



December 4, 2009

Dear MAPS Supporter,

**Bringing psychedelic psychotherapy research to an Arab country is among the most rewarding and unexpected accomplishments in all of my 23 years with MAPS.**

I want to share with you why I find it rewarding to bring MDMA-assisted psychotherapy to Jordan. I invite you to celebrate this accomplishment by making a year-end contribution to MAPS in support of our psychedelic psychotherapy research efforts.

I was born Jewish in Chicago, Illinois (USA) in 1953. Many of my close relatives lived in Israel. I grew up in the shadow of the Holocaust, grappling to understand whether Anti-Semitism remained a mortal threat to me personally and to my family and community. Stories of Hitler and the Nazis and the birth of the State of Israel in 1948 were central topics in our home. As an American of my generation, I also grew up under the cloud of the cold war with communist Russia. These major world events cast deep impressions on my psyche. As a result, I had too frequently found myself navigating my life within the boundaries of fears.

In order to learn about "the other" I studied Russian in high school. When I was 16, my parents sent me to Russia for a month to study Russian. I spoke Russian well enough to attract the attention of young Russians my age who were fascinated by everything American.

**The myth of a monolithic enemy, of white versus black, began to crumble as I went on adventures with my new Russian buddies. While our two countries were poised on the brink of incinerating each other, I saw that the vast masses of people in both countries were not consumed by hatred, but motivated by fear.**

I've learned quite a few lessons from using psychedelics. I've learned of the depth of inner space inside my mind and spirit, and of how I'm connected to everything in life in those depths. Realizing that deep down we're all connected has helped me to appreciate, rather than fear, the differences between others and myself.

This year I attended an engagement party in Amman, Jordan for a young man with whom I've recently become friends. There were about 400 people at the party, and I quickly realized I was the only Jewish person there. As the sun went down, one of his family members pointed out to

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me that the lights in the distance were those of Jerusalem, a city I have visited many times during the course of my life.

I'd previously thought of Jerusalem and Amman as being worlds apart. Seeing Jerusalem from Amman showed me how intertwined these cities are – even though the populations of Jews and Arabs are divided by history and ethnicity.

Throughout that night, I spoke to various members of the families, eventually speaking with the matriarch of the bride's family. We had a deeply moving conversation, in which she explained how she had grown up in Haifa, a city in the north of Israel. She had left as a refugee in 1948, in what the State of Israel calls the War of Independence and many Arabs call the Catastrophe.

My Israeli relatives fought in that war, and in the series of wars that have followed. This was the first time in my life I directly spoke with someone who fled Israel as a consequence of that war.

**I felt the reality of our common humanity so profoundly that my hopes for long-term peace didn't seem so naive or unrealistic.**

I think of that woman often, who fled her home in Haifa, and I feel sympathy.

The Talmud, the Jewish book of law, taught me the proverb that if you save one life, it's as if you have saved an entire world. My psychedelic upbringing has taught me that my family extends beyond the borders of the U.S., Israel, and beyond those who look like me or talk like me.

If our study in Amman can help one Iraqi refugee now living in Jordan with PTSD emotionally recover from the profound threats they experienced when they had to leave their home and life behind in Baghdad, or if our study in U.S. Veterans with PTSD from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars can prevent one soldier from committing suicide, we will have been successful in saving an entire world.

Please accept my invitation to make a generous year-end gift to MAPS to give this gift of hope to more people in 2010.

The focus on healing that brought me to Amman to conduct an MDMA study with Jordanians and Iraqi refugees helped me to build a bridge to a society and people that I had previously been taught to fear.

**I have been asked why I want to cross borders to do MAPS research. I have been asked why I don't just focus on research in the U.S.**

On the surface there is the strategic value of crossing borders in order to build an international base of support for psychedelic research. With "cross border synergies," the survival and continuity of research is safer in case of backlash against psychedelic research in any one country. It all fits into our strategic mission of making MDMA into an FDA-approved medicine because the U.S. FDA

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will permit one of the two required Phase 3 clinical trials to be conducted outside of the U.S.

