

The Legal Poison

Alcohol kills roughly three million people every year. That number is difficult to hear because it is difficult to see. Alcohol does not arrive as a single event. It arrives as liver failure, cancer, car accidents, domestic violence, depression, suicide, infection, heart disease, and quiet despair. It hides behind other causes. It dissolves responsibility. It disperses blame. And because of that, it remains acceptable.

The Most Dangerous Drug in Plain Sight

Alcohol is: neurotoxic, addictive, carcinogenic, socially destabilizing, economically protected, and aggressively advertised. It contributes to more death than most illicit substances combined. It costs healthcare systems trillions. It fractures families. It shortens lives. It numbs pain long enough to make people endure conditions they might otherwise refuse. And yet it is celebrated. Not because it is safe — but because it is useful.

Why Alcohol Is Allowed

A dystopia does not ban what harms. It bans what threatens control. Alcohol: sedates, distracts, blurs pain, slows resistance, turns rage inward, and makes suffering tolerable. It does not awaken. It does not reorganize meaning. It does not dissolve fear of authority. It helps people survive a system that would otherwise feel unbearable.

The Criminalization of Healing

At the same time alcohol was normalized, taxed, and advertised, substances with far lower harm profiles — and far higher potential for insight — were outlawed: psilocybin, ibogaine, LSD, MDMA, mescaline, and cannabis. These substances were not banned because they killed. They were banned because they changed people. They loosened narratives. They reduced fear. They interrupted compulsive loops. They questioned authority. They weakened obedience. And so they were erased from medicine.

The Great Substitution

What replaced them was not healing. It was management. Daily prescriptions. Lifelong dependency. Symptom suppression. Emotional flattening. Chronic treatment, and endless consumption. The mind became a machine to be tuned — not a story to be understood. Alcohol fit perfectly into this new world. It required no supervision. No introspection. No transformation. Just repetition.

The Hidden Agreement

Society made an unspoken deal. Drink after work. Drink to celebrate. Drink to forget. Drink to endure. Drink to cope. Drink to sleep. Drink to survive. And the system will look away. Alcohol is not a moral failure of individuals. It is a structural tool of endurance. It helps people tolerate meaningless labor, social fragmentation, loneliness, economic precarity, endless stimulation, and spiritual emptiness. It is the medicine of a civilization that does not want to heal— only to continue. If alcohol were discovered today, it would be illegal. But it was discovered long ago— and it helps the system run. So it remains sacred. And the cost is paid in silence, year after year, by people who were never told there was another way.