



6: "It Ain't Natural!"

"An individual's sexual preference should be viewed as neither good nor evil ... Homosexuality, ... is but the sharing of intimacy. The division into male and female created human sexuality, crossing all lines of the experience— including heterosexuality, homosexuality, and bisexuality. Each pattern is equal in the lesson that, in the sexual expression and in the intimacies of human relationship, each individual should be balanced, loving, and altruistic."¹

"Many people are learning to accept their androgynous natures. Some express it in homosexuality ... [which] in the long run is a healthy statement in your civilization. Ultimately, we are all androgynous."²

Homosexuality "is an evolutionary stage of the spirit ... and it is not to be condemned or honored any more than any other physical or spiritual stage. ... If [an] Earth lifetime was homosexual in orientation, it will enter here the same way. ... Whether heterosexual or homosexual in nature, the soul-level energy and bonding commitment of all couples is totally respected."³

The statements quoted above were received from discarnate spirits communicating through mediums in 1989, 1985, and 2001 respectively. As far as I know, these are the only mentions of homosexuality by spirits yet published in the English language. Considering the utterance of numerous other spirit-communicators over the past century, this "liberal" attitude is not surprising. Few denizens of the heavens express condemnation of physical pleasures. To quote another spirit communicator: "Nothing about your body or its functions is either dirty or sinful. ... Deny your physical body expression of which it is capable and you will suffer."⁴ Those who do mention "sin" seem to share Heinlein's view that: "Sin lies only in hurting other people unnecessarily. All other 'sins' are invented nonsense."⁵

But, sin or not, aren't lesbians, gays, and swingers performing "unnatural" acts? Numerous self-appointed moralists have claimed that such creativity should be condemned in man because it does not occur in nature. They have been misinformed.

The species that is our closest relative, sharing 98 percent of our DNA, is the bonobo chimpanzee. "Whether females are in estrus or not, male and female bonobos enjoy sex several times a day with an ever-changing array of partners in

their close-knit group ... Sex for a group of bonobos is so casual, yet so tied in with every aspect of their day-to-day existence, that to set it apart from life, as we think we do in our own society, would be to misread their use of pleasure, which can be summed up as follows: there is no fighting over sex, and sex is used to stop fights. If they come across a choice bit of food in their native range in Zaire, and the bonobos are unsure who will get it, they all start having sex. Females grasp each other face to face and rub their vulvas to orgasm. Both sexes gather round and play feelie. Males 'fence' each other with their erect penises. Females felate males, males perform cunnilingus on females, and males and females have intercourse, often face to face ... All of this sex goes on at once, mind you, and afterward the good feeling is so complete that the food is shared with minimum conflict."⁶

Now, some puritanical critics might well try to use these facts to justify their view that freely practiced sexuality is "animalistic" or "bestly." The reverse is true. Although their practice among some primates does demonstrate that homosexual and multi-sexual activities are not "crimes against nature," neither are they common in the animal kingdom. "Given the thousands of species of animals that have sexual in-

tercourse only during the widely spaced intervals when they are likely to reproduce, and the mere two species that have intercourse week in and week out without reproducing—one human, the other humanlike—an argument can be made that sex done purely for pleasure with a variety of partners is actually *more* human than it is animal, while sex done strictly for reproduction is actually *less* human than it is animal.”⁷

Well then, what about "Thou shalt not commit adultery"? This prohibition originally meant only that a man's wife, being his property, was prohibited from enjoying another man sexually. The tribesmen who came up with this idea never intended to prohibit themselves from having all the wives and mistresses they could afford, while raping any women who had the misfortune of getting in the way of their armies. Although still a legal matter in most locales, adultery is a null concept for independent people. On the other hand, "cheating," or betraying the trust of one's spouse, is definitely verboten no matter what dimension one calls home. This is why so many folks have taken up the practice commonly called "swinging." When done correctly, swinging can provide a healthy outlet for urges that matrimony doesn't, while strengthening the marriage bond.⁸

As for same-gender relations among swingers, approximately 80 percent of females reportedly enjoy participating in bi-sexual activities when the opportunity arises and the conditions are secure. The same holds true for about 20 percent of males; although the testimony of friends confirms my observations that, amongst the over-60 set, the proportion is closer to 50 percent. As men reach a more advanced age, they apparently become more curious about what they might have missed and less concerned with protecting their masculine image.

A careful reading of more than 50 books containing descriptions and advice from discarnate spirits has revealed no commentaries on the morality or advisability of participating in group sex, orgies, swinging, or other such revelry.⁹ This can't be the result of a lack of experience on the spirit's part, as such goings-on have been going

on since they became possible. Perhaps the absence stems from a fear of offending the human channel or shocking the historically puritanical audience members.

Whatever the case, we can confidently conclude that sexual activities occurring among however-many people of whichever gender and in whatever formation are altogether natural and fine, providing that the result is pleasing to every soul involved.

Only You

The naturalness and goodness of pleasurable sexual activity equally applies when there is but a single person involved.

Most people, even those who were spared a Catholic education, grew up with some feelings that masturbation was wrong. The mere touching of one's body in "certain places" is forbidden in public (for all except major-league baseball players, it seems). Isn't that strange? I can stand anywhere upon the world's stage and rub my elbow or tweak my earlobe without a bit of controversy, but heaven help me should my hand wander down to the area of my greatest pleasure.

