

GAY PRIDE IS THE WILL TO OPPOSITION! By KIM FREILE

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One of the truths in life is that every human has their own personal scrape-goat. Some person or group whom we blame for all the evil in the world - whom we oppress in one way or the other because we are convinced that they are of less value than we ourselves.

In the "Declaration of Human Rights" there is one statement which I believe goes something like this: "All human beings, regardless of colour, race, or sex, are born free and alike in dignity as well as in privileges".

But we all know that hardly anyone seems to care one bit about the so-called Human Rights, as neither women, nor homosexuals, nor millions of others, for that matter, are born free. We also know that talk about dignity and human rights is one great big fraud.

Minority Oppression

In this world of progress, of liberation and solidarity, millions of people still have to fight for one particular human right that everyone else, regardless of colour or sex, takes for granted: THE RIGHT TO LOVE WHOMEVER IT MAY BE. All minorities can point to some other minority which they believe belongs somewhere further down the social ladder. A is better than B who comes before C. This is true in the relationship between husband and wife, white and coloured, rich and poor, young and old, man and woman, heterosexual and homosexual. Above all, by oppressing homosexuals, other suppressed groups find it easier to be accepted, in fact homosexuals are the last minority openly to be oppressed without the oppressor having to fear any kind of punishment at all. The oppression of homosexuals is in fact absolutely TOTAL. We don't even recognise it! That is if your homeland isn't Cuba or Spain, where Castro and Franco not only "cure" the homosexual (which is being done elsewhere in the world too) but they do it under circumstances which are unworthy of any country which calls itself civilised - namely in concentration camps.

Homicide

Never has there been any proof at all, that homosexuality is an illness. The apprehension is nevertheless so deep-rooted that homosexuals themselves, apart from a few, do not understand that suppression is what it is all about! Hitler managed to carry through the first step of what he called "the final solution to the problem of homosexuality". From 1934-1945 thousands of homosexuals were murdered for no other reason than that of their sexuality being regarded unacceptable. The doing away with the homosexuals started on 30th June 1934. In about a couple of days 200 homosexuals were murdered in Germany, and the imprisonment began all over Europe in 1940. Hitler himself answered for the murders, when in 1936 he told the public that: "You have to kill any man or woman who carries a pest". The number of homosexuals being murdered in German concentration-camps is believed to be about 100,000. In his book, "The SS-State", Eugene Kogan writes about this period in our history: "I have nothing much to say about their destiny, other than the fact that hardly any of them survived".

Morality of Middleages

Why bring back this awful memory? Why talk about what happened thirty years ago? We are young, we all live in civilised countries. Yes we do - and so did the homosexuals forty years ago. Nobody believed that democracy could disappear overnight. But that's just what happened. I say that as long as homosexuals are looked upon as a LITTLE LESS THAN NORMAL - ANY GOVERNMENT IN ANY COUNTRY CAN DO EXACTLY AS THEY FEEL. This is, in fact, the truth, however much we may succeed in forcing our political leaders of today to do away with the homosexual codes which

still exist in many countries in the world. That goes for Holland and Norway, although we have no such penal code any more. This proves that however important it is to get rid of or to introduce laws, it is just as important to work for a change in the general attitude. Only through this shall we succeed in getting a better understanding.

Concealed discrimination

In my country, Norway, as I believe in most other countries of Europe, we have done away with the moral-codes of the Middle ages. We now live in a society which, above all, gives praise to tolerance, acceptance and understanding. To us this is of no advantage whatsoever, except that the methods of punishment are less severe than they were some years ago. We are nevertheless denied the one fundamental right: TO LIVE ON OUR OWN TERMS. We are still surrounded by heterosexuals, who do not only brag about their own sexuality, but who also boast about their ability to understand and tolerate. Society conceals the fact that discrimination exists. It cites, among other things, that the quality above all qualities - the characteristic of a true democracy is TOLERANCE. This disgusting principle, this loathsome ideology, this Tolerance, this unworthy but nevertheless leading concept which in reality assumes discrimination. If there were no discrimination, there would be no need for tolerance! The largest minority consists of children. Initially children don't discriminate. They see nothing wrong in being a girl, in being coloured or in being a homosexual. But children growing up identify themselves with their well-meaning tormentors. The result is that at the age of five they will have nothing to do whatsoever with "those bad people". We give our children a bucket full of discrimination, but to reduce the effect, we give them a spoonful of tolerance! Tolerance is the very concept which conceals that discrimination takes place. Personally I shall have none of that tolerance. I will indeed not be accepted IN SPITE of being a lesbian. Because that is what tolerance is all about: ACCEPTANCE IN SPITE OF.

Positive tolerance

Of course tolerance has its good sides. In Norway single people may now live in a two-room apartment. They may even have a kitchen-window, and borrow money from the bank. As a matter of fact due to tolerance single people may even buy frozen fish in small packings. Thanks to tolerance we do not punish any more those who go to bed with someone without having children, thanks to tolerance women have been provided with the Pill, and soon will be allowed free abortion. Whenever timely, Society gives away a few gifts of grace! Liberation has nothing whatsoever to do with charity - crumbs that now and then fall from the table of the ruler. Liberation is not a residue. It is the very assumption of life itself. Liberation therefore has to do with politics. "Why politics? The Penal Clause has been abolished, and we can walk about as freely as ever before. Why this demonstration of freedom?" So say thousands of Norwegian homosexuals. I get sick of all this warm and beautiful talk of freedom.

