

Ritual use of non-psychoactive Cannabis in eastern Asia. (Oral Presentation)

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Introduction

Cannabis has a long history of use in life cycle, divination, healing, protection, and other rituals across eastern Asia. Most commonly, Cannabis serves as a physical representation of the intangible connections between those taking part in the ritual and the afterlife or spirit world.

Although there may be an ancient link between the psychoactive potential of Cannabis and its ritual use in eastern Asia, historical and present-day Cannabis rituals utilize non-psychoactive plant parts and products; e.g., whole plants, stalks, seeds, roots and fibers as well as cordage and fabric.

This stands in sharp contrast to traditional South Asian ritual Cannabis use – which characteristically involves consumption of the psychoactive female flowers and resins – and only rarely utilizes other plant parts.

Objectives

Selected examples of ritual Cannabis use by the Hmong, Han Chinese, Korean and Japanese cultures will be compared and critically evaluated.

Methods

None

Results

None

Conclusion

None

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