



CHAITANYA CHARAN DAS

Don't legalise disease

Question: What is the Vedic stand on the recent Supreme Court decision to legalise homosexuality?

Answer: We are all essentially spiritual beings, entitled to unlimited joy in our devotional relationship with god. The sexual drive is a perversion of our original spiritual love for god and it deprives us of our right to unlimited happiness. Sex is meant for procreation, not recreation. Sex-hungry moderns may consider all this sentimental imagination or impractical idealism, but we would do well to remember that our ancestors were not brainwashed by the maddening media blitz saturated with covert and overt sexual messages. For them, sex was what it actually is: just a biological drive meant for reproduction as it is even today for practically all "uncivilised" tribals and indeed almost all species of life. Except, of course, "advanced" modern humans and those humans infected by modern humans, for whom sex is a psychological obsession. Today the natural function of procreation, the actual purpose of sex, is most of the times scientifically suppressed through contraception and abortion in the maniac pursuit of recreation.

The sex drive is regulated and purified through a god-centred marriage. A sanctified union between a male and female for begetting noble children is a manifestation of the divine, as stated in the Bhagavad-gita (7.10), *dharmaviruddho bhuteshu kamo 'smi bharatarashabha* "am sex life that is not contrary to religious principles." In Vedic culture, even with marriage, sex was kept to the minimum. Adultery and other perverted forms of sex like homosexuality were ruled out. These regulations were meant not to deprive people of enjoyment, but to create a stable springboard to help catapult their consciousness to the spiritual platform, where they could experience unlimited spiritual happiness. The Vedic attitude was that material enjoyment rivets the consciousness of the soul to flesh and, while offering him only a drop of pleasure, cheats him of his rightful oceanic spiritual happiness. Thus it is absence of restriction, not restriction, that deprives the soul of happiness. Homosexuals deserve respect, for they also are the children of god. But their sexual orientation is a disease that needs to be cured, not legalised, perpetuated and spread. Chanting the holy names of god can awaken our souls and revive our blissful nature, which is our eternal right. If we truly want to uphold our citizens' right to happiness, we should empower them to awaken their dormant spiritual love and thus heal their disease, not legalise the very disease that is depriving them of happiness.

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