



Risé Stevens' Mother's Day Gift...

A NECKLACE MADE OF

GOLD FILLED

The family of Risé Stevens — world-famous Metropolitan Opera star — selected a gleaming necklace in precious Gold Filled for her Mother's Day present.

Fashioned of Gold Filled (karat gold bonded under heat and pressure to a strong supporting metal), her necklace will look lovelier longer...gleam with the unmistakable beauty of real gold.

For the days that must be perfect . . . for the gifts that must be perfect — select something made of Gold Filled.

GOLD FILLED:

Resists tarnishing — because it is *karat* gold where it's seen . . . where it wears.

Has **greater true value** — because it has a *layer* of karat gold, not just a microscopic film.

Is quickly identified — by a government authorized mark . . . which may be stamped on only genuine Gold Filled.

For the pride of owning or giving make sure it's

GOLD FILLED

THIS GOVERNMENT PRESCRIBED MARK MAY READ 10, 12, OR 14 KARAT GOLD FILLED



PENS AND PENCILS, MEN'S AND WOMEN'S JEWELRY, OPTICAL FRAMES, WATCHES, CHAINS, ACCESSORIES

MUSHROOMS CONTINUED

bold surmise: was it not probable that, long ago, long before the beginnings of written history, our ancestors had worshiped a divine mushroom? This would explain the aura of the supernatural in which all fungi seem to be bathed. We were the first to offer the conjecture of a divine mushroom in the remote cultural background of the European peoples, and the conjecture at once posed a further problem: what kind of mushroom was once worshiped and why?

Our surmise turned out not to be farfetched. We learned that in Siberia there are six primitive peoples—so primitive that anthropologists regard them as precious museum pieces for cultural study—who use an hallucinogenic mushroom in their shamanistic rites. We found that the Dyaks of Borneo and the Mount Hagen natives of New Guinea also have recourse to similar mushrooms. In China and Japan we came upon an ancient tradition of a divine mushroom of immortality, and

in India, according to one school, the Buddha at his last supper ate a dish of mushrooms and was forthwith translated to nirvana.



MUSHROOMstone" from the highlands of Guatemala dates back to 300-600 A.D.

When Cortez conquered Mexico, his followers reported that the Aztecs were using certain mushrooms in their religious celebrations, serving them, as the early Spanish friars put it, in a demonic holy communion and calling them *teonanacatl*, "God's flesh." But no one at that time made a point of studying this practice in detail, and until now anthropologists have paid little attention to it. We with our interest in mushrooms seized on the Mexican opportunity, and for years have devoted the few leisure hours of our busy lives to the quest of the divine mushroom in Middle America.

We think we have discovered it in certain frescoes in the Valley of Mexico that date back to about 400 A.D., and also in the "mushroom stones" carved by the highland Maya of Guatemala that go back in one or two instances to the earliest era of stone carvings, perhaps 1000 B.C.

For a day following our mushroom adventure Allan and I did little but discuss our experience. We had attended a shamanistic rite with singing and dancing among our Mixteco friends which no anthropologist has ever before described in the New World, a performance with striking parallels in the shamanistic practices of some of the archaic Palaeo-Siberian peoples. But may not the meaning of what we had witnessed go beyond this? The hallucinogenic mushrooms are a natural product presumably accessible to men in many parts of the world, including Europe and Asia. In man's evolutionary past, as he groped his way out from his lowly past, there must have come a moment in time when he discovered the secret of the hallucinatory mushrooms. Their effect on him, as I see it, could only have been profound, a detonator to new ideas. For the mushrooms revealed to him worlds beyond the horizons known to him, in space and time, even worlds on a different plane of being, a heaven and perhaps a hell. For the credulous primitive mind, the mushrooms must have reinforced mightily the idea of the miraculous. Many emotions are shared by men with the animal kingdom, but awe and reverence and the fear of God are peculiar to men. When we bear in mind the beatific sense of awe and ecstasy and *caritas* engendered by the divine mushrooms, one is emboldened to the point of asking whether they may not have planted in primitive man the very idea of a god.

It is no accident, perhaps, that the first answer of the Spanish-speaking Indian, when I asked about the effect of the mushrooms, was often this: *Le llevan ahí donde Dios está*, "They