

E. On the road to transcendence

A homosexual sannyasin tells Osho that he finds it difficult to accept himself fully and joyfully. But the word perversity is painful, because he feels happy with a man. What about being totally accepted and not being convicted?

Osho replies:

Men and women become sexually mature at the age of thirteen or fourteen. The natural thing would be to allow them the expression of their new area of exploration. Of course, all precautions can be taken so that small boys and girls don't get into any trouble – particularly the girls, that they should not become pregnant at such an early age.

In the past there was no way, but now we are in a better position. According to me, the pill is the greatest revolution that has happened in history. (...) The society managed forcibly to keep the two sexes apart. And I wondered myself, when I came to know that between the ages of sixteen and eighteen sexual energy, as it happens, is at its peak. It will never be the same power again.

We have arranged marriages after the boys and girls return from the universities – age twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six. Their peak point of energy has already passed six or eight years back. They are on the decline. Because of this decline... And I suspect that religions wanted this decline to happen, because with this declining force you cannot have orgasmic experience.

1. Experiencing an orgasm, discovery of meditation.

Osho continues:

Orgasmic experience is a flood. You are so flooded that you disappear. And I respect the orgasmic experience because my understanding is that all meditations have arisen out of it. All spirituality has arisen out of it, because it has given a taste of the beyond. By preventing young people until they are twenty-five or twenty-six, first, they will never experience orgasm.

Second, they will never think that there is any possibility of a higher consciousness, of a more beautiful space within themselves; that they are not what they see in the mirror, they are much more. In an orgasmic experience they become almost one with the whole. It is the first glimpse – a window opens and they start searching for ways to widen the window, to fly in this open sky.

Nobody has worked it out, how man found meditation, how he started thinking of a spiritual experience of ecstasy. To me, it is very simple. Once the boys and girls have orgasmic experience, they have already tasted the spiritual, the divine, the sacred. Now, in their whole life nothing is going to be of that height.

2. Time stops...

And in an orgasmic experience one comes to know that thought stops, time stops. You come to a standstill – no movement. Those who were wise enough, they tried it in another way: how to get rid of thought, time and movement and become absolutely still. And they were surprised

that it works both ways; you attain to the same orgasmic experience. But when the orgasmic experience is sexual, you are dependent on the other person, and when the orgasmic experience comes out of meditation you attain a tremendous dignity as an individual – independence.

3. Counteracting an orgasmic experience.

Religions did not want this orgasmic experience to happen to people. And to prevent it, they created the idea of celibacy. It is ugly and very cunning – but priests are cunning. Their whole concern was their own business. If people start experiencing individually, the spiritual and the sacred, then the brahmin priest is no longer needed; neither is the rabbi needed or the catholic priest needed. They have come in direct contact with the universe in such an intimate way that there is no need for any mediator.

To destroy this possibility there were two ways. In the past, they used early marriage: seven years, eight years old. Now, a seven-year old boy is not sexually mature, and neither is the girl. But because they are married, slowly, slowly they are being taught by their relatives and friends and they start playing. Sex becomes just a play to them, and at the most just a method to produce children. They don't have any time to experience what could have turned them in a spiritual direction. This has been followed for centuries. They are too burdened too early. And the birth of children does not depend on orgasmic experience.

4. An energy phenomenon.

So sex has to be understood in two ways: on the one hand it reproduces the species, which is a biological phenomenon; on the other hand, it creates an energy experience which no religion, no politician would like people to have, because that will create the greatest revolution in the world. People will have a direct contact with existence – no holy scripture, no priest, no mediators. And these are the people who have been the parasites of humanity.

But the times changed, education came into the world; students had to leave their home and live in hostels, boys with boys, girls with girls. That also contributed to the perversion. I am not condemning it, I am simply telling you how it happened.

5. Spiritual growth.

If you are not interested in any higher possibilities, homosexuality is as good as heterosexuality. There is no problem in it. If it is only a question of sexual release, homosexuality is as good as heterosexuality. But if you are interested in higher growth, then you will be in trouble.

Osho expands on the subject:

Why do I say it is part of spiritual growth? Just the other day, I was saying that at the last moment, at the sixth chakra – ajna chakra – one has to come to a tremendous meeting of the man and the woman. You are also divided inside into two: man and woman. If you cannot meet with the outer woman, it will be very difficult for you to make space for the inner woman. If you cannot love the other on the outside, it will be impossible for you to create a loving space for the other inside you. A man is not only man, he is man-woman together.

He is born out of a man and a woman – fifty-fifty percent he is, and so is a woman. And the ultimate inner meeting, the union, the inner alchemy, is possible only if you have learned the ways in the outside world. When a man falls in love with a woman he is learning something.

When a man falls in love with a man he is not learning anything. When a woman falls in love with a man she is learning something – something of the unknown, something of the opposite, something of the quite other. Man and woman in love, means the right hemisphere in love with the left hemisphere.

