



# The Wondrous Mushroom: Mycolatry in Mesoamerica

*R. Gordon Wasson*

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"From now on any comprehensive study of Ancient Mexican civilization must start from (and with) your discoveries."—Octavio Paz

"The late Mr. Wasson is the Abraham of the reborn awareness in Western civilization of the presence of the shamanically empowering mushroom."—Terence McKenna

In 1957 *Life* magazine created a sensation by publishing an article about the experiences of a JP Morgan executive who took mind-altering mushrooms with a shaman woman in Mexico. The story captured the imagination of a generation, inspiring waves of intellectuals, artists, and seekers to travel in search of the mushrooms and the indigenous healer, Maria Sabina. Today, Gordon Wasson is credited with having triggered the psychedelic revolution and his influence lives on through the growing community of people who study indigenous spirituality, sacred plants, and their role in personal transformation. In celebration of Wasson's pioneering work, we present a reprint of his classic *The Wondrous Mushroom*, an in-depth study of shamanic realities, mushrooms, and traditions connecting contemporary practices to pre-Conquest art, architecture, and culture. The book begins with Wasson's first experiences taking mushrooms, going into a wealth of details about sacred indigenous ceremonies, culture, and practices. *The Wondrous Mushroom* reflects a lifetime of studies, personal experiences, and reflections on shamanism, culture, community well-being, healing, and spiritual strength. Long out of print, this new edition is a must-have for anyone interested in the history of psychedelics.

**Gordon R. Wasson** (1898–1986) founded the field of "ethnomycology" and was considered the preeminent authority on the use of psychoactive mushrooms.

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