This prohibition is rooted, of course, in the general disapproval of pleasure that began with St. Paul and reached a crescendo under Luther, Calvin, and the Puritans. (See Lie #3.) The specific condemnation of masturbation, however, comes from an older source; or, rather, a misunderstanding of an older source.

The ancient Jews had a practice known as a "levirate marriage," which was intended to ensure lineage and property rights in cases where a man died before he had fathered a son. The law said it was the responsibility of the dead man's brother to inseminate the widow. Chapter 38 of the book of Genesis relates the tale of Onan, brother of Er, who was instructed by his father to fulfill his duty to his brother by entering into a levirate marriage with Er's widow, Tamar. But Onan, although no doubt enjoying the (otherwise prohibited) intercourse with Tamar, withdrew before ejaculating and "spilled his seed upon the ground." The assumption being that he did so to prevent the conception of a son, and thus improve his prospects of receiving Er's

share of their father's legacy. (Females not being qualified to inherit.) This act, unlike masturbation,¹⁰ earned Onan the wrath of the Lord.

The founding fathers of the Christian church found it useful to hold up Onan as an example of the wages of fleshly sin, although they never mentioned the details concerning his attempt to steal Tamar's inheritance. And so, the guilt of Onan has been laid on the shoulders (or the genitals) of every person, male and female, young and old, who has discovered the God-given joys of self-stimulation.

The real shame is shame itself.

Your Natural Self

At some point after the death of your physical vehicle, your spirit will make a decision as to whether or not another physical life on Earth is desirable.¹¹ If the decision is yes, there will be many associated decisions that must be made concerning where, with whom, and as what, you will be born. If you died by accident, you might make these decisions almost instantaneously but, in most cases, you will carefully plan your future life, taking many factors into consideration. Often, you will avail yourself of the assistance offered by spirits you view as having more experience and greater wisdom than you.

Although no spirit is omniscient, no planning process is impervious to error, and sometimes first choices are not available, generally spirits find their new life on Earth to be pretty much what they had chosen prior to birth. The environs and conditions a newly arrived spirit finds itself in are neither decreed nor immutable. Often such seemingly negative choices as poverty or bodily deformities are chosen either as learning opportunities or challenges to be overcome. Whether or not these lessons are learned and the challenges overcome is a matter of the spirit's character and the exercise of its freewill. Nevertheless, there are certain parameters that cannot be altered once the birth is accomplished. These include the location of one's birth, the identity of one's parents, one's race and ethnicity, and one's gender.

It is the latter parameter that recent events call into question. And, although the idea of an

"adult male predator in the little girl's room" is a baseless scare tactic, there are some aspects of the transgender controversy that do require thoughtful resolution. From a governmental standpoint, these include: To what prison shall a convict be sent? Which shower room is off limits to which high-school gym classes? When can a private spa refuse admittance to whom? And, which officers are assigned to do full-body and cavity searches? On a more personal level, in addition to issues of health, safety, and societal acceptance, there is one question that has not yet gained prominence: What insight can be gained by viewing transgender-related issues through the lens of reincarnation?

Is the pre-birth choice of gender ever made lightly or without much thought? Could a well-considered choice be a mistake? Can the process of selecting the new body malfunction? All these might possibly occur, but extremely rarely — certainly not as often as it seems that folk express dissatisfaction with the result.

Why such dissatisfaction exists may very well be that the spirit is attempting to experience being the opposite gender from that which the spirit was during its most recent lives. We all can change our conditions from one life to the next: from rich to poor, master to serf, gay to straight,¹² black to white to brown to red, and so on. If we have completed a series of lives as female, and chose to be male in the current one, it is understandable that we feel like strangers in our new bodies. But feeling like you are in unfamiliar territory doesn't mean you aren't meant to be there; or that you shouldn't try to make accommodations with the new and get comfortable with who you are now.

Your gender was almost certainly not an accident of nature. In all likelihood, if you were born with (or without) male genitalia, you made a conscious, reasonable decision to live your life in that condition. Before choosing to countermand that decision and change that condition, realize that you were responsible for it. To change gender post-birth is not a sin, but the act could negate a good deal of previous planning and effort on your part.

Know that, when this life is concluded, you will judge yourself on how well you met the challenges you set for it.

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END NOTES

¹ Ryerson, Kevin, and Stephanie Harolde, *Spirit Communication: The Soul's Path*, 1989, p. 172.

² Rodegast, Pat and Judith Stanton, *Emmanuel's Book*, 1985, p. 205.

³ Ward, Suzanne, *Matthew, Tell Me About Heaven*, 2001, pp. 61, 66.

⁴ Barham, Martha J., *The Silver Cord*, 1986, p. 62.

⁵ Heinlein, Robert Anton, *Time Enough for Love*, 1973, p. 352.

⁶ Gould, Terry, *The Lifestyle*, 1999, pp. 90, 199.

⁷ _____, p. 90.

⁸ For more on such activities, see the book: *Together Sex*.

⁹ So-called "open marriages" are excluded from this list because primary bonds tend to suffer from the reduced time available for each other.

¹⁰ The Jews of the time, like many cultures today, were dedicated to maximizing their population and so frowned upon any waste of semen in either masturbation or nocturnal emissions. But, assuming the crime was discovered, proscribed punishments were fairly mild — executing the perpetrators would have been self-defeating.

¹¹ Those readers who do not accept this statement as fact will benefit immensely from reading *Defending Bridey's Honor: The Reality of Reincarnation*.

¹² See the book, *Sex After Death*, especially page 13.