So if you are interested in spiritual growth then you have to grow from homosexuality towards heterosexuality. If you are not interested in spiritual growth then there is nothing wrong. You can remain – heterosexual or homosexual, it is all the same. I think I have made it clear. If you are not interested in spiritual growth, then there is no problem. I am not against homosexuality, I am not against anything. It is your life – you have to decide; who am I? I am simply stating a fact that ultimately, inside your being, a meeting is going to happen; be prepared for that meeting. And the outer love with the other prepares you.

6. Going from phase 1 to phase 4, including phase 2 and phase 3.

Osho therefore says that the main road to transcendence (phase 4) runs from phase 1, via phase 2 and phase 3.

Homosexuality has a function to fulfil in the growing child. Somewhere from the first year to the seventh the child remains masturbatory. From the seventh year to the fourteenth the child turns homosexual. From the fourteenth onwards he should, if things go naturally, in a natural way, turn heterosexual. And by the age of forty-two he will start being a celibate. And that celibacy will be a natural, spontaneous phenomenon, not a repression.

If you are in homosexuality, I don't condemn you. I simply say get deeper into your feelings, meditate more, and by and by you will see that your homosexuality is turning into heterosexuality. If you are masturbatory, I would like you to become homosexuals; that is better. If you are homosexuals, I would like you to become heterosexuals; that is better. If you are already heterosexual, I would like you to become celibates; that is better. But go on. I don't condemn anything.

The more you understand the woman and the man outside you, the more you will have an understanding of the inner polarity. And one day, at the sixth centre of your being – what yoga calls ajna chakra, and yesterday I called 'superconsciousness' – there you will feel that your understanding of the woman and the man helps you tremendously. There, intuition and logic meet, imagination and will meet, initiative and reception meet. You will find it easy. You have learned the ways from the outside world – now you can use them for your inner alchemy.

If you are interested in spiritual growth, move towards heterosexuality. If you are not interested in that, then there is no problem. If you want to go beyond, if you really want to search your innermost being, the inner space, then heterosexuality will be helpful.

Just as I said to you: first stage is masturbatory, second stage is homosexual, third stage is heterosexual, fourth stage is asexual – that is the state of Brahmacharya, celibacy. And only when you have achieved to the fourth stage will you be able to penetrate to the uttermost core of your being – otherwise not.

A masturbatory person remains childish, a homosexual person remains juvenile, a heterosexual person remains animal. These stages have to be passed. Don't get stuck anywhere. And I am not condemning, remember always: I have no condemnation for anything.

7. Stop being so unaware about sex...

Sex is not an ordinary thing. It is one of the most substantial parts of your being. One should not be so unalert about it. It is the foundation of your being: you are born through sex, you live through sex, your birth is through sex, your youth is through sex, your love is through sex, and your death is going to happen through sex. Your whole life is a sexual affair. One should be very very alert and watchful of what one is going to do with one's sex energy.

8. But still: going directly to phase 4 through phase 1 and phase 2.

Given the above statements, it would seem that Osho is saying that the designated way to grow spiritually and to achieve transcendence is by passing through all three stages one after the other. But as other discourses make clear, this is not always the right path; it is, rather, that it is easier. Osho explains that whoever has become acquainted with the man-woman polarity in the outside world will find it easier to experience the *inner* man-woman polarity. Yet, as is evident from the next quotation, Osho is equally clear about this not being an absolute requirement:

But still I am not against anything. If you feel good, you have to decide it. I don't call it a sin, and I am not saying that if you are homosexuals you are going to be thrown into hell. All nonsense. If you are homosexual you will miss something, the feeling when yin meets yang, the feeling where negative meets positive, night meets day. You will miss something. Not that you will be thrown in hell, but you will miss something of heaven in your life.

Osho goes on to say that you have to go beyond all sexuality. A person should transcend sex, no matter what kind of sex it is. Whoever does not transcend his biology will never get to know his soul.

Remember that if inside you are going to become asexual one day, the brahmacharya has to arise, the purest celibacy has to arise; then it is better to move on the natural way. It is my understanding that it is simpler for a heterosexual to go beyond sex than for a homosexual. Because one rung is missing, it will take more and more effort for a homosexual, and unnecessary effort.

And don't be worried about enlightenment either, because at least one homosexual I know has become enlightened – Socrates; he was a homosexual. And there are suspicions about Jesus. I cannot prove it, they are only suspicions – because he always moved with the boys. Those twelve apostles... who knows? But if he was, nothing is wrong in it. Socrates was certainly a homosexual. Plato was, Aristotle was. Greeks are great people! (...) Greeks have been homosexuals for centuries. All their great people have been homosexuals. So you need not worry – you have a great history behind you! Walt Whitman was a homosexual – one of the greatest poets of all the ages (...).