

Cannabis - Mythological aspects & its medicolegal issues in current medical practice

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Citation: Verma V. Cannabis - Mythological aspects & its medicolegal issues in current medical practice. *Int J Eth Trauma Victimology* 2018; 4(1):30-33. doi.org/10.18099/ijetv.4.4.6

Article history

Received: Dec11, 2017

Received in revised form: June 12, 2018

Accepted: June 18, 2018

Available online: Sept11, 2018

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Abstract

Cannabis is the earliest mind-altering drug known to man and has been around for at least 4000 years. Due to its so prolonged ancient availability and multiple possible uses, many mythological Gods all over in different religions are found associated to legitimize its commercial use as a drug of addiction all over the world. The intoxication produced by Cannabis is of the most cheerful kind causing the individual to sing & dance, to eat food with great relish & to seek sensuous enjoyment. Cannabis is easily available as it grows in wild & forests all over India, and easy to identify & simple to prepare for addiction without any laboratory.

Keywords: Cannabis, Marijuana; Mythology; Run amok; Amotivational syndrome; railroad poisoning victims; thuggee; criminal responsibility.

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Introduction

Asterion: Greek God of Cannabis (1)

Lord Shiva: Indian God of Cannabis (2)

Maggu: Chinese God of Cannabis (3)

Mythological importance of bathing Lord Shiva with lots of water on Shivratri (Holy night of Lord Shiva):

Lord Shiva is famous as the lord fond of poisonous reptiles (snake coil around the neck of Lord Shiva, scorpion, centipede) & Poisonous plants – Cannabis, Calotropis, Opium etc. In Indian mythology- Lord Shiva celebrates with his followers by drinking Bhaang thandaai, eating Majun sweets & smoking Charas & Gaanja(2) Chronic, heavy marijuana use is associated with a clinical syndrome comprised of abdominal discomfort, nausea, and hyperemesis. Symptoms are often refractory to opioids and antiemetic. The hallmark of the Cannabinoid Hyperemesis syndrome(CHS) is almost immediate relief of symptoms with bathing or showering in hot water, and a major diagnostic feature is compulsive bathing (2). So to please the Lord Shiva, all Shaiv followers must pour water on idols of

Shivlinga during worship in the temples (2). The logic of pouring water can be explained based on scientific studies on cannabis overdose, the person is detoxified from the suffering of toxic hyperemesis & comes out of trance state to hear the plea of his worshipers, thus blessing them boons & wishes they desired.

Ongoing Pilot study of Hydrotherapy in detoxifying Cannabis overdose: Cannabis is most commonly consumed during Festival day of Holi & Shiv Ratri (4). 18 patients reported in our Hospital ER with complaints of nausea, recurrent vomiting (hyperemesis), Ghabrahat, hypertension & anxiety after cannabis overdose (smoking Ganja, eating Bhang & its sweets & drinks). 8 patients volunteered for participation in the prospective study. Hydrotherapy is one of the naturopathic treatment modality used widely in ancient cultures including India, Egypt, China (5). 4 out of 6 patients after hydrotherapy (sponge bath with lukewarm water), antiemetic & antianxiety drugs showed more rapid relief from nausea & vomiting, reduction in heart rate, and decrease in systolic Blood pressure, with increased feelings of well-being and decreased state of anxiety, than 2

patients who received antiemetic & antianxiety drugs without hydrotherapy.

Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome:

Chronic, heavy marijuana use is associated with a clinical syndrome comprised of abdominal discomfort, nausea, and hyperemesis. Symptoms are often refractory to narcotic opioids and antiemetic. The hallmark of the Cannabinoid Hyperemesis syndrome is almost immediate relief of symptoms with bathing or showering (6). The pathophysiology of this syndrome is unclear. However, relief with hydrotherapy may indicate dysfunction of pain perception, excess substance P release, and activation of TRPV1 (a G protein receptor that has been shown to interact with the endocannabinoid system and is the only known capsaicin receptor); these may play a role in elucidating the mechanism for this syndrome (6).

Q. Why children & youth get so fond of Noodles, once they eat it?

"Maggi" derived from word "Maggu"

"Maggu" aka "Magu" - Chinese Goddess of Longevity, literally: "Hemp Maiden" Maggu's name is a compound word which has two common Chinese words:

Ma "cannabis; hemp" & Ggu- "aunt; maid" (3). Noodles were suspected to have cannabis or similar addictive compounds. On 05 June 2015, Maggi Noodle samples were collected by India food safety regulator-Food Safety & Standard Authority of India(FSSAI)- stated that laboratory tests found overwhelming evidence that Nestlé's Maggi instant noodle products are " unsafe & hazardous" for human consumption (7).

