

HOMOSEXUALITY: BE DAMNED !

Discussions about man's so-called, deviant sexual proclivities have raged throughout the ages, no less in this age than any other.

The difference between, say the Middle Ages – the 5th Century to the 15th Century – and the 20th Century is that most enlightened societies, other than a handful of religious societies/orders, which cling onto fundamentalism as a shield, are understanding and tolerant of changing sexual preferences, proclivities and inclinations, in both males and females.

The formalisation of 'modern' religious beliefs, Christianity, Judaism, and adherents of Islam, especially, has resulted in most Western societies, taking a very strong stand as to what is to be considered socially acceptable and socially unacceptable.

This may be considered interesting to academics since what is to be considered socially acceptable and unacceptable begs a number of questions, the foremost of which is: Who has the right(s) and is sufficiently erudite to make such determinations?

The People's Republic of China (PRC) has, recently, determined that homosexuality is abnormal, and that it is unacceptable to the public.

The Xuanwu District Court delivered its determination on September 30 with regard to a libel action, with the 30-year-old female judge, stating: *'Homosexuality in China, today, is considered as abnormal sexual behaviour, and is not acceptable to the public.'*

It is indeed rare that a 30-year-old woman can be so erudite, as Judge Zhang Li Hua, clearly, must be considered in order to be able to make such a definitive statement – especially in light of the overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Until relatively recently, it was a very serious offense for a practicing homosexual to be found guilty of such distasteful and disgraceful social behaviour.

Parties, found guilty of such an offense, could be punished under the criminal code, which relating to gross indecency.

A male, found guilty of indulging in homosexual acts with another male, whether or not they were consenting adults, could, on conviction, face the maximum sentence of 20 years in gaol.

Strangely, however, there has never been a successful conviction in the history of Hongkong, of a female homosexual, being caught in a position of giving and/or receiving sexual favours with another female.

The law, always, viewed homosexual acts between 2 consenting females differently from homosexual acts, being engaged in by males.

The Royal Hongkong Police Force, back in the 1970s, had a special task force to tackle the 'problem' of homosexual behaviour in Hongkong between males.

The task force was known, popularly, as 'The Bum Squad'. Its official designation: *'The Special Investigation Unit (SIU).'*

Homosexuality is, commonly, defined as a preference for members of one's own gender for purposes of sexual gratification.

The Bible (Leviticus 18:22) states that sex between men is '*an abomination*' and persons guilty of homosexuality should be put to death.

Great Britain and Germany have legalised homosexual activities between consenting adults.

A study by The University of California at Los Angeles in 1957 concluded that psychological testing of both heterosexuals and homosexuals revealed no distinguishing pathological differences.

In 1974, The American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its official list of mental disorders, noting explicitly that such a sexual preference does not, by itself, necessarily constitute a psychiatric disorder.

Fundamentalists, such as the Adventist Church, are inscrutable in its belief, maintaining: '*The Bible makes no accommodation for homosexual activity or relationships. Sexual acts outside the circle of a heterosexual marriage are forbidden.*'

Ms Laurie Evans, President, Adventist Church's South Pacific Division in Sydney, Australia, stated recently: '*It is so easy to concentrate on the sinfulness of such a practice (meaning homosexuality) and forget that there are people who struggle with such temptations, whom God loves dearly, and who need our support and encouragement.*'

Practicing homosexuals would, indeed, applaud such a loving statement, especially practicing homosexuals, who may happen to be devout Catholics, Jews and Adventists (with or without Jesus' second coming), but one of the aspects of homosexuals, which, only too often, is overlooked, is, simply, that the act is viewed as being pleasurable.

One of the main reasons that people indulge in various sexual activities is that they find it enjoyable – regardless of any moral issues, which may proscribe such activities.

Seventh-Day Adventists believe that sexual intimacy belongs only within the marital relationship of a man and a woman.

The Bible again, Genesis: 2:24: '*For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*'

History does not appear to support the position of most modern religious zealots with regard to homosexuality, zealots who label the act as an abomination.

History And Homosexuality:

The earliest written records of man have glaring evidence of homosexual relationships, not only restricted to males.

In the Middle Ages, homosexual sex was widespread – and members of established Churches of that day were not immune, with monks, fornicating with monks.

St. Augustine, one of the greatest of the Latin Fathers, maintained the somewhat Platonic theme: Passion derogated from reason; procreation was a virtuous end for sex; attempts to obtain pleasure were unnatural since rationality was inevitably compromised; sex was to be permissible only within marriage and only when aimed at procreation – and only then when the partners did not enjoy it too much.

St Augustine's views had a huge impact on Judeo-Christian beliefs for years to come, following his death in 430 AD.

Some of his teachings included a ban on masturbation and a universal proscription of oral and anal sex acts because, though pleasurable, they did not lead to procreation.

In addition, St Augustine determined that vaginal intercourse was to be permitted, but only in the '*missionary position*'.

Women were considered sinful should they attempt to be on top of the man, during the act of sexual intercourse, and a man may not mount his wife from behind or indulge in anal sex.

The idea of '*natural sex*' appears to have been a flexible term throughout history since different people appear to have harboured definitions as to what the term, '*natural*', meant.

About 800 years after the death of St Augustine, the institution of compulsory confession was promulgated at the Fourth Lateral Council.

This 1215 ruling, resulted in the laity, having to bear witness to new ethical considerations, all masterminded by theologians – who knew what was best for the laity when it came to sex and gender pairing.

A new handbook for confessors came into being, and it provided a wealth of interesting recorded history of sexual activities of centuries of fornication for posterity.

It appears that heterosexuals of 13th Century Europe were quite naughty and indulged in a whole range of sexual activities: Women atop of men; the '*doggy position*'; oral sex; anal sex; and, of course, the old standby, masturbation.

Etiology:

There does not appear to be an etiology for homosexuality, at least, one has never been formerly established. It appears to vary from one culture to another.

Given that homosexuality has had a very difficult time in getting to be socially acceptable, universally, one may legitimately ask the reason that people chose to indulge in homosexual activities when there were viable alternatives.

For what reason, for instance, would Oscar Wilde, the celebrated Irish poet, author and playwright of the 19th Century, flaunt his homosexual inclinations, openly, when he was well aware that the penalties for being found guilty of sodomy were public ridicule, financial disaster and incarceration – which, in Oscar Wilde's case, all became a reality.

The only conclusion that one may draw is that, for some people, the drive for sexual pleasure and gratification is greater than any moral precept, and the punishment, which may be metered out if found guilty of breaking a social and/or community taboo.

In short, homosexuals cannot stop, and no proscription can stop a homosexual from indulging in his favourite bedroom sport.

For a judge in the People's Republic of China to attempt to make a determination, as has recently been made public, while, at the same time, the French Courts have sanctioned same-sex marriages, it all seems to fly in the face of reality.

History has proved that society cannot seriously legislate against man's '*natural*' (?) propensity to fornicate, either with his opposite number, or his gender, and expect to enforce such laws, effectively.

Italy attempted, in the 15th Century, to extirpate sodomy ... and failed.

Homosexuality appears to be an activity, which has been with man since he first discovered to think, long before the Zend-Avesta, or Bible, were written.

One cannot spit into the wind without finding expectoration, coming back to haunt one, with it, eventually, returning to stick to one's face.

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