in every contingency and at each successive intersection of time and eternity...

Dr. Robert: Liberation...the ceasing to be what you ignorantly think you are and becoming what you are in fact....thanks to *moksha* ... you will know what it's like to be what in fact you are, what in fact you have always been...

...the rest of the world sinks more and more deeply into chronic disaster. Ignorance, militarism and breeding, these three - and the greatest of these is breeding. No hope, not the slightest possibility, of solving the economic problem until *that's* under control. As population rushes up, prosperity goes down....And as prosperity goes down, discontent and rebellion, political ruthlessness and one-party rule, nationalism and bellicosity begin to rise. Another ten or fifteen years of uninhibited breeding, and the whole world, from China to Peru via Africa and the Middle East, will be fairly crawling with Great Leaders, all dedicated to the suppression of freedom, all armed to the teeth by Russia or America or, better still, by both at once, all waving flags, all screaming...

...our economic system...doesn't permit anybody to become more than four or five times as rich as the average...we don't have any captains of industry or any omnipotent financiers....we have no omnipotent politicians or bureaucrats...a federation of self-governing units, geographical units, professional units, economic units - so there's plenty of scope for small-scale initiative and democratic leaders, but no place for any kind of dictator at the head of a centralized government.

...we have no established church, and our religion stresses immediate experience and deplores belief in unverifiable dogmas and the emotions which that belief inspires. ... we're preserved from the plagues of popery...and fundamentalist revivalism...along with transcendental experience we systematically cultivate skepticism...

...dangerous delinquents and power-loving troublemakers don't belong to a single species. Most of them ...belong to one or other of two distinct and dissimilar species - the Muscle People and the Peter Pans....

You can expect one Peter Pan among every five or six male children....The most recent, as well as the best and biggest, was Adolf Hitler. ... Hopeless at school. Incapable either of competing or co-operating.... His only gifts were hatred, low cunning, a set of indefatigable vocal cords and a talent for nonstop talking...Thirty or forty million deaths and heavens know how many billions of dollars - that was the price the world had to pay for little Adolf's retarded maturation....

...the power problem has its roots in anatomy and biochemistry and temperament. ...

Words about sibling rivalry and hell and the personality of Jesus are no substitutes for biochemistry....Power has to be curbed on the legal and political levels; that's obvious. But it's also obvious that there must be prevention on the individual level. On the level of instinct and emotion, on the level of the glands and viscera, the muscles and the blood. ... human physiology in relation to ethics, religion, politics and law....

An ordeal...is the first stage of their initiation out of childhood into adolescence. An ordeal that helps them to understand the world they'll have to live in, helps them to realize the omnipresence of death, the essential precariousness of all existence. But after the ordeal comes the revelation....The real thing isn't a proposition; it's a state of being ... When it's time for them to learn the deepest truths ...we...give them four hundred milligrams of revelation.

Vijaya: "Hitler's the supreme example of the delinquent Peter Pan. Stalin's the supreme example of the delinquent Muscle Man....In his will, Lenin advised his successors to get rid of Stalin; the

man was too fond of power and too apt to abuse it. But the advice came too late....compare Stalin's strategy with Hitler's. Cool calculation pitted against compensatory daydreams, clear-eyed realism against the rhetorical nonsense that Hitler had finally talked himself into believing. Two monsters, equal in delinquency, but profoundly dissimilar in temperament, in unconscious motivation and finally in efficiency. Peter Pans are wonderfully good at starting wars and revolutions; but it takes Muscle Men to carry them through to a successful conclusion."

Dr. MacPhail:

"...history is ... the record of what human beings have been impelled to do by their ignorance and the enormous bumptiousness that makes them canonize their ignorance as a political or religious dogma. p. 134

Ranga, on Pala: "No harbor, no Portuguese. Therefore, no Catholic minority, no blasphemous nonsense about it being God's will that people should breed themselves into subhuman misery, no organized resistance to birth control. After a hundred and twenty years of the Portuguese, Ceylon and Rendag got the Dutch. And after the Dutch came the English. We escaped both those infestations. No Dutch, no English, and therefore no planters, no coolie labor, no cash crops for export, no systematic exhaustion of our soil. Also no whisky, no Calvinism, no syphilis, no foreign administrators. We were left to go our own way."