Maggi Noodle scare (7) -Why Maggi was banned recently?

"Maggi" noodles – India-recently banned in 2015 (7) - suspected to have cannabis or similar addictive/ carcinogenic compounds in the Chinese salt with unknown composition, causing "involuntary addiction" among children & youth eating it. So the consumer craves for eating more of noodles, whenever he wishes to eat anything. This seems like the commercial utilization of the compulsive eating of a particular dish, due to the cannabis extract in it.

What is "Bhola Munakka & Madhur Munakka" chocolates (8)?

It was a brand of chocolate, sold in Bombay, near schools. It used to cause intense cravings among children for its euphoric effects, and the seller made lots of profit by selling it with increased costs on high demand. A death of a child in school

after eating multiple chocolates lead to police probe & chemical analysis- rich in THC. Bhola – the name itself suggest a link to cannabis & opium. Chocolate was banned & seller arrested in NDPS act (8).

Why is Lord Shiva also known as Bhola, Bholenath, Bhole Bandaari? Lord Shiva is fond of cannabis consumption, and cannabis smoking, drinking & eating produces trance-like state, in which the person feels happy & content, get vivid dreams, eat, sing & dance freely, feels at home & behaves like a child anywhere, anytime with anyone, even with complete strangers.

So, the cannabis consumer will not refuse anything to do or eat, and obeys everyone happily- all features of Nave, imbecile & Gullible- means "Bhola", who can give boons to anyone who worships him, even to demons like Raavan & Bhasmasur (9).

How Criminals hypnotize by drugging victims with cannabis:

This effect of cannabis is misused by criminals like robbers, who visit homes in dress of sadhu when housewives are alone, give blessings, ask for food & give intoxicated prasad in exchange, sing songs, and once the victim gets intoxicated, then they ask them to handover all their precious ornaments, mobile & purse.

- The intoxicated victim behaves Nave & Gullible ("Bhola") like a generous child, handover everything happily in exchange for more of the sweet prasaad eaten, as if playing a childish game. And later victim recall the episode of theft as if she was hypnotized by the robber.
- Indian thieves robbing in forests by drugging were called Thugs and their infamous act = thuggi(10).
- Many thefts are reported every year at Behror in Delhi Jaipur Highway by using cannabis for stupefying businessman by drinking "behror's tea".

So, a public warning notice is placed on Indian railways & roadways: "Travelers are warned: Do not consume drinks or food shared from unknown co-passengers".

Run amok (11) - killing spree under cannabis influence (12) – "Not an act of terrorism"- criminally not responsible -Section 85 IPC.

Section 85 IPC- Act of a person incapable of judgment by reason of intoxication caused against his will (13).

Q. Why frequent mass gun firing in the USA is not considered as an act by terrorists?
 Modern Run amok – Gun Firing & Mass Killing

