

"Tis the season to be jolly!" ^{hide} ~~The~~ Christmas season is here and for some, the jollies might include things like rum in your egg nog or tequila in some hot chocolate.

I am not a teetotaler so I'm not opposed to a holiday drink or two for those who can handle it; but when I recently read an article about Humboldt Distillery, a local brewery in Fortuna, looking into providing a local flavor to their brew, I became concerned. Now, since Fortuna is in Humboldt, people are expecting some sort of cannabis flavor. So, the perfect concoction is about to come our way: Hemp infused vodka! You can get high from the alcohol and an added buzz from the THC that is the part of marijuana which makes you high, will lift you right into Santa's sleigh on Christmas night.

Now, the article claims that the THC levels in the alcoholic drinks are actually low: the brewers report only a moderate amount of CBD is released into either the wine or vodka because temperatures are not high enough to release the THC. As such, they claim it could have a relaxing effect, and even medicinal properties. I do not doubt that certain types of cannabis under the right circumstances might have palliative effects for a person suffering from ~~the effects of~~ chemo therapy, headaches or AIDS; still, I'm more than a little skeptical that anything good will come from mixing pot and alcohol.

The only reason I can see to mix hemp seeds with booz, rather than, say, mustard seeds or pumpkin seeds, is to get high, or to exult in the marijuana smell, taste, etc., that *does* get you high. A certain person who is brewing cannabis wines says she is not much of a marijuana smoker, but she does think cannabis-infused alcohols do have ~~potential~~ in the recreational market. That's what we have done in California recently: legalized the 'recreational' use of marijuana. Hence, the market for marijuana-laced everything is about to explode: from ~~the~~ bakeries to breweries and everything in between.

^{we know} All this leads me say, Let's step back for a moment and take a big picture question right on the chops: why is it ~~that people~~ are so obsessed with finding every means possible to get high? Is getting high, buzzed, plastered, drunk, whatever you call it, really a means of becoming 'jolly'? Is it really recreational? Like going bowling or surfing, or playing golf? Or is it an escape that mostly lands people in the throes of depression, dysfunction and broken relationships? Recreation is defined as something we do with our leisure. On the horizon ^{looks} comes a new offering of ~~mixing~~ ^{mixed drink} the ^{ancient} age-old elixir of alcohol with the newly legalized cannabis products. ^{Recreation P.L.*}

^{blending} One of the brewers says mixing marijuana and alcohol is not as much of an ethical issue as it is a regulatory issue. I'd say it is a supremely ethical issue, because the amount of alcohol we currently consume causes untold pain, suffering and death. Add a bit of marijuana to the brew: and the ^{intoxication} ~~pain and suffering~~ will become ~~much~~ ^{make us anything} ~~worse~~ but jolly.

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment