

Give Us an Example of God!

Post by “Eikadistes” of July 9, 2024 at 9:15 PM

[Julia](#) I found one! **Kykeon**. I'm re-posting this directly from Wikipedia's article on the Eleusinian Mysteries [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleusinia...ogenetic_theories]

Quote

Entheogenic theories

Numerous scholars have proposed that the power of **the Eleusinian Mysteries came from the kykeon's functioning as an entheogen, or psychedelic agent.**^[9] The use of potions or philtres for magical or religious purposes was relatively common in Greece and the ancient world.^[80] The initiates, sensitized by their fast and prepared by preceding ceremonies (see [set and setting](#)), may have been propelled by the effects of **a powerful psychoactive potion into revelatory mind states with profound spiritual and intellectual ramifications.**^[81] In opposition to this idea, skeptical scholars note the lack of any solid evidence and stress the collective rather than individual character of initiation into the Mysteries.^[82]

Many [psychoactive](#) agents have been proposed as the significant element of kykeon, though without consensus or conclusive evidence. These include **the ergot species *Claviceps paspali*** ^[fr],^[9] a [fungal parasite](#) of [paspalum](#), which contains the alkaloids [ergotamine](#), a precursor to [LSD](#), and [ergonovine](#).^{[81][83]} However, modern attempts to prepare a kykeon using ergot-parasitized barley have yielded inconclusive results, though **Alexander Shulgin and Ann Shulgin describe both ergonovine and LSA to be known to produce LSD-like effects.**

Discovery of fragments of [ergot](#) (fungi containing LSD-like psychedelic alkaloids) in a temple dedicated to the two Eleusinian Goddesses excavated at the Mas Castellar site ([Girona, Spain](#)) provided some legitimacy for this theory. Ergot fragments were found inside a vase and within the dental calculus of a 25-year-old man, providing evidence of ergot being consumed. This finding seems to support the hypothesis of ergot as an ingredient of the Eleusinian [kykeon](#).

[Psychoactive mushrooms](#) are another candidate. Scholars such as [Robert Graves](#) and [Terence McKenna](#), speculated that the mysteries were focused around a variety of [Psilocybe](#). Other [entheogenic](#) fungi, such as [Amanita muscaria](#), have also been suggested. A recent hypothesis suggests that the ancient Egyptians cultivated [Psilocybe cubensis](#) on barley and associated it with the deity [Osiris](#).

Another candidate for the psychoactive drug is an opioid derived from the [poppy](#). The cult of the goddess Demeter may have brought the poppy from Crete to Eleusis; it is certain that opium was produced in Crete.

Another theory is that the psychoactive agent in kykeon is DMT, which occurs in many wild plants of the Mediterranean, including [Phalaris](#) and/or [Acacia](#). To be active orally (like in [ayahuasca](#)) it must be combined with a [monoamine oxidase inhibitor](#) such as Syrian rue ([Peganum harmala](#)), which grows throughout the Mediterranean.

Alternatively, [J. Nigro Sansonese](#) (1994), using the [mythography](#) supplied by [Mylonas](#), hypothesizes that the Mysteries of Eleusis were a series of practical initiations into [trance](#) involving [proprioception](#) of the human nervous system induced by breath control (similar to [samyama](#) in yoga).^[92] Sansonese speculates that the *kisté*, a box holding sacred objects opened by the hierophant, is actually an esoteric reference to the initiate's [skull](#), within which is seen a sacred light and are heard sacred sounds, but only *after* instruction in trance practice. Similarly, the seed-filled chambers of a [pomegranate](#), a fruit associated with the founding of the cult, esoterically describe proprioception of the initiate's [heart](#) during trance.

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