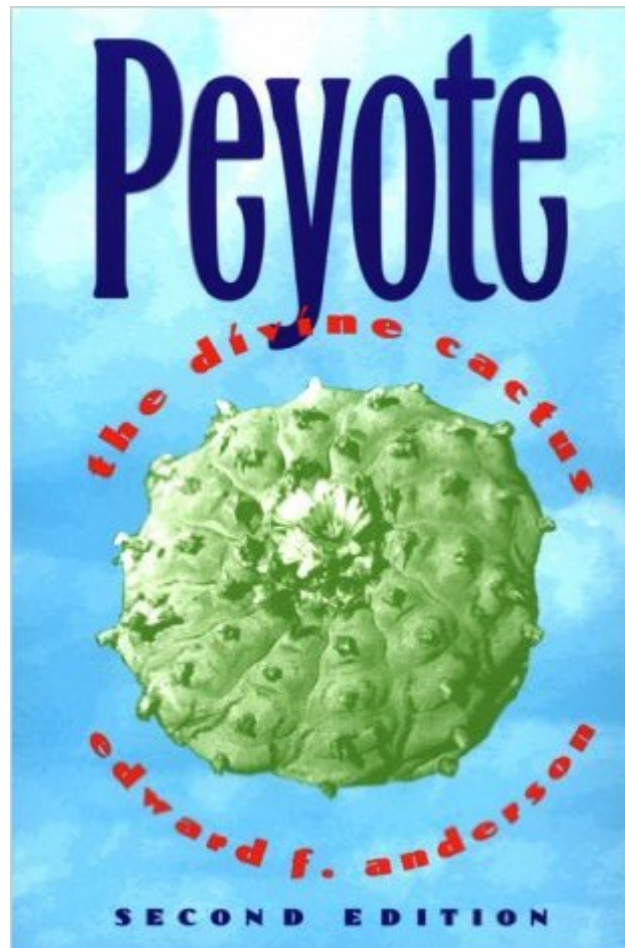


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Peyote: The Divine Cactus



Synopsis

Dry whiskey, Divine herb, Devil's root, Medicine of God, Peyote: for some people, to use it is to hear colors and see sounds. For many Native Americans, it brings an ability to reach out of their physical lives, to communicate with the spirits, and to become complete. For chemists, pharmacologists, and psychiatrists, the plant is fascinating in its complexity and in the ways its chemicals work upon the human mind. What is it in peyote that causes such unusual effects? Can modern medical science learn anything from Native Americans' use of peyote in curing a wide variety of ailments? What is the Native American Church, and how do its members use peyote? Does anyone have the legal right to use drugs or controlled substances in religious ceremonies? Within this volume are answers to these and dozens of other questions surrounding the controversial and remarkable cactus. Greatly expanded and brought up-to-date from the 1980 edition, these pages describe peyote ceremonies and the users' experiences, and also cover the many scientific and legal aspects of using the plant. Well written, informative, comprehensive, and enlightening, the book will be welcomed by counselors, anthropologists, historians, physicians, chemists, lawyers, and observers of the contemporary drug scene, as well as by interested general readers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very informative book that covers history, ceremonies, users' experiences, and much more. As a member of the Native American Church I recommend it to members and non-members alike.

The most complete authority on the peyote cactus, *Lophophora williamsii*. E. Anderson includes every aspects of peyote-history and religious uses to ethnobotanical, phytochemistry and pharmacology. For anyone interested in learning all aspects of this mystifying plant, *Peyote: The Divine Cactus*, will allow just that.

I would of given this a 5 star rating but , as with all of the books I enjoy , It ended too soon . It gives a good overview of the cactui's history to present times . It's use by the Native American Church Is presented well , the author having attended . He does an understandable account of the plant and its chemistry . I have only high school Chem classes and was able to follow . Enjoyed the book and recomend it . Lee .

Reads like a text book. Covers everything you could possibly want to know about Father Peyote. From its origins in Mexico to its use in the U.S., from ceremonies to experience and medicinal use. It even covers pharmacoligical, chemistry and botanical aspects as well as legal history. This book will remain in my collection indefinately.

Over the past week or so, I read or skimmed a bunch of books on Peyote. This one was the best. It covers a wide range of issues: from user's experiences to history to plant attributes and qualities. Peyote is an amazing plant. In fact, as you read more, it's hard not to think of it as a divine plant (well, I suppose all plants and beings have spirit, at least from a peyoteist perspective, but this one is especially soulful). It's very worthy of further study. The only downside to this book, is (as one would expect from a university press) a bit on the academic side. Some of it is a bit on the dry side; still the best book on the topic I came across. So anyone interested in peyote should start here.

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