Mary Sarojini: "...cancer is ... what happens when one of you forgets about all the rest of you and carries on the way people do when they're crazy - just goes on blowing itself and blowing itself up as if there was nobody else in the world. Sometimes you can do something about it. But really it just goes on blowing itself up until the person dies."

'When it's time for them to learn the deepest truths ... we ... give them four hundred milligrams of revelation.' They repeated the experience every year until they graduated to adulthood."

Roberts in Island.

end of Huxley, ISLAND, quotes.....

from MOKSHA:

"...the delicious poisons, by means of which men have constructed, in the midst of an unfriendly world, their brief and precarious paradises....Everywhere and at all times, men and women have sought b... the means of taking a holiday from the reality of their generally dull and often acutely unpleasant existence...How many of the current ideas of eternity, of heaven, of supernatural states are ultimately derived from the experiences of drug-takers?...primitive man, like his civilized descendant, felt so urgent a need to escape occasionally from reality, that the invention of drugs was fairly forced upon him. (1931, p. 4)....

If we could sniff or swallow something that would, for five or six hours each day, abolish our solitude as individuals, atone us with our fellows in a glowing exaltation of affection and make life in all its aspects seem not only worth living, but divinely beautiful and significant, and ...we could wake up next morning with a clear head...all our problems ... would be wholly solved and earth would become paradise. (1931, p. 9)

Soma...an imaginary drug...with three different effects: euphoric, hallucinant, or sedative - an impossible combination....a gramme of soma...All the advantages of Christianity and alcohol; none of their defects. (1932, p. 11)

I had returned to that reassuring but profoundly unsatisfactory state known as 'being in one's right mind'. (1954, p. 50)

What we ordinarily call reality is merely that slice of total fact which our biological equipment, our linguistic heritage..., and our social conventions of thought and feeling make it possible for us to apprehend....Man's biologically, socially and linguistically conditioned universe is much richer than that of the other animals; but it is still only a small slice of the melon. (1956, p. 101)

All that TV can do is to increase the number of misunderstanders by many thousandfold... (1956, p. 111)

Some of the compassion and some of the gratitude remain, even after the experience is over.

One can never be quite the same again... (about mescaline, 1956, p. 115)

The subject is enormous; my time is short and my ignorance encyclopedic....At the risk of indulging in those Original Sins of the intellect, oversimplification and overabstraction, let me sum up this entire matter in one large, comprehensive generalization. (1956, p. 118).

...primitive man experimented with every root, twig, leaf, and flower, every seed, berry and fungus in his environment. Pharmacology is older than agriculture. (1956, p. 120).

William James: The sway of alcohol over mankind is unquestionably due to its power to stimulate the mystical faculties of human nature, usually crushed to earth by the cold facts and dry criticisms of the sober hour. (1956, p. 121 of Moksha)

In the Moslem world alcohol was forbidden, but the urge to self-transcendence could not be suppressed, and there were and still are places within the Moslem world where the consumption of *Cannabis indica* is not only sanctioned by society, but has even been turned into a kind of religious rite. Certain Mohammedan authors have seen in hashish the equivalent of the sacramental bread and wine of the Christians. (1956, p. 123).

...the members of a crowd lose more than their personal identity; they also lose their powers of reasoning and their capacity for moral choice. (1956, p. 123).

Human beings are immensely complicated creatures, living simultaneously in a half dozen different worlds. (1958, p. 147).

...mightier than either the pen or the sword is the pill. (1958, p. 152).

Generalized intelligence and mental alertness are the most powerful enemies of dictatorship and at the same time the basic conditions of effective democracy. (1958, p. 153).

There are plenty of people to whom a few hours in hell - the hell that they themselves have done so much to create - could do a world of good. (1958, p. 155).