Sintegration

The truth is that every single day homosexuals all over the world practice nothing but adaption - the so-called integration. But integration of lesbians is to ask me to adapt my sexuality well enough to adapt myself to sexroles and the conception of how to be a perfect woman.

Integration of lesbians is to tell me that my duty is that of slipping into society without making any offences - at least not of sexual standards. Integration is to accept an upbringing of women which says that all other needs but her own shall be satisfied. Integration is to accept a sexual-biological identity which in its true sense means that women are either wives, mothers, mistresses, whores or - abnormal! Integration of lesbians is to make me accept that homosexual men

are less than men, because to be "womanly" is to be weak, accommodating and soft - all of which are qualities unworthy of a society built on male hierarchy and authority.

Liberation is doing away with sex-roles. It is to function as a human being not as a sex. Liberation is to fight conformity, roleplaying and everything that goes with it. Liberation, to me, is to manifest, to refuse to hide, to show my feelings, and to decline any definition of my person made by others.

Integration? Freedom? on what terms? To do what? Most homosexuals have been integrated all their lives. The result is nothing to brag about. In my country homosexuality is no longer a criminal offence. But where is the freedom so often spoken about? Why do the homosexuals still carry their masks? Because they cannot walk about without hiding their true self, that is unless they are willing to risk their so-called security. The abolition of the homosexual penal code has not done away with discrimination, quite the contrary. This proves that doing away with laws alone does not automatically change the attitude towards us. We have in fact all the possibilities in the world to decide ourselves how we want to relate to each other. By our help, heterosexuals may realise what stereotypes they represent. However much they have tried to make me believe the opposite - women's liberation, institutions of different kinds and courtrooms, are proof that the everlasting matrimonial happiness not being as glorious as all that. They heap upon us the propaganda of the happiness of marriage. They pity us because we miss it, and they tell us to go to Hell if we reject it.

Living Liberation

Homosexual liberation is to create one's own lifestyle, based on the feelings of each other, and not on social customs. I believe in openness and confrontation, as means to change attitudes. Pride and self-respect is out of the question - at the moment. What we must do is to start living as if it is permissible. We can create our own future simply by starting to live it here and now. This can be done as soon as we get a new and positive self, which we do get in the gay liberation movement. Instead of self-hate we feel self-respect, instead of shame - pride. Independence replaces conformity. Gay liberation is to point at the very reason for oppression. Any homosexual accepting his personality as a "fate" is reactionary. Any lesbian who says: "I don't have anything against men, I just don't want to have anything to do with them sexually" accepts an adaptation to the very discriminating system. The only radical thing about this lesbian is that by being an open lesbian, she sort of disturbs the system for a bit. Apart from that, she is just as dependent on men as are all other women, because she lives in a society ruled by men. Not unless all women are liberated will she have her freedom.

A thousand times No

Homosexual pride is the will to opposition. To say No to suppression is to make the statement: "You have been pushing me around long enough. From now on I will fight you back". Opposition is unfortunately beyond the comprehension of most homosexuals - at least at the moment. Year in and year out the most important thing of all is to adapt oneself. Well-adapted people usually have a conservative outlook. To be loyal to society is among other things to pay back a little for the privilege of practising homosexuality. The ideology is this, "I am no criminal - and no-one sees me". The well-adapted homosexuals don't give a damn in any oppression that does not harm them personally. The only thing that matters is that they, personally, have it better and better; that society shares out goodness and gives them the benefits given to all other nice and well-behaved people: the blessings of the church, a legal sex-life, less taxes and price-reductions. The will to opposition is to rebel against the traditional will to adapt. It is to turn down the conventional apprehension of what is "the best for homosexuals" and totally reject the offer of tolerance.

A clear NO to oppression is to reject and to confirm at the same time. It is to put an end to all this explanation - and to see one's own situation in a total social perspective. To work for gay liberation is to deal with politics, as it is to work for the liberation of women. To me, personally, homosexual pride and conservatism is totally incompatible. The will to opposition is to say No to self-destruction, which is the result of feeling less worthy than other people. The church says we are the sinners above all sinners - at least that is what it says in my country. At their best psychiatrists call our ability to love "a disposition" at worst a "neurosis" or an "illness". Conservatives name us as traitors to the true values of life, such as marriage, sex-roles, power. Communists tell us that we are the dark side of capitalism - the "bourgeois decadents". The man in the street has his own nicknames. The will to opposition is to say No to all this. The will to opposition is to reject resignation and apathy. Because we have been hiding from each other we have not realised, until now, how many we are. It is all an ironic tragedy. We have lived house-by-house, we have gone to the same schools, worked together in the same offices, and yet lived in isolation. The will to opposition is to say NO to all that. Gay liberation is to say NO to all that. Gay liberation is to say NO when they ask us to hide our pain and our fury. Even if all of us hate the words they call us, only a very few of us retort to the accusations. Hidden-away anger does not disappear though - on the contrary it takes root. Rooted anger leads to turning on each other. Sometimes we even crucify each other instead of fighting the real enemy. Society wants to split us up, and does whatever possible to make other minorities go at each other. The will to opposition is to say NO to all this.

Whatever life I may deserve, part of it is a result of what I think of myself. Gay liberation is for me to be my own judge. No human being, but me, is capable of passing the judgement.

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