



**HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THIS LIE?**

# **MARIJUANA IS NOT A DRUG**

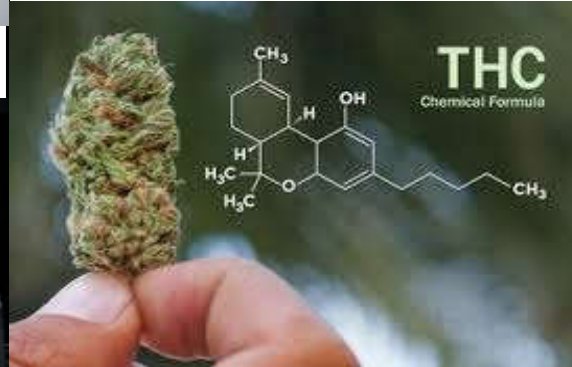
*Anytime you roll up or process an organic toxic plant and ignite it, it becomes a chemical compound*



*A poison is an uncontrolled drug, and a drug is a controlled poison, whether injected, ingested, absorbed or inhaled.*

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The daily ritual of Black people smoking weed and getting high. Some view the burgeoning marijuana industry as a modern day gold rush because there is now the ability to actually sell weed and not be arrested for it. Others are taking the softer laws around possession as a sign that America is finally doing right by the Black man who has served more jail time for weed crimes than any other group of people in this country. It's a drug that helps Black people not focus on whatever problems they may have, and works as a form of escapism. Essentially, as long as you're high, you're not as overly concerned with things the same way you might be if you were sober. While on a surface level, this can be viewed as positive in terms of stress relief, the reality is Black people live in a constant state of stress and anxiety, meaning more often than not, they may be more willing to smoke marijuana as a form of relief.

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.



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Dr. Muhammad's intense study of marijuana and the elevated THC currently found in today's weed is right and exact. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a study saying, "The marijuana available today is much stronger than previous versions. The THC concentration in commonly cultivated marijuana plants has increased three-fold between 1995 and 2014 (4 percent and 12 percent respectively). Marijuana available in dispensaries in some states has average concentrations of THC between 17.7 percent and 23.2 percent. ... Higher doses of THC are more likely to produce anxiety, agitation, paranoia, and psychosis." U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams, in a recent advisory, warned there is no safe amount of marijuana for teens, young adults, or pregnant women.



Black people are overrepresented in jails and prisons when it comes to marijuana arrests and convictions, but though many states are legalizing weed, at the federal level, it still remains a Schedule I drug; meaning the government views marijuana as being just as dangerous as heroin, LSD, but somehow less dangerous than cocaine. In addition, even though the penalty for possession has now been greatly reduced and the drug is becoming legalized at the state level, the federal government has no plans to release anyone currently convicted and incarcerated on weed charges in states where marijuana is legal.



Dr. Muhammad, who is an author and holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Studies, said there is a difference in the THC content of marijuana of today and that of the past. THC is the chemical in the drug that produces the users' high. Modern weed has been scientifically altered to contain significantly higher levels of THC than what would normally be found in marijuana that is cultivated naturally, warns Dr. Muhammad. It is that high grade of marijuana that is not only pushed on Black people, but is now demanded by Black people, he added. These days, weed smokers in Black neighborhoods and communities only want "loud" and not "Reggie," or a powerful type of marijuana known for its unmistakable smell versus a less powerful version of the drug, he continued



When consumed in a tobacco leaf or "blunt," meaning marijuana placed inside a hollowed out cigar, two chemical compounds mixed together can have detrimental effects Black people aren't even aware of, Dr. Muhammad said. When you take the weed with the elevated THC, and mix it with the nicotine in tobacco, both of these compounds have an affinity for melanin," explained Dr. Muhammad.

"The nicotine in tobacco is more dangerous to Black people than White people. Nicotine attaches to melanated tissues and latches on, forever releasing its poisons into the body. ... So when Black people smoke blunts, we become walking reservoirs of these two compounds. With weaponized THC married to nicotine in tobacco, it's doing double the damage and it's two times as dangerous. So when we talk about recreational legalization, because Black people and White people are not only socially segregated but also scientifically segregated, I wouldn't be surprised to find out that dispensaries in the 'hood have very different marijuana than dispensaries in middle class, White neighborhoods."