...there will be within the next generation or so a pharmacological method of making people love their servitude, and producing dictatorship without tears...a kind of painless concentration camp for entire societies, so that people will in fact have their liberties taken from them but will rather enjoy it, because they will be distracted from any desire to rebel - by propaganda, brain washing, or brain washing enhanced by pharmacological methods. And this seems to me to be *The Final Revolution*. (1959, p. 171).

Huxley...then he would open his eyes and make a diamond-pure comment. Tim Leary, p. 182.

...[on fasting]...by the time Easter came around, the mind was completely ready for any kind of vision. (1961, p. 197).

... beneath the political problems lie the problems of rocketing population and unevenly distributed resources. (1961, p. 216).

We must continually be on the watch for ways in which we may enlarge our consciousness. (1963, p. 244).

We are at once the beneficiaries of our culture and its victims. (1963, p. 247).

Between every human consciousness and the rest of the world stands an invisible fence, a network of traditional thinking-and-feeling patterns, of secondhand notions that have turned into axioms, of ancient slogans revered as divine revelations. (1963, p. 248).

History is the record ... of the fantastic and generally fiendish tricks played upon itself by culture-maddened humanity. (1963, p. 249).

A culture cannot be discriminately accepted, much less be modified, except by persons who have seen through it - by persons who have cut holes in the defining stockade of verbalized symbols and so are able to look at the world and, by reflection, at themselves in a new and relatively unprejudiced way. (1963, p. 249).

Language is a device for taking the mystery out of Reality and making it amenable to human comprehension and manipulation. (1963, p. 250).

...which is better: to have Fun with Fungi or to have Idiocy with Ideology, to have Wars because of Words, to have tomorrow's misdeeds out of yesterday's misdeeds? (1963, p. 255).

The last rites should make one more conscious rather than less conscious, more human rather than less human. (1963, p. 258).

Leary/Tibetan instructions:

The time has come for you to seek new levels of reality...
The visions and insights,
Will teach you much about yourself and the world.
The veil of routine perception will be torn from your eyes....
The intellect shining and blissful and silent -
This is the state of perfect enlightenment. (p.268).

end of MOKSHA quotes

"Each one of us is potentially a Mind at Large ... funneled through the reducing valve of the brain and nervous system. What comes out at the other end is a measly trickle of the kind of consciousness which will help us to stay alive on the surface of this particular planet."

"My father considered a walk among the mountains
as the equivalent of churchgoing."

"There is only one corner of the universe you can be
certain of improving, and that's your own self."

Dictatorial propaganda promotes the ugly reality of prejudice and passion to the rank of an ideal. Dictators are the popes of nationalism; and the creed of nationalism is that what ought to be is merely what is, only a good deal more so. All individuals seek justifications for such passions as envy, hatred, avarice, and cruelty; by means of nationalistic and revolutionary propaganda dictators provide them with such justifications. 1936 Harper's

"From pure sensation to the intuition of beauty, from pleasure and pain to love and the mystical ecstasy and death — all the things that are fundamental, all the things that, to the human spirit, are most profoundly significant, can only be experienced, not expressed. The rest is always and everywhere silence.
After silence, that which best expresses the inexpressible, is music"

"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored."

Human beings are immensely complicated creatures, living simultaneously in a half dozen different worlds. Each individual is unique and, in a number of respects, unlike all the other members of the species. None of our motives is unmixed, none of our actions can be traced back to a single source and, in any group we care to study, behavior patterns that are observably similar may be the result of many constellations of dissimilar causes.

The mind is its own place... Words are uttered, but fail to enlighten. The things and events to which the symbols refer belong to mutually exclusive realms of experience.

from Heaven and Hell:

"...visionary experience is not always blissful, It is sometimes terrible. There is hell as well as heaven....

Sanity is a matter of degree

...Indians who practice the peyote cult to use the drug not merely as a short cut to the visionary world, but also as an instrument for creating a loving solidarity within the participating group

Aldous Huxley

