

The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

In a conversation, recently, with a doctor of health and wellness at a Hongkong hospital, operated by Seventh-Day Adventist adherents, I was told that his religion considered homosexuality and promiscuous behavior to be sins of the flesh. Homosexuality, the good man said, was an abomination, while promiscuous behavior was an act, constituting transgression of divine law. Such big words! Because the good man acted more than a little pompous, I determined to take him to task – just for the Hell of it! I asked him the reason, first, that homosexuality was an abomination: A state exciting disgust; pollution. He said that homosexuality was unnatural and that only homo sapiens, those that had fallen from grace in the eyes of the Lord, indulge in such unnatural acts. I decided, at this point, to give him a lesson. I said: ‘Doctor, did you know that monkeys and cows, both indulge in sexual conduct akin to what you call homosexuality among homo sapiens, that is of or pertaining to, or characterised by sexual attraction to animals of the same sex?’ He looked at me and said, blandly: ‘Are you sure?’ When I assured him that it was fact, he mumbled something along the line that he did not know. I determined to press ahead with my attack: ‘Doctor, did you know that all female birds like to have as many mates as possible and that, while the male is sitting on the eggs, she is off, having it off, so to speak, with other male birds. Female bears are terribly promiscuous when in heat while monkeys, lionesses, dolphins and seals, just to name a few mammals, like to have as many sexual partners as is possible, upon reaching sexual maturity. To tell you the truth – and you know that I am a trained nurse by profession – only homo sapiens like to think that they mate for life with one of their opposite kind.’ The poor doctor was stopped in his tracks. He looked at me, quizzically. ‘That is not my teaching,’ he said politely after a long pause and with an air of reverence, clasping his hands together as though about to start his evening devotions. I suggested to the good man that, perhaps, he should study biology and behavioral science. He, then, got angry and informed me that he was a doctor of health and wellness.

I, then, passed onto another subject: How does a lady find a husband, one that would be loyal and faithful and stay the course of a marriage? The good doctor suggested that I go to his Church in order to learn the way of the Lord. ‘God may be good,’ I told him, ‘but a man rarely is good prior to him, getting married. ‘And even then, he needs training.’ The doctor nodded in assent and, then, said that man is, innately, a sinner, but man was made in the likeness of God ... ‘And God is goodness.’ He, then, asked me what a woman should want in a husband. This was my answer: To begin with, a prospective husband is difficult to find in today’s world because many men are just not trainable. A prospective husband, I explained, must be able and willing to adapt to the ways of a woman who agrees to accept his proposal of marriage. In addition, a lady must be able, mentally, to visualize how her potential husband will look 25 years after she signs the marriage certificate. After all, I told the doctor: ‘He could look like Dracula as he grows old. No woman wants a Dracula, sleeping in her bed!’ Then, there is the question of memory. A prospective husband must have a good memory so that he can remember to buy his wife presents on (a) her birthday; (b) her wedding anniversary; (c) on all holidays; and, (d) on those days of the month when she is down. The presents must not be just flowers, although they may be nice on occasions, but expensive jewellery is best for most important days. Then, there is the matter of the dress code for men and women. For men, it is simple

enough: A nice, clean and neat pair of trousers, black, brown or white, and a reasonably looking shirt with a suitable jacket to match. For a lady, however, her wardrobe must be extensive, from her lingerie to her hats, down to her many pairs of shoes. That is the reason that a man only needs a couple of drawers in the bedroom and about 5 linear feet of closet space to hang up some of his clothes. A wife, on the other hand, must have at least 10 drawers and about 50 linear feet of closet space.

It was, at about this time, that the good doctor started to laugh at me, suggesting that I was just joking with him. 'No, I am not joking with you!' I protested. 'Because the joke is you and your kind, thinking that homosexual behavior abides only in homo sapiens; and, that promiscuity is a sin of the flesh. Probably, looked at from the point of view of pure science, promiscuity is natural among living organisms, mammals in particular, while monogyny is unnatural among mammals of all kinds as well as every and all cold-blooded aquatic vertebrates, possessing fins and gills. I suggest to you that modern Western religious beliefs, monotheism, if you will, was invented by man more as a discipline in order to control the masses by dint of fear than for any other reason. Look at the power that Moses had while wandering in the Sinai Desert for 42 years with his hoard for idolaters in tow while he claimed to be trying to find The Land of Milk and Honey! Left to their own devices, man would mate with as many females as would permit him to put his little willy in their beautiful little wendies.'

And, then, the conversation was over. Just like that! He marched off in a huff.

Chalk one up for Betty!

Talk to you, next week.

Chief Lady

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