

Marijuana (Cannabis) in the Turah (Law)?

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The Way of the Most High

“Exalting belief in our Father, the Most High יהוה (YaHUAH), through His Turah, the 5 scrolls of M'shih (Moses).”

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Marijuana or "cannabis" is something that is being widely promoted on the internet and even in daily life around us for various reasons. Some people smoke it to get high and have fun. Others are taking it in various ways for medicinal reasons. Before even getting into the issue of whether this plant can be used Scripturally, people should consider is the process of today's marijuana production. Much like tobacco, it is highly chemicalized, non-organic, hybrid or GMO crossbreed. It is mostly grown in mono-crop style, which is not a garden style where one plant corresponds to other plants in the ecosystem and contribute to each other's environment. Most places will use heavy pesticides which abuse the plant, soil and the person who uses the plant.

Our position on the issue of marijuana use is that YaH did not intend for people to directly roll up leaves and smoke them, be it tobacco or otherwise. I will not speak to the issue of other methods of intake, such as tea or extract for treatment of cancer, autism or other issues. YaH gave the herbs, vegetation and trees of the garden originally for healing and life in B'rasheet (Gen.) 1:29. But it is quite un-natural for someone to take a leaf, roll it up in paper which is processed with chemicals, and smoke it. And the idea that someone following Scripture would promote "Head Shop" cannabis lifestyle to a modern society that is as messed up as ours is a horrible idea. That goes for using a tube or pipe of some kind as well. It is highly unimaginable that the priesthood of Lui (Levi) would have done such things in their priestly services to **יְהוָה** (YaHUAH). Yet that is exactly what some people are suggesting, in order to make them feel okay with their smoking of cannabis. Because people are engaged in an act or habit that is questionable, they then devise and twist Scriptures to make teachings that make their questionable act seem Scriptural. This is not proper study and application of the Turah (Law).

The root word for "b'shim" (commonly "bosem" in Masoretic which sometimes pronounces shin as samek) is "sam," samek, mem, referring to an aromatic that smells very nice, like frankincense. It is something that is aromatically pleasing. Marijuana does not smell nice at all. To one who is using it every day they become accustomed to the grotesque smell, as any tobacco smoker would do. But it is not at all pleasant. It is not at all a "sweet cane" or aromatic as other things which the priestly service used. The actual meaning of "Qonuh b'shim" is indeed simply a "cane" that is "sweet" and was only mentioned once in the anointing oil of the priesthood of Lui (Levi) in Sh'moot (Ex.) 30:23. Most translations used "calamus." Calamus has a wonderful scent much like "qon'men" (cinnamon) which is included in the anointing oil of Sh'moot (Ex.) 30:23. Usage of simply the word for "cane" or "stalk" can be seen in texts like Sh'moot (Ex.) 25:6. "Qonuh" being a "stalk" or "reed" that is sturdy, such as the sheaves or stalks/bundles Yusap (Joseph) saw in his dream (B'rasheet (Gen.) 41:22). The "sweet cane" of Scripture is never articulated as to its exact plant. It could be a number of different stalks or reeds or trees. But one thing we know for certain is that it was aromatic, sweet and pleasant.

It is absurd for someone to take a general phrase like "qonuh b'shim" and attempt to place an exact plant as to what that "cane" was. Next thing you know, people will be saying it really meant "cocaine." Co-caine. Co-cane. See? Now all the druggies will be going around on Facebook saying that the "qonuh" is really crack cocaine. This is what happens though when people find one thing that sounds like another and attempt to make them the same. They took the Masoretic "Qoneh bosem" and changed it into "cana-bis." In this case the two don't even really sound the same. But the point is that one cannot take

a word from one language and place it over top of a word in another language that sounds the same and then equate the two.

It is up to marijuana advocates to prove that the tribe of Lui (Levi) ever smoked anything, be it tobacco or otherwise. It is up to them to prove a single example of "qonuh b'shim" which is specifically identifying marijuana or the "cannabis" they espouse. They must show something tangible in Scripture where YaH said or allowed anyone to roll up leaves and smoke them.