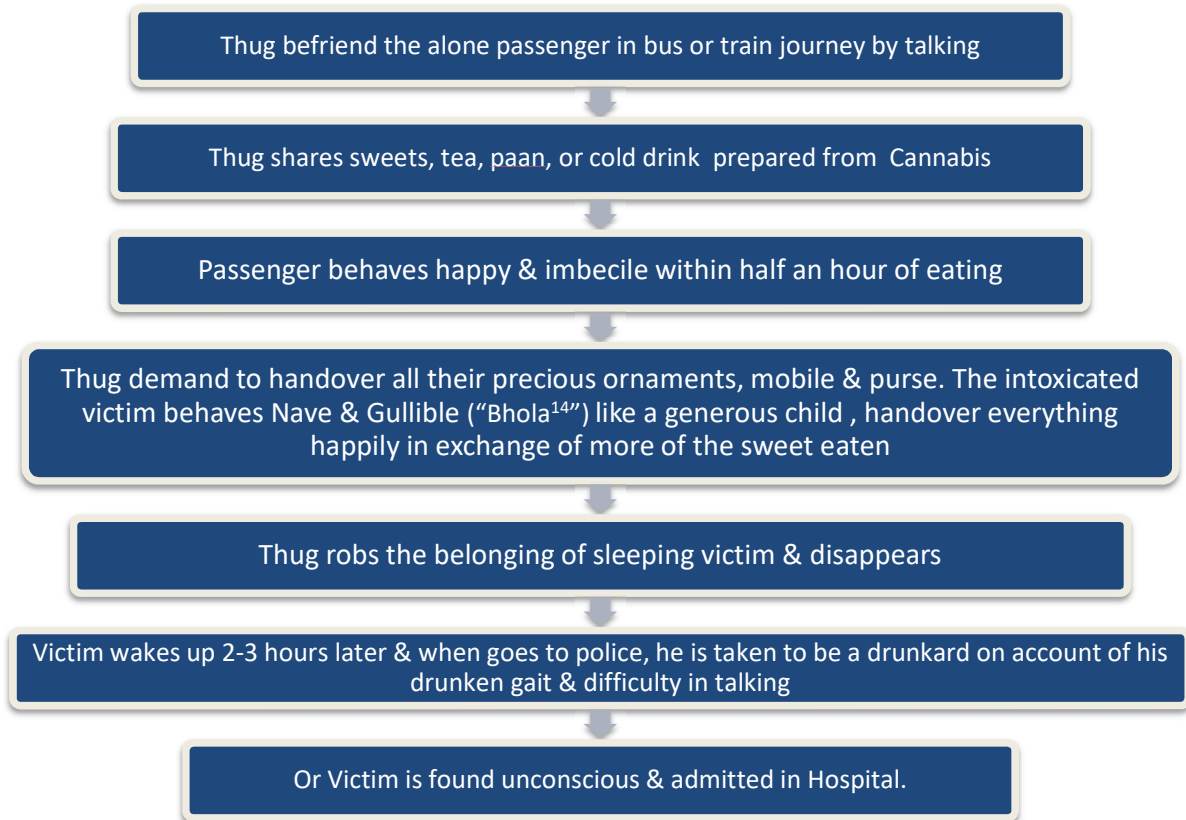


Fig. 1. The scenario in Rail-road poisoning

innocent victims-

No act of terrorism (14). "there were no indications to suggest the shooting was terror-related and the suspects had a string of previous convictions, for marijuana possession, driving under the influence and battery after marijuana consumption" (14).

Nov 5, 2017 - A gunman opened fire at a rural church outside San Antonio, killing at least 26 — including several children.

Oct 1, 2017- At least 58 dead, more than 515 injured after shooting at Las Vegas Strip music festival (14).

As per Indian mythology, Lord Shiva stays on Himalaya- the land of Black gold- cannabis crops, with his followers by drinking bhaang, eating majun sweets & smoking Charas & Gaanja (9). As per Shiv Puran, Lord Shiva goes on a killing spree after Sati's suicide (9) In Indian mythology, the story goes that Sati

marries Shiva against the wishes of her father, Daksha. In retaliation, Daksha organizes a fire-sacrifice or yagna and invites all his sons-in-law except Shiva, to partake of the ritual. Angry at the exclusion of her husband, Sati rushes into the sacrificial precinct and confronts her father, who mocks Shiva's ascetic ways in front of all the assembled guests. Unable to bear this public humiliation, Sati kills herself by leaping into the sacrificial fire thereby polluting the ritual space and causing the yagna to grind to a halt. When Shiva learns of this event, he experiences deep rage and sorrow. Casting away his usual calm indifference, he transforms into a fierce killer, and goes on a rampage attacking everyone who had been silent witnesses to Sati's death & Daksha is beheaded. But the vengeance does not take away the sorrow — Shiva then dances around the world carrying the charred remains of Sati's corpse, killing everyone around (Taandav dance) (2).

Amotivational syndrome is a psychological condition associated with diminished inspiration to participate in social situations and activities, with other cause. Chronic indulgence is said to induce an amotivational syndrome characterized by apathy, social withdrawal, and lack of motivation to work (11). It can be interpreted in mythological story of Shiv & Annapurna when after Sati's death, Goddess Annapurna (who was believed to be incarnation of Sati's rebirth) transforms Shiva, the hermit residing in the Himalayas, into Shankara, the householder and bring him back to live social life with family & friends (2).

Why should we read & learn about cannabis? Cannabis is the most widely produced and consumed illicit drug in the world with global numbers of users approaching 182.5 million (3.8% of global population).

Why it's illegal using Cannabis? Use & cultivation of cannabis is prohibited in India & violation is covered by the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic substance act 1985 (15).

How to easy recall about Marijuana toxicity? Mari-Ju-Ana (mnemonic)
 Mari- Merry mood of the abuser
 Ju- Jute rope burn odor
 Ana- Anandamide receptor responds in brain to cannabis consumption.

Conflict of Interest:
None

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episodes of apathy caused by an external event, situation, substance (or lack of), relationship (or lack of), or

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