But I'm also interested in crossing borders in order to hold hands with a new friend on the other side, to see a spark of recognition, to gently and gradually erode the mountains of fear of "the other" and to build bridges between hearts.

I'm interested in crossing borders for common purposes of healing the trauma of war, in order to strengthen the forces for peace on all sides.

It's our focus on healing and returning people to the enjoyment of life that enables us to work in Israel and Jordan, two different countries that have often been at war with each other and are now trying to forge a tenuous, cold peace that will hopefully grow warmer over the years to come.

MDMA-assisted psychotherapy helps facilitate acceptance and forgiveness and helps produce sympathy and empathy. Working with MDMA-assisted psychotherapy in two countries with enormous amounts of fear and hatred toward each other is one small way to build a few bridges of understanding and compassion.

While I feel a great passion for each and every one of the things we've accomplished together this year, there is a special place in my heart for our achievement of bringing MDMA-assisted therapy to an Arab country. **We may be one of the only organizations in the world working to heal the emotional wounds of Israelis and Jordanians, American soldiers and Iraqi civilians.**

In celebration of this accomplishment, I hope you will make a year-end contribution in support of the milestones we've reached, and our efforts in front of us.

Beyond our bringing MDMA research to Jordan, 2009 was a magnificent year for MAPS:

- We closed out our U.S. MDMA/PTSD pilot study and finished the first round of protocol design for a new study in U.S. Veterans at the same location and with the same team.
- We gained approval from Health Canada to conduct an MDMA/PTSD study in Canada.
- Our Israeli team treated a gentleman with PTSD from the 1967 Six-Day War.
- Our Swiss MDMA/PTSD study enrolled the 12th and final subject.
- Our Swiss LSD/end-of-life study made international news with articles in Der Spiegel and Scientific American.
- We successfully completed our first ever MDMA-therapist training seminar.
- We wrote a manuscript about our U.S. MDMA/PTSD study and submitted it to a scientific journal.
- We continued to challenge the DEA to gain licensing for an independent marijuana production facility in order to break the U.S. government's monopoly on the supply of marijuana for scientific research.

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- We supported a research project on the long-term efficacy of ibogaine for the treatment of opiate addiction.
- We opened registration for “Psychedelic Science in the 21st Century,” the largest international conference on psychedelic research and psychotherapy in the U.S. in 17 years, to take place April 15-18, 2010 in San Jose, California.
- And perhaps most amazing of all, we earned clearance from the U.S. FDA to administer MDMA to our therapists as part of a training protocol!

I’m so proud of all that we’ve accomplished together.

MAPS’ ultimate goal of creating thousands of legal psychedelic clinics around the world is still far off on the horizon. Hopefully I will live long enough to see this vision come to fruition. If I don’t, I am confident my children or grandchildren will.

The best means of moving toward MAPS’ goal is the continuation and expansion of our unyielding effort to melt the forces of fear, while making significant differences in the lives of those we come into contact with.

**The continuation and expansion of psychedelic research must be met with an expanded expression of commitment and generosity among MAPS supporters like you.**

Regardless of whether you choose to make a year-end gift, I want to assure you that I am deeply thankful for your past and future support. I am honored to partner with you in working toward the good of humankind.

The future of psychedelic research rests on your passion – embodied in your year-end support – to bring MAPS’ bold commitment to the value of psychedelic psychotherapy and medical marijuana into 2010, and beyond.

Happy “Psychedelic” Holidays!

*Rick Doblin*

Rick Doblin, Ph.D.

MAPS Founder and Executive Director

P.S. Take advantage of our early-bird prices and purchase your registration for Psychedelic Science in the 21st Century before the end of the year. This is going to be an amazing event that you won’t want to miss. More information and registration can be found at: [www.maps.org/conference](http://www.maps